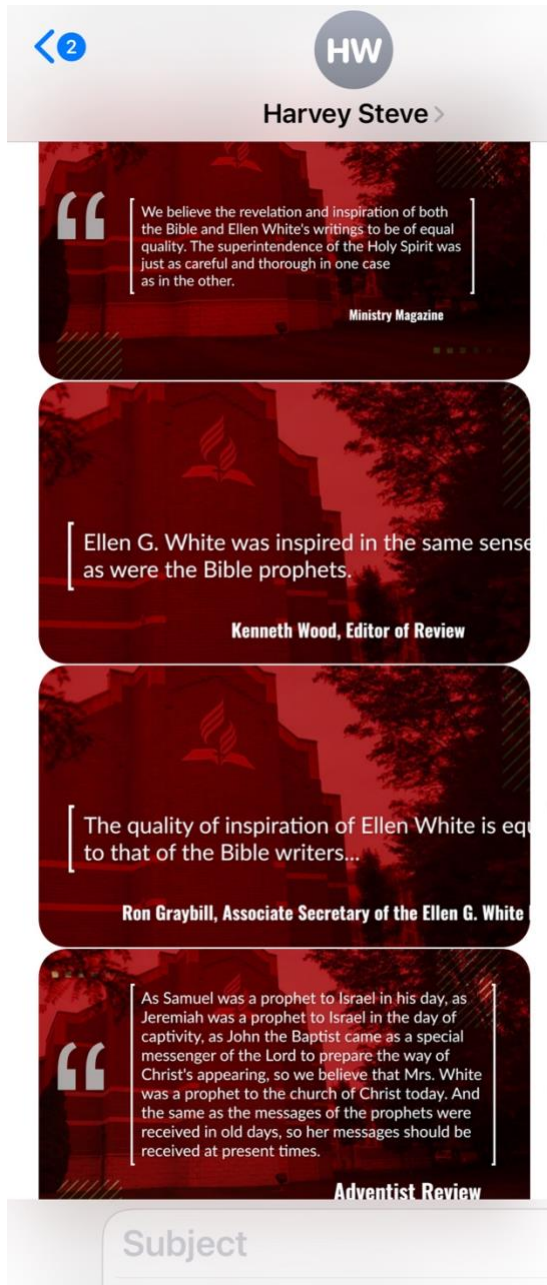


Questions About Quotes By Prominent Adventist Regarding Ellen White Writings

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Explain these quotes from prominent Adventist:



Answer:

Thank you for sharing the quotes. These statements by prominent Seventh-day Adventist voices—regarding Ellen G. White’s inspiration being equal in quality to that of the Bible writers—raise important and sometimes controversial questions, even within the Adventist community. Let’s respectfully respond to them in a balanced and biblically faithful way.

Summary of the Quotes

The messages you shared express the following key ideas:

1. **Ellen White’s inspiration is of equal quality to the Bible** (Ministry Magazine).
2. **She was inspired the same way as the Bible prophets** (Kenneth Wood).
3. **The Holy Spirit’s superintendence was just as careful in her writings** (Ministry Magazine).
4. **She is a prophet like Samuel, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist for our times** (Adventist Review).
5. **Her messages should be received as equal to past prophets** (Adventist Review).

What Does the Bible Teach About Prophetic Authority?

The Bible supports the concept that:

- **God speaks through prophets** in different ages (Hebrews 1:1).
- **True prophets are recognized by their harmony with Scripture**, fruit of their lives, and fulfillment of their messages (Deuteronomy 18:22; Matthew 7:15-20).
- But **Scripture alone** is the foundation of all doctrine.

“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

Do Adventists Believe Ellen White’s Writings Are Equal to the Bible?

In Terms of Divine Origin - Yes.

- Adventists believe that **the same Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible also inspired Ellen White.**
- Her writings are **prophetic, and should not be taken lightly.**

No, in Terms of Canonical Authority

- Ellen White **never claimed her writings were a new Bible or equal to it in authority.**
- In fact, she said the following:

“The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word.”— *Ellen White, Letter 12, 1890*

“The Spirit was not given—nor can it ever be bestowed—to supersede the Bible... The Spirit was to guide into all truth, which had already been given in the Word.”— *Great Controversy, p. vii*

“I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged.”— *Early Writings, p. 78*

In essence, her writings are a “lesser light” to lead to the greater light—the Bible.

What Does “Lesser Light” Mean?

Ellen White described her role as a “**lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light**” (Review and Herald, Jan 20, 1903). This reflects her **supportive role**, not **supremacy** or equality with Scripture.

This phrase has often been misunderstood. Here’s what it **doesn’t** mean:

- That her writings are inferior in **truth**.
- That her prophetic gift was **flawed**.

But it **does mean**:

- Her writings **are not to be used** as the foundation of doctrine apart from Scripture.
- **Scripture is the final test** of all truth—even prophetic utterances.

Response to the Specific Quotes

1. “**Equal in inspiration**”

Yes, inspired by the same Spirit.

But **not equal in canonical authority** or as a source of doctrine.

2. “**Same sense as the Bible prophets**”

In the sense of being a **prophet**, yes.

But her mission was **not to write a new Bible**, but to **call people back to it**.

3. “**Mrs. White was a prophet like Samuel or John the Baptist**”

Her role may be similar in function (revival, warning, reproof),

But not to establish new scriptural canon or doctrine.

Final Reflection

The safest and most faithful Adventist understanding is this:

Ellen White was a true, inspired messenger of the Lord, sent to guide the remnant church back to a deeper understanding and obedience to the Bible. Her writings are inspired, but they are not equal in authority to the Bible, and they must never replace it.

We should highly value the gift of prophecy—but always test everything by the Word (1 Thess. 5:20–21).