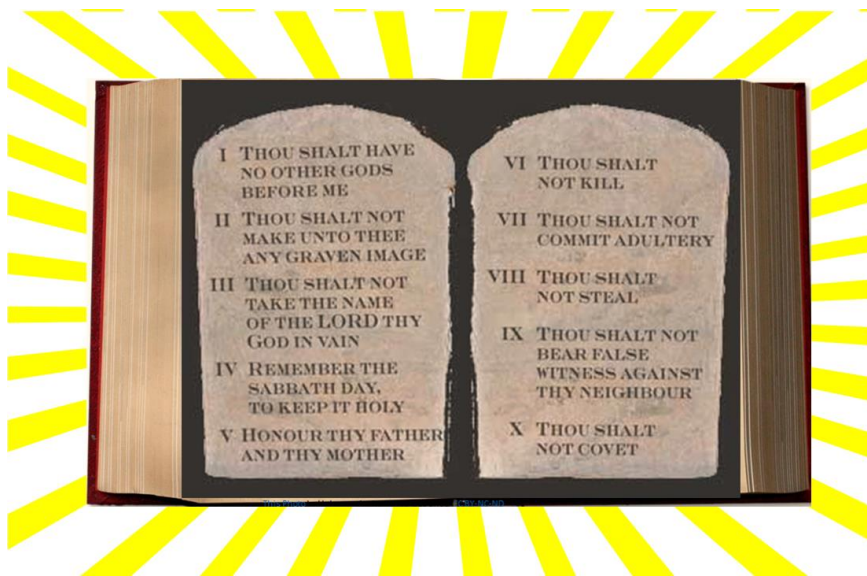


Protestantism is Dead: Last Call for the Resurrection of the Holy Bible



Satan's Battle Against the Truth

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Introduction

The true principles of Protestantism (the two horns of Rev. 13:11) are: the Holy Bible (the scriptures) is the divine, the only infallible authority...the voice of God speaking to man through His word...that the Holy Spirit is its only interpreter...that the scriptures themselves giveth understanding...easy and able to be understood by the studying of its teachings...that it is the duty of every man to study the scriptures for himself...that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work...that man is free to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience independent of the church...and civil liberty. Today, Protestantism: the sole infallibility of the scriptures, along with civil and religious liberty are lying in ruins.

During the past three years, the author has visited many churches. He has witnessed in his travels: there is not a Seven Day Adventist venue (including people who believe in “present truth”) where one will not hear it said, which people hold as true, the phrase “we have the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.” The Spirit of Prophecy being defined as the writings of Ellen G. White.

Today, the word Protestantism, the concept of Protestantism has been totally lost, hijacked by the world and the churches. Today, Protestantism is associated with opposition through civil protest, expressing disapproval, public remonstrance, demonstrations, “civil disobedience,” and worse of all public rioting and looting.

Satan has done his work in casting the truth down to the ground. What are the causes which has led to this defamation? The purpose of this treatise is to examine the causes and history of the Bible’s (KJV version) denigration. The purpose of this treatise is to restore/resurrect the Holy Bible back to its proper place.

What is The Holy Bible?

The Holy Bible is God's historical past, present, and future prophetic proclamation of who God is, how God created man, God's purpose in creating man, man's fall from grace (Gen. 1:1-3:7), and the restoration of man back to God; the Gospel/good news of Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:8-Revelation 22). The Holy Bible is God the Father's testimony of His Son Jesus as told by The Holy Spirit. The Holy Bible is the sacred writings of God, inspired by God, written by holy men who were moved by The Holy Spirit, through which God communicates to Man. The Holy Bible was/is a gift given to man from God with the desire that man would understand and appreciate the gift (Deut. 29:29). (See 1 John 5:11-13, 1 Thess. 2:13, Acts 10:42-43, 14:17, John 5:39, 45-47, Rev. 1:1-3, 11, 19, 19:10, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Tim. 3:16).

The Holy Bible's Supremacy, Singleness

Sister White stated that the Holy Bible (The Word of God) is the book of books, "sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it" (2T 454.4). Consider the following scriptures:

2 Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them]; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself...Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must

be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and [in] the prophets, and [in] the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Isaiah 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path....Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive⁴ my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest⁴ after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. **6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding.**

These scriptures make it plainly clear that the Holy Bible, the scriptures are the only infallible word of God. The Holy Bible is acknowledged as the sacred writings of God, inspired by God, through which God communicates to Man, the only source and standard of truth. Further, to associate any other book/source with the Bible, or equate some other source on the same level of the Bible is blasphemy, wicked, contrary to God's purpose. Let us see further why we can trust the Bible in such a manner.

The Holy Spirit and the Bible

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Prophecy, who the scriptures give evidence as the Bible's author. As the Bible's author, The Holy Spirit is the One who is able to give the scriptures their understanding. Consider the following scriptures as evidence:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the

Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. See also Heb. 3:7

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles.

1 Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [that should come] unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

2 Sam 23: 1 Now these [be] the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man [who was] raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word [was] in my tongue.

2 Peter 2:1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.

These verses substantiate, validate that the origin, the source of the Bible is the Holy Spirit, who is God. Hence the Holy Bible is, of and from a divine nature. The Holy Bible is the word spoken by God recorded/written by prophets (holy men) as testified by The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of Prophecy”. The Holy Bible is the only source by/through which the Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus to mankind. These verses specifically define the means through which the Bible knowledge is communicated to mankind, and the steps required by mankind to obtain and gain an understanding of the Biblical truths contained within. The Holy Spirit is the One who gives one the understanding. The Holy Bible is the only place which one can find the words spoken by Jesus. God has provided no other means, nor method.

Holy Character: The Requirement

Prov. 2 1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, **and hide my commandments with thee**; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding. 7 He layeth up sound wisdom **for the righteous**: [he is] a buckler to them that walk uprightly. 8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. 9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; [yea], every good path.

John 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself.

Psalms 25:12 What man [is] he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way [that] he shall choose.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also

the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. (See also Psalm 1:1-2, 112:1-4)

These verses define the only requirements and means through which the Holy Spirit will give an understanding of the scriptures. Two of the requirements referenced are a righteous character and diligent study. This treatise has already proven above that God's desire is for everyone to understand the Bible. Bible students know that sin not only separates man from God, but also is the reason which prevents God from performing the thing which He promised; in this case to give understanding.

The Prophecy:

Revelation 11 foretells the following:

11:3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

The Adventist, Present Truth belief is that these prophetic verses primarily represent the persecution of the true church during the 1260 years of Catholic Church rulership from 538AD to 1798AD. This period also included the Catholic Church's veiling of the Bible (the scriptures), and the restoration of the Bible through/by the Protestant Reformation.

The Veiling and the Reformation

Below is an excerpt from *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 5 The Light Breaks in England: which accounts the veiling of the scriptures and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation:

Before the Reformation there were at times but very few copies of the Bible in existence, but God had not suffered His word to be wholly destroyed. Its truths were not to be forever hidden. He could as easily unchain the words of life as He could open prison doors and unbolt iron gates to set His servants free. In the different countries of Europe men were moved by the Spirit of God to search for the truth as for hid treasures. Providentially guided to the Holy Scriptures, they studied the sacred pages with intense interest. They were willing to accept the light at any cost to themselves. Though they did not see all things clearly, they were enabled to perceive many long-buried truths. As Heaven-sent messengers they went forth, rending asunder the chains of error and superstition, and calling upon those who had been so long enslaved, to arise and assert their liberty.

Except among the Waldenses, the word of God had for ages been locked up in languages known only to the learned; but the time had come for the Scriptures to be translated and given to the people of different lands in their native tongue. The world had passed its midnight. The hours of darkness were wearing away, and in many lands appeared tokens of the coming dawn GC79...

Wycliffe came from the obscurity of the Dark Ages. There were none who went before him from whose work he could

shape his system of reform. Raised up like John the Baptist to accomplish a special mission, he was the herald of a new era. Yet in the system of truth which he presented there was a unity and completeness which Reformers who followed him did not exceed, and which some did not reach, even a hundred years later. So broad and deep was laid the foundation, so firm and true was the framework, that it needed not to be reconstructed by those who came after him.

The great movement that Wycliffe inaugurated, which was to liberate the conscience and the intellect, and set free the nations so long bound to the triumphal car of Rome, had its spring in the Bible. Here was the source of that stream of blessing, which, like the water of life, has flowed down the ages since the fourteenth century. Wycliffe accepted the Holy Scriptures with implicit faith as the inspired revelation of God's will, a sufficient rule of faith and practice. He had been educated to regard the Church of Rome as the divine, infallible authority, and to accept with unquestioning reverence the established teachings and customs of a thousand years; but he turned away from all these to listen to God's holy word. This was the authority which he urged the people to acknowledge. Instead of the church speaking through the pope, he declared the only true authority to be the voice of God speaking through His word. And he taught not only that the Bible is a perfect revelation of God's will, but that the Holy Spirit is its only interpreter, and that every man is, by the study of its teachings, to learn his duty for himself. Thus he turned the minds of men from the pope and the Church of Rome to the word of God. GC93.2

Wycliffe was one of the greatest of the Reformers. In breadth of intellect, in clearness of thought, in firmness to maintain the truth, and in boldness to defend it, he was equaled by few who came after him. Purity of life, unwearying diligence in study and in labor, incorruptible integrity, and Christlike love and faithfulness in his ministry, characterized the first of the Reformers. And this notwithstanding the intellectual

darkness and moral corruption of the age from which he emerged. GC94.1

The character of Wycliffe is a testimony to the educating, transforming power of the Holy Scriptures. It was the Bible that made him what he was. The effort to grasp the great truths of revelation imparts freshness and vigor to all the faculties. It expands the mind, sharpens the perceptions, and ripens the judgment. The study of the Bible will ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as no other study can. It gives stability of purpose, patience, courage, and fortitude; it refines the character and sanctifies the soul. An earnest, reverent study of the Scriptures, bringing the mind of the student in direct contact with the infinite mind, would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect, as well as of nobler principle, than has ever resulted from the ablest training that human philosophy affords. "The entrance of Thy words," says the psalmist, "giveth light; it giveth understanding." [Psalm 119:130](#). GC94.2

The doctrines which had been taught by Wycliffe continued for a time to spread; his followers, known as Wycliffites and Lollards, not only traversed England, but scattered to other lands, carrying the knowledge of the gospel. Now that their leader was removed, the preachers labored with even greater zeal than before, and multitudes flocked to listen to their teachings. Some of the nobility, and even the wife of the king, were among the converts. In many places there was a marked reform in the manners of the people, and the idolatrous symbols of Romanism were removed from the churches. But soon the pitiless storm of persecution burst upon those who had dared to accept the Bible as their guide. The English monarchs, eager to strengthen their power by securing the support of Rome, did not hesitate to sacrifice the Reformers. For the first time in the history of England the stake was decreed against the disciples of the gospel. Martyrdom succeeded martyrdom. The advocates of truth, proscribed and tortured, could only pour their cries into the ear of the Lord of Sabaoth. Hunted as foes of the church and traitors to

the realm, they continued to preach in secret places, finding shelter as best they could in the humble homes of the poor, and often hiding away even in dens and caves. GC94.3

Notwithstanding the rage of persecution, a calm, devout, earnest, patient protest against the prevailing corruption of religious faith continued for centuries to be uttered. The Christians of that early time had only a partial knowledge of the truth, but they had learned to love and obey God's word, and they patiently suffered for its sake. Like the disciples in apostolic days, many sacrificed their worldly possessions for the cause of Christ. Those who were permitted to dwell in their homes gladly sheltered their banished brethren, and when they too were driven forth they cheerfully accepted the lot of the outcast. Thousands, it is true, terrified by the fury of their persecutors, purchased their freedom at the sacrifice of their faith, and went out of their prisons, clothed in penitents' robes, to publish their recantation. But the number was not small—and among them were men of noble birth as well as the humble and lowly—who bore fearless testimony to the truth in dungeon cells, in “Lollard towers,” and in the midst of torture and flame, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to know “the fellowship of His sufferings.” GC95.1

Protestantism Immortalized

Below is an excerpt from *The Great Controversy*: the stand the German Princes took which firmly established and confirmed the principles of Protestantism:

“What! we ratify this edict! We assert that when Almighty God calls a man to His knowledge, this man nevertheless cannot receive the knowledge of God!” “There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God...The Lord forbids the teaching of any other doctrine.... The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts; ... this Holy Book is, in all things necessary for the Christian, easy of understanding, and calculated to scatter the

darkness. We are resolved, with the grace of God, to maintain the pure and exclusive preaching of His only word, such as it is contained in the biblical books of the Old and New Testaments, without adding anything thereto that may be contrary to it. This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fail or deceive us. He who builds on this foundation shall stand against all the powers of hell, while all the human vanities that are set up against it shall fall before the face of God.” GC 203.1

“The principles contained in this celebrated Protest ... constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this Protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church. In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles, ‘We must obey God rather than man.’ In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God.”—Ibid., b. 13, ch. 6. The protesters had moreover affirmed their right to utter freely their convictions of truth. They would not only believe and obey, but teach what the word of God presents, and they denied the right of priest or magistrate to interfere. The Protest of Spires was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. GC 203.4

The declaration had been made. It was written in the memory of thousands and registered in the books of heaven, where no effort of man could erase it. All evangelical Germany adopted the Protest as the expression of its faith. Everywhere men beheld in this declaration the promise of a new and better era. Said one of the princes to the Protestants of Spires: “May the Almighty, who has given you grace to

confess energetically, freely, and fearlessly, preserve you in that Christian firmness until the day of eternity.”—Ibid., b. 13, ch. 6.

Had the Reformation, after attaining a degree of success, consented to temporize to secure favor with the world, it would have been untrue to God and to itself, and would thus have ensured its own destruction. The experience of these noble Reformers contains a lesson for all succeeding ages. Satan's manner of working against God and His word has not changed; he is still as much opposed to the Scriptures being made the guide of life as in the sixteenth century. In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle—the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty. Satan is still working through every means which he can control to destroy religious liberty. The antichristian power which the protesters of Spires rejected is now with renewed vigor seeking to re-establish its lost supremacy. The same unswerving adherence to the word of God manifested at that crisis of the Reformation is the only hope of reform today. GC 204.2

If we desire to understand the determined cruelty of Satan, manifested for hundreds of years, not among those who never heard of God, but in the very heart and throughout the extent of Christendom, we have only to look at the history of Romanism. Through this mammoth system of deception the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man. And as we see how he succeeds in disguising himself and accomplishing his work through the leaders of the church, we may better understand why he has so great antipathy to the Bible. If that Book is read, the mercy and love of God will be revealed; it will be seen that He lays upon men none of these heavy burdens. All that He asks is a broken and contrite heart, a humble, obedient spirit. GC 570.1

A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the

real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world—those who would be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins. Here is the secret of its power. GC 572.2

End Time Apostacy: The Re-Veiling

A brief review of the topics examined so far: we have defined the Holy Bible's origin, purpose, author and history. We have seen the scriptures veiled, and the pinnacle of their reverence reached in the Protestant Reformation. Revelation Chapter 12 provides a historical summary of the New Testament Church in relation to Rome (Pagan and Papal). Revelation 13:1-10, reiterate in more detail the reign of the Catholic Church during the 1260 years. Verse 3 foretells the deadly wound the Roman Catholic Church would receive in 1798. The remaining verses begin to trace the Papacy's restoration from the deadly wound.

Rev. 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had

power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

The verses Revelation 13:11-18 foretell the means of the papal restoration and the role the United States of America will play in the papal restoration. With the restoration of the Catholic Church, there will also be a restoration of the re-veiling of the scriptures, the renunciation of the Protestant principles, which renunciation once was dominant during the original 1260-year reign of the Catholic Church. Do we see this biblical prophecy fulfilled today?

1893 General Conference Bulletin: Evidence of Apostacy

The following is an excerpt from **A. T. Jones Sermons NO. 15**. THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE. - NO. 15. 1893 GENERAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN:

We shall begin tonight just where we stopped the other evening, with the thought that was before us, that we would now proceed to study this subject as it is in the Bible. I could take the time and read it all from the Testimonies and Steps to Christ. I could preach from them as well as from the Bible on this. But I find this difficulty: **The brethren seem so ready to be content with what we read in these and will not go to the Bible to find it there. That is what the Testimonies and Steps to Christ are for; they are to lead us to see that it is in the Bible and to get it there.** Now I shall avoid these purposely, not as though there was anything wrong in using them; but what we want, brethren, is to get at it in the Bible and know where it is there. And that is the Lord's own way as pointed out in the

Testimonies. Let me read it here:

"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 notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plain 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.**

"The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living and the Testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles...

"You are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God's word your study with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection you would not have needed the Testimonies. **It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the word of inspiration which you have neglected to obey.**

"Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be 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."

There is another reason also why we want to get this and see that it is in the Bible. That is because we, from this Institute and this Conference, are to go forth to preach nothing else but just this one thing; and we are to preach to people who

do not believe the Testimonies. And the Scriptures have told us that prophesyings are not for them that believe not but for them which believe. Tongues are a sign to them that believe not; prophesyings are a sign to them that believe. 1 Cor. 14:22. Now when we go and preach this message to people who do not know anything about the Testimonies, we have to teach them that the Bible says it, and we have to teach from that alone. **If we were preaching to our own people, to use the Testimonies and all these other helps would be all well enough, but even then, if their minds were turned to these and not brought by these to the Bible itself, then that use of the Testimonies is not what is intended by the Lord as the right use of the Testimonies.**

A. T. Jones' statement was his (and Sister White's) observation of a condition that prevailed at that time (1893) in the church. People failed to study the Holy Bible, and were not familiar with its teachings. The excerpt above expresses A T Jones' (and Sister White's) belief regarding God's purpose and reason for the Testimonies written by Sister White, as seen in the added bolded emphasis in the excerpt above.

The Bible clearly presents God's character as merciful and longsuffering. It is true that through God's messengers (his prophets), God gives the world and church a warning when they have backslidden from His commandments and provides counsel by which one may be restored back to God. The belief that the purpose of the Testimonies "have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles" and "that all may be without excuse", are in conformity to the Scriptural teachings and supported by Biblical truths. However, the other purposed beliefs stated such as "to lead one back to the Bible" or "has simplified the truths" because "they have failed to study the Bible" are NOT supported by the scriptures. Let's see why.

The Deadly Belief

The belief that God provides some other means (such as the Testimonies and other writings by Sister White) in response to mankind's failure to study the Bible in the manner dictated by God (which is perfect and complete); and the belief that the second way (the Testimonies and other writings by Sister White), supposedly provided by God, simplifies, makes more clear the biblical truths in a manner greater than the first way set by God, cannot be supported nor sustained by a careful study of the scriptures.

Does God really change His ways? What is the scriptural testimony when man has so blatantly disobeyed God in the manner testified by Sister White, and acknowledged by A. T. Jones at the 1893 General Conference? The rest of this treatise will examine from the scriptures the true manner in which God considers and responds when man disobeys, violates God's laws; His commandments statutes, judgments, and precepts.

God is supreme and rules in the affairs of man (Dan 4:17). The way of the Lord is perfect (Psalm 18:30, 19:7) God's ways are far above man's ways (Isaiah 55:7-9). Further, God does not change his ways, and further cannot change (Mal 3:6). God calls man to repentance, to forsake his (man's) way and follow God's perfect will (Deut. 32:4, 2 Sam 22:31, 33). This concept/thought is expressed in the Bible so many times, that it cannot be denied. The biblical veracity of these statements is found in the following:

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Sam 15:23 For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. **Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD**, he hath also rejected thee from [being] king.

Jer 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask

for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk [therein]. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, [saying], Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what [is] among them. 19 **Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, [even] the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.** 20 To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings [are] not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me. 21 Therefore thus saith the LORD, **Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them;** the neighbour and his friend shall perish.

Deut. 12:8 Ye shall not do after all [the things] that we do here this day, every man whatsoever [is] right in his own eyes. 9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

Notice the bolded emphasis in the verses above. Next consider:

Isaiah 29:1 Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices. 2 Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel. 3 And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee...8 It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

9 Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. 10 For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. 11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: 12 And the book is

delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. 13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: 14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. 15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Micah 3:5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him. 6 Therefore night [shall be] unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them.

Hosea 9:14 Give them, O Lord: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts. 15 All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers. 16 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. 17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

These scriptures clearly testifies how God responds to Man's continued and willful disregard for His ways; as His enemy. Before the children of Israel entered the "promise" land, God warned them regarding the Canaanites dwelling in the land:

"But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before

you; then it shall come to pass, **that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them.**" (Numbers 33:55-56, Jer 14:15)

"I will never break my covenant with you. 2And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this 3Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you" (Judges 2:1-3)

Judges 3:1 Now these [are] the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, [even] as many [of Israel] as had not known all the wars of Canaan; 2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; 3 [Namely], five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt⁶ in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. 4 And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. (Judges 3:1-4, See also Ezek. 3:20).

Is this not what did happen, even though Israel ruled over/enslaved the inhabitants? God used these nations, called the Philistines, to test Israel, whether they would hearken unto God's commandments (Exo. 20:20, see also Isaiah 30:2-3). Further consider that God does not change nor condescend, nor placate to Man when we disobey. God makes the thing, idol, the very disobedience itself a snare, our downfall and ruin. Consider:

Psalm 18:26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

Psalm 106:13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

Ezek 14:4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith

the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

Ezek 14:7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: 8 And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD. 9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. 10 And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh [unto him];

22 Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, [both] sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, [even] concerning all that I have brought upon it. 23 And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 20:25 **Wherefore I gave them also statutes [that were] not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;** 26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through [the fire] all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I [am] the LORD. The reader can read the scathing rebukes stated in Lev 26:23-28, Isaiah 66:1-4,

But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. **So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.** Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. (Psalm

81:12-14, see also Isaiah 29:7-19 above).

God is merciful, but after the first or second admonition (Psalm 62:11, Job 33:14), His wrath and anger is upon us (consider the incident of quail in Numbers 11; Israel requesting a King in 1 Sam 8:10-22, and Hosea 13:11). The Prophet Jonah told God “no” once. Consider the account after this incident accounted in Jeremiah 26:20-23 when a prophet disobeyed God. What happened to that prophet? Also consider the 2 1/2 tribes in Numbers 32:1-6, that stayed on the east side of the Jordan: the Moabites, Ammonites, and Amorites became their snare (1 Chron 5:25-26, Ezek. 3:20).

The same principle can be seen when Zacharias, whom having the example of Abraham and Sarah in the birth of Isaac, expressed his unbelief to Gabriel’s testimony that Elizabeth would have a son. How did God respond to Zacharias’ unbelief? Consider the temporary means of mercy in the incidents of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21)? What became of the bronze serpent (2 Chron 30:2)? When certain of the children of Israel were unable to keep the Passover because they were defiled by an unclean body, God allowed these people to keep the Passover in the second month (Num 9:7-14). Did God allow any future generation to keep the Passover at any other time than the fourteenth day of the first month? (See 2 Chron. 29:34).

Blaspheming God

A T Jones stated in 1895 General Conference Bulletin:

It is the same old story all the time. If you take the things that God has given for the most supreme purpose that could be mentioned or thought of, and use them for another purpose, you will miss the purpose for which you use it; while if you will use them solely for the purpose for which God gave them, *then* you find that purpose accomplished, and you get all the blessed fruits of that and also all those other things in addition. The Bible is full of illustrations of this principle, but it is all summed up in this word: "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of

God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." p60

To substitute or to ascribe to an object or thing a purpose that God has not given or to reject the means God has given is blasphemy. To say that Sister White's writings simplify, make the Biblical truths clearer than the Bible itself is blasphemy. This statement denies the Holy Spirit, for Jesus said in John 14:26, 16:13 that The Holy Spirit **shall** (a guaranteed promise) guide, teach, and lead you into all the truth, (Prov. 2:1-6, 1:23). The only truth is the word of God, the Holy Bible (the scriptures). The mere existence of some other writings, source or means, not only makes the Holy Spirit irrelevant, but makes Jesus a liar. Satan's strategy has always been to make the Scriptures of non-effect.

Studying the Scriptures for One's Self

A person does not (and cannot) appreciate/respect something given to him with minimal effort on his part. When we receive our understanding of the scriptures from a source (including Sister White's writings) other than studying the Bible for ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we cheat and rob ourselves of the Spiritual blessing which the Holy Spirit desires to reveal to us from the Bible. When man toils/works/digs for what he receives, how much more does man appreciate, respect, cherish, and joy in the prize/accomplishment? Only in earnest study for ourselves does one receive a true reward (Prov. 10:4, 20:21, 2 Tim. 2:6, 2 Cor. 9:6, 1 Tim. 4:8). This is the only manner of study that God accepts. We have to dig and put forth effort (Matt. 13:44-46, Prov. 2:1-6, Matt. 7:7-8, Luke 11:9-10). Proverbs 25:2 states, "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." Further this study manner draws us closer to the brethren. Also, more importantly this study method results in one possessing/experiencing a deeper, more rooted and grounded knowledge of the truth, of God (Jer. 9:23-24), and a deeper insight and understanding of the mind of God through the Holy Spirit.

“Knowledge is easy unto him that understandth” (Prov. 14:6, 1 John 2:20-21, 1 John 5:20, Isaiah 29:24, 2 Tim. 2:7). The Bible only is what Man needs. The Holy Bible itself witnesses/validates the veracity/truth/accuracy contained within its pages given by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16, Psalm 31:5, John 4:17, 15:26, 16:13, 1 John 5:6). The Bible itself instructs Man how to study/read/comprehend/verify its truths and principles; precept upon precept and line upon line (Isaiah 28:9-14, Hosea 12:10, also see William Millers Rules of Bible Interpretation). We are NEVER to use Sister White’s writing/prophesies to confirm the truth/veracity found in the Bible. The Bible and the Bible alone is the only Amen regarding its teachings on any subject matter.

Finally, let us consider Jesus’ example. Jesus who is God, came to this earth as a man just like us (Rom. 1:3, Heb.2:14-18). He had to learn in the same manner as us. He, as one exactly like us, successfully gained all His wisdom/understanding by diligent study of the Scriptures through the Holy Spirit, exactly like us. He learned things such as: He was/is God, the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for sins, righteousness by faith, the time when He was to offer himself as a sacrifice as foretold in Daniel Chapter 9, etc. Jesus was just as we are. He had no advantage above us. One might argue as fact, that He was actually at a disadvantage. The Hebrew, the language of His day, is not as expressive as the English Language. Further Jesus did not have the New Testament to assist Him, as we do today.

How much more should Jesus’ example be a standard and an incentive for us today to take the Bible and the Bible only, and to ask for its understanding from the Holy Spirit (Psalm 119:18)? For the Bible states in Psalm 119:130, thy word giveth understanding to the SIMPLE. Further when we say that the Scriptures cannot be understood in of themselves, we join with Satan who falsely claims God’s law is grievous, burdensome, complicated, and difficult to understand. Satan leads people to misunderstand, misrepresent, and misapply the Bible’s teachings. Satan leads one to conclude from his teachings and

his methods that God's law cannot be kept, undesirable, and to reject the truths which the Bible reveals by the Holy Spirit (Prov. 28:5, Acts 20:32). Jesus' life which magnified the law and made it honorable, made void all of Satan's fallacious claims.

Regarding the veracity of the belief that "the Testimonies in making clearer, simplifying the word of God, will result in leading one to the study the Bible for himself"; if I gain a greater understanding of the scriptures from some other source than the Bible, would I change my method of study to consider the Bible supreme in giving understanding? Would it not in reality strengthen my resolve to continue my current means of study? God allows us to be tried, whether we will keep His commandments and His ways (Exo. 20:20, Deut. 8:2-3, Psalm 7:9, 105:19, Prov. 17:3, 1 Thess. 2:4). Read Psalm 119.

Revelation 19:10: Gabriel's Witness

Many people misunderstand and misapply the scripture Revelation 19:10. Isaiah 28:10 states that "precept" must be upon "precept." The reference "line upon line" is not the stand alone objective in and of itself in verse 28:10, but is subordinate, the means (component, element, ingredient, constituent) of attaining the main objective "precept upon precept." God's word is exceeding broad (Psalm 119:96). God communicates precepts, thoughts, principles to man through His word. Revelation 19:10 CANNOT be understood by itself, but only in the context of the event, teaching, message which the verse is a part. Read William Miller's Rules of Interpretation.

With this principle in mind, one must first consider 19:1-9 to understand 19:10. For brevity and space, we quote only:

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that

she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, **These are the true sayings of God.**

In verses 1-9, John had witnessed the destruction of the Great whore, the inauguration of the eternal reign of God, the marriage of the Lamb, those called to the marriage supper, and the great swelling of joy and exaltation in heaven. John's response when he witnessed all the glory and joy of the events presented was to bow before Gabriel. Gabriel responded to John's act in verse 10, which "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" is a part. The grammatic rendering of the phrase "spirit of prophecy" is not a proper noun (because as shown above the Spirit of Prophecy is the Holy Spirit), but where "spirit" is a noun and "of prophecy" is a prepositional clause in relation to the noun "spirit."

The word "spirit" has multiple usages and broad applications, such as: the activating or essential principle of something (as an emotion or frame of mind) influencing a person; 11. Eager desire; disposition of mind excited and directed to a particular object. Synonyms for Spirit are essence, disposition, energy, vivacity, enthusiasm, intent, vitalness. Let's us now apply these suppositions in conjunction with the whole events described in Rev. Chapter 19 to our analysis of Rev. 19:10.

Revelation 19:10 was Gabriel's response, personal testimony to John's act of bowing before him, and the things just revealed by Gabriel to John. Gabriel stated that he himself was a brother, a fellow servant, whom had the testimony, or the witness (G3141) of Jesus, just like John. The Greek word G3141 *marturia*: appears 39 times, and is translated witness 15 times, testimony 16 times, record 7 times in the KJV. The theme of this verse is in conjunction with the following thoughts. Joel 2 foretold and Acts 2 witnessed:

Joel 2:28: 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: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; **and they shall prophesy:**

In Acts Chapter 2:16, Peter states that the events the people witnessed on the day of Pentecost were a fulfillment of Joel Chapter 2:28-29. The disciples began to speak in “tongues” the “wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).” Saul in 1 Samuel 10:10-13 prophesied among the prophets. Were the prophets, which Saul was one, foretelling or having visions of future events at that moment? What was said in verse 5? “that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:”

Consider the account in Num. 11:24-29, where the Lord took of the spirit that was upon Moses and gave it to the seventy elders (and two outside the camp). When the spirit that was upon Moses rested upon the 72 elders, they began to prophesied. What Spirit was upon Moses? What were the 72 doing when they prophesized? Foretelling future events only? Consider Moses response to Joshua in verse 29: that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them! What was the purpose that all the people were prophets and the Spirit would be upon them? Was it that they should foretell future events? Finally, consider:

Romans 8:16 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit**, that we are the children of God:

The reference to the Spirit of Prophecy is not limited to foretelling future events. Therefore, prayerfully consider that the scriptural interpretation of the phrase “spirit of prophecy” in Rev. 19:10 is

the essence, disposition, vivacity, enthusiasm of the witness of Jesus. As shown above, we have already established the fact that The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Prophecy. As we shall see later, Sister White (all the prophets) had the gift of prophecy. This is a brief thought, analysis of Revelation 19:10, a supposition for one to consider. One must further study this subject on their own.

Revelation 12:17 The True Testimony

Rev. 12:17 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.

Sources:

http://www.oakwood.edu/additional_sites/goldmine/sdoc/27fb/chapter_17.htm

<https://www.andrews.edu/~fortind/EGWTest.htm>

<https://www.adventist.org/gift-of-prophecy/the-gift-of-prophecy/>

The above referenced sources all interpret “the Testimony of Jesus” stated Revelation 12:17 in conjunction with Revelation 19:10. The above referenced sources believe that the means that “testimony of Jesus” is given is by “the spirit of prophecy” as stated in Revelation 19:10. Their interpretation of the “spirit of prophecy” is God giving the testimony of Jesus to a prophet in a prophetic manner, such as John the Baptist, Isaiah and other Old Testament prophets. They further believe that the foretelling of John the Baptist just before Jesus’ first coming in the Old Testament (Isaiah 40, Malachi 3) will be repeated in the end time just before Jesus’ second coming, The above referenced sources believe that Sister Ellen White is the fulfillment of this prophecy in the end time. A high majority of the SDA Church and “present truth believers” have also bought into this belief.

We have already shown above that their interpretation of Revelation 19:10 is not supported from the scriptures. In addition, their interpretation of Revelation 12:17 is not accurate

either. The following is offered as evidence of this fact:

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven **churches** which are in Asia...11
Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou
seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven churches which are
in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto
Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea...
20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand,
and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of
the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are
the seven churches.

Chapter 2 and 3 are addressed Unto the angel of the **church**
of...Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you
these things in the **churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David,
and the bright and morning star.

The word “church” appears 19 times in the Book of Revelation.
The Book of Revelation is the prophecy regarding God’s church,
not an individual person. This fact is established from the
beginning of the Book of Revelation in Chapter 1, so clearly seen
in Chapters 2 and 3 (unto the church write), and reemphasized in
Rev. 22:16. There can be no doubt of this fact.

Let us first consider a brief summary of the book of Revelation,
which is necessary for our analysis of Rev. 12:17. The first 11
chapters of the Book of Revelation are an account of the total
history of the church beginning with the first advent of Jesus until
the destruction of the wicked and the restoration of the people
back to God. Chapter 11 concludes with the opening of the
investigative judgment in verse 19. Chapter 12 summarizes the
history of Chapters 1-11. Revelation Chapter 13 to Chapter 22,
repeat and enlarge the history of the church beginning with the
Papacy in Chapter 13. Revelation 14 to the end of the book more
specifically repeats and enlarges the end time events (from 1798
to the restoration of the people back to God).

An excerpt from William Miller’s rules of Prophetic Interpretation:

1. Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject

presented in the Bible. 4. To understand doctrine, bring all the Scriptures together on the subject you wish to know; then let every word have its proper influence, and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in an error. 10. If you put on the right construction it will harmonize with the Bible and make good sense, otherwise it will not. 11. How to know when a word is used figuratively: If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally; if not, figuratively. 12. To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense you need look no further; if not, look again.

With these principles as a foundation, let us examine Rev. 12:17. Revelation 12 begins with a description of a woman being with child and clothed with sun. A woman in prophecy is a prophetic symbol of a church (Ezek. 23:2-4, Rev. 17:3-6, Jer. 6:2). The Bible in Revelation 2:9 introduced the synagogue of Satan, an apostate church. In Revelation, a woman, church, may be a symbolic representation of the true church of God, or the apostate church of Satan. How the woman is further described in the prophecy reveals whether the woman is symbolic of the true church or false church. Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 describe the history of the "true" church. The seven seals, which begin in Chapter 6, describe the history of the apostate church, the synagogue of Satan.

With this in mind, we see the woman, in Revelation 12:1-2, described as clothed with the sun representing purity. The woman described in Revelation 12:1-2 is a symbolic representation of the new testament church. The first two verses also include an account of the birth of Christ and also include the apostolic period of the church which began on the day of Pentecost, which is accounted in the book of Acts.

Verses 3-4, introduce another wonder, the red dragon. The red dragon is a symbolic representative of Rome, pagan Rome, a false church, where the state controlled the church (see Uriah

Smith's Daniel and Revelation 1897, p.510-11, S N Haskell's The Seer from Patmos, p212). Mr. Haskell titles his discourse on Revelation Chapter 12, "The Great Controversy." This is an accurate statement. Introduced in the Revelation Chapter 12:1-6 are two churches, Christ's (true church) and Satan's (apostate church) and is a summary of the great controversy, the war between the two.

Revelation 12:5 speaks about Christ's birth, his crucifixion, and ascendancy into heaven. Revelation 12:6 foretells of the woman (the true church) fleeing into the wilderness (a place of hiding) from the persecution of the Dragon (the apostate church) for 1260 years. Notice, the verses 1-6 totally reference the church as a whole, not an individual. Revelation 12:7-9 describe a war in heaven between Michael (Christ) and His angels, and Satan and the evil angels. Satan prevailed not, and was cast out of heaven. Next we see:

Revelation 12:10: "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."

Many people (including writers of prophetic interpretation) attribute the time of this war in heaven before Jesus created the earth, when Satan was originally expelled from heaven as a result of his original rebellion against God (God's law and government). A closer examination of Revelation 12:10 does not support this. Revelation 12:10 contains the phrase "the accuser of our brethren, which accused them before our God day and night" was cast out from heaven. It is true that Satan was originally, first, cast out of heaven for his rebellion. The time of Satan's first casting out of heaven was before Jesus created the earth (see Gen 1:1-10, Isaiah Chapter 14, Ezek. Chapter 28).

If we believe that Satan was cast out of heaven before the earth was created, how and when did Satan regain an entrance into heaven before the throne of God? When Adam sinned. Satan,

temporarily gained the temporal dominion of the earth (usurped) which Adam possessed when Adam sinned. It was as the temporary representative of this earth that Satan regained an entrance into heaven before the throne of God, such as we see in the book of Job. What did Satan, as the earth's temporary representative, do before the throne of God? Accused man, the "accuser of the brethren," as we see in Job chapter 1 and 2.

The timeframe which Satan could be described as the accuser of brethren in Revelation 12:10, could not include or be before Jesus created the earth. Satan could only be an accuser of the brethren after Adam sinned.

But man was not lost or hopeless, because we know that Jesus redeemed man at calvary (Rev. 12:2, 5). Satan overcame Adam when Adam sinned. The result of Satan overcoming Adam when Adam sinned was the usurping from Adam his authority over the earth which God had given to Adam in Genesis 1:28. Satan had become the temporary representative of the earth. Similarly, Satan lost the authority to be the earth's representative when Jesus overcame him at the cross (Col. 2:14-15, Heb. 2:14-15). Jesus, upon His ascension was victorious over Satan (the author of sin, see Eph. 2:15, Col. 2:13-15, John 8:44). Jesus, whose right it was (Ezek 21:27), was now man's intercessor before the throne of God (Heb. 2:17-18). There was now, at Christ's ascension, no more room found (reason) for the Satan to be in heaven.

Hence, we conclude that Satan's casting out of heaven mentioned in Rev. 12:9-10 was when Jesus ascended into heaven after his crucifixion. Further we conclude that Rev. 12:10 describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry as High Priest, His mediatorial work, and man's intercessor before God (The Father). Continuing our analysis in verse 11:

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11 is a description of the means which the church (“they”) overcame him, the devil. The means being their belief in merit of the ministry of Christ (as the sacrificial Lamb and High Priest) and (by and through) the word of their testimony. This is the definition of the qualifications for membership in the New Testament Church. These are exactly the same qualifications for membership in the Old Testament Church. The only difference between the two is that in the Old Testament Church, one’s testimony was based upon his faith in the prophecy what Jesus would do in becoming a man, die on the cross, and His resurrection, etc.). The New Testament Church believes that Jesus has done this, no longer a prophecy, but is a reality in heaven (Heb 8:1-5).

This is a very important point to stress. The book of Revelation Chapters 12-22 is based upon, aligns with, collaborates, and is in harmony with the Sanctuary Service (the plan of salvation) first defined in Exodus 25:8-9. The Testimony in Revelation 12:11 is equivalent to the first door in the Sanctuary Service. Revelation 12:11, is one’s testimony in the outer court; an outer court experience; which/when one is born again.

Continuing our study in Revelation Chapter 12, verse 12 speaks of rejoicing in heaven, and woe upon the earth. The woe upon the earth, because Satan no longer has access to heaven before the throne of God to attack the church by accusing the brethren. Being cast down to the earth, bound to this earth, having great wrath, Satan will concentrate his efforts attacking the church (God’s people) directly (through men he controls, the apostate church).

We see this attacking further described in verses 13-17. Verse 13: “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child].”

Verse 14 speaks of the church fleeing during the 1260 years of persecution into the wilderness (a solitary place prepared by God): “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that

she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

Verse 15 further describes the means which Satan employs to persecute God’s church. Verse 16 describes the means which God employs to shelter, protect His church from the persecution of Satan through the apostate church (such as the Protestant Reformation and the United States of America).

Now verse 17, a summary of verses 13-16, which states

“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.**”

The key to verse, which is necessary to the point which this treatise is about to make is the phrase “which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” This phrase is a description of the “remnant of her (the true church’s) seed.” The verse’s reference to the “remnant of her seed” is symbolic, where the Seed=individual(s) (of the true church) who have resisted, have overcome or had overcome the temptations and attacks of Satan during the 1260 years.

The key, the point to be noticed; is how the remnant of the **seed** of the woman are described; “**which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” Before in Revelation 12:11, the people of God are described as overcomers: “**by the word of their testimony.**” Now in verse 17 those who are alive at the end of the 1260 years, or those who died as overcomers during the 1260 years are described differently; “**having the testimony of Jesus,**” which is different than in verse 11. Revelation 12:17 represents a further additional experience than overcoming the Devil by the blood of the Lamb and **the word of their testimony.** Revelation 12:17 now includes the fact “**which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” Verse 17 is an experience which corresponds to the second door in the sanctuary service (Sanctification).

Notice that in verses 11 and 17, the word “testimony” is strictly the witness, testimonial, affirmation, affidavit by all the individual members of the church, the witness (testimony) of their experience. The word “testimony” in verses 11 and 17 has nothing to do with anything prophetic, including the gift of prophecy (gifts spoken of in 1 Cor. 12, Rom. 12 and Eph 4).

The whole book of Revelation is the prophecy of the Church, not an individual member of the church. It is true, that before the first coming of Jesus to the earth, the Bible foretold of one prophet John the Baptist, the voice of one in the wilderness with the message to prepare ye the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3-5, Mal 4:5, Matt. 17:10-13). However, no prophecy of one prophet, such as John the Baptist, exists at Jesus’ second coming. The prophecy to prepare the people for Jesus’ second coming is found in Revelation 14:6-12, which are called the Three Angels Messages. The Three Angels Messages are a reference to a church movement, not one person (this fact is so obvious no references are given).

If we were to continue this study of Chapter 12 further, we will see that Revelation 13-14 describe another experience which the church will go through, that concludes with the statement in Rev. 14:12 “Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” This experience is equivalent with the third door of the sanctuary (Glorification).

The Prophet in the New Testament:

The following verses testify that in every generation there will always be prophets (living) in the New Testament Church.

Eph 4:7-16: 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets...12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (the church) 13 til 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...15 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 every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Matt: 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and [some] of them ye shall kill and crucify; and [some] of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute [them] from city to city:

1 Cor. 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 [Are] all apostles? [are] all prophets? [are] all teachers? [are] all workers of miracles See also 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 25-31, Romans 12.

The Old Testament contains the prophecies foretelling the gospel timeline of Jesus Christ' ministry; including his first advent, His sufferings, and the glory that would follow in paying the price for man's sins. The Old Testament starts with the Law of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy), then incorporates the prophets, and psalms (Luke 24:27, 44).

The New Testament is the actual fulfillment and witness of the prophecies spoken by God in the Old Testament. For example, John 12:40-41 is the fulfillment of what Isaiah saw in Isaiah 6:9-10. The New Testament includes the writings of the apostles of Jesus Christ (Jude 17, 2 Peter 3:2, 1 Cor. 11:2, 1 Thess. 4:1-4, 2 Thess. 2:15). As we have seen from above, in the Old Testament, God communicated all prophecies through the prophets. This means by which God communicated with man ended with John the Baptist (Luke 16:16, Matt. 11:13, 1 John 2:7, Mark 1:14-15, Gal. 4:4, Luke 1:1-4, 76-79 24:24-25, 44, Acts 3:18-21, 22-26, 4:28 10:42-43, 12:16, John 1:32-34, 21:24-25, 19:35-37, 18:37).

In the New Testament, prophecy is only given by Jesus (Hebrews 1:1, Matt. 11:12-13, Luke 16:16, John 21:23, Rev. 1:1-2), There is only one prophetic book in the New Testament, the

book of Revelation. The last prophecy in the Bible was given by Jesus himself (an apostle and prophet per Deut. 18:20, Heb. 3:1) in Revelation (1:1-3, 9, 11; 22:6-19). The Holy Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is complete; nothing more may be added or taken away (Rev. 22:18-20). Note: 2 Thessalonians chapters 1 and 2 only reiterate prophecy previously given in the Old Testament (Acts 17:2, 2 Thess. 2:5, 13-15, Daniel Chapters 8, 9).

While, the New Testament prophet does not prophetically foretell future events like in the Old Testament, there are still prophets in the New Testament church, and a role for prophets in the New Testament church. Below is a brief summary of some of the roles and functions of a New Testament prophet.

Rev. 10:11 Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Just as in the Old Testament, a work of a prophet or seer is to warn people that God is about to punish the people for their evil ways unless they repent. Examples can be seen in Rev. 14:6-12; Col. 4:17; 2 Thess. 3:11-15; Acts 11:28; John the Baptist warning the Pharisees to repent in Matt. 3:7-12 and warning Herod regarding Herodias in Mark 6:16-17.

A prophet in the New Testament declares the fulfillment of a prophecy given in the Old Testament (Matt. 3:2, Mark 1:15, Acts 2:16-21, Gal. 4:4-5, Rev. 14:6-7, Simeon in Luke 2:25-35). The last prophetic time prophecy was the end of the 2300 days prophecy in Daniel 8:14, which occurred on October 22, 1844 (verified by Sister White GC 351.2).

Anna, a prophetess, was in the temple serving the Lord with fasting and prayers. We are to pray for the gospel work (Romans 15:30, Philemon 1:22, Mark 9:38, Luke 10:2).

Also, notice another primary purpose for which the testimonies were given was to establish the church in the present truth and principles/pillars of truth. (Note: definition of present truth is simply what Jesus is currently doing. God's word is truth (John

17:17, Psalm 119:142), Jesus is the word (John 1:1, 14, 6:35, 53-58, 1 John 5:7, John 14:6).

2 Peter 1:12-16 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth...Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. (1 Thess. 3:1-2, 13)

“As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays”.—Gospel Workers, 302. {3SM 32.1}

Notice again one primary purpose for the New Testament prophet's writings was to prepare a people, instruct the people in the ways of the Lord, correct errors, false doctrines/teachings that had crept in because of apostate/false brethren (Luke 3:10-14, Acts 20:20, 27, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Tim. 4:1-3, 2 Tim. 3:1-9). Paul in his ministry to the Thessalonians had preached the prophesies found in Daniel (Acts 17:2). Paul referenced the coming of Christ to the Thessalonians in his first Letter Chapter 4:16-17. However, many of the Thessalonians erroneously believed and taught that the time of Christ's second appearing had already passed or was soon to come. Paul corrected this error in his second letter to the Thessalonians in Chapter 2.

Satan through the apostate churches introduced, infiltrated, inculcated (literally) the heresies/false teachings of Catholicism into the true Church. The purpose for which Sister White's and other Pioneer's writings were given was to correct errors, false doctrines/teachings that had crept in the church because of apostate/false brethren. Below is an excerpt from *Early Writings*:

“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. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "last days"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles" (78.1).

"We are BUILT upon the prophets and the apostles Jesus Christ himself only being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20, 1 Cor. 3:9-11). Further, a person cannot accept the present truth without submitting to and acknowledging the truths established in the past (Luke 7:24-30, 16:26-31, John 5:46, 1 Cor. 10:11-12). Consider this in the account given in Jer. 26:11-19, Dan 9:2. The work/message for Sister White's generation had several purposes: to reestablish the law of God as supreme and the true sanctuary which is in heaven (which the papacy cast down), the Day of Atonement, 1844 judgment hour message; and righteousness by faith (1888 message). The faithful few of her generation accomplished this work in establishing these truths in their generation. Our generation **MUST ACCEPT THESE TRUTHS.**

Are the writings needed in addition to or in the place of the studying the Scriptures/Bible for the present work? No, just like in every generation God sends a messenger to correct errors, and establish and comfort people in the present truth and work (Amos 3:7). Further per her own writings: "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 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 For The Church 5:663, 664, 3SM 31.1, EV 256.4, CTBH 129.2).

The Bible and the Bible only is the Amen. Sister White's writings/prophecies (and other inspired writers/historians such as Josephus, Martin Luther, Huss) have an appropriate use.

Some of the appropriate uses are: a resource for historical understanding of the culture or context for the time which the scripture is referencing; for example how were wedding ceremonies conducted in Cana in John Chpt. 2; how the culture in Jesus' time viewed a guest in one's house; or understanding the phrase "a camel going through the eye of a needle" seeing that camels are not a part of our culture. We may use them for/as a teaching guide, historical education, experiences gained from such things as conducting camp meetings, setting up schools and sanitariums, health laws, testimonies of overcomers, etc.

Prophets in the Church Today

Moses was a prophet (Deut. 34:10, Hosea 12:13). What did the Lord say to Joshua concerning Moses and Joshua?

Joshua 1:1-9 My servant Moses is **dead**... there shall not any man be able to stand before the all the days of my life: **AS I WAS WITH MOSES SO WILL I BE WITH THEE**, I will not fail thee. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: ...Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Yes, it is true that God does nothing without revealing to His prophets, but the present truth is only revealed to the living (Isaiah 8:19, Amos 3:7).

Remember more Sister White's life; faith, trials, tribulations, endurance, zeal, experience and what the Lord did for her as a greater testimony, more than any of her writings. Sister White had a third-grade education when she had her first vision. In the beginning all she could do was write the visions on napkins and needed scribes to write and collate the thoughts. Then consider how through the Word of God she grew in the mastery of her mental and spiritual faculties in her life. She was able to write everything herself with clarity, simplicity and with a vocabulary

that I need a Webster's dictionary to understand the word meanings employed by her in her writings.

Sister White had to study for herself and grow in grace just as us. Consider her own testimony, when after she had given a lecture on a topic, a young man asked her the meaning of certain parts, she replied "I don't know, I have to study myself." If Sister White was inspired as many people hold, she would be God, or further a robot, a secretary or medium for The Holy Spirit.

Many people deny Sister White as true prophet because of the fact that the number of "prophetic visions" decreased to zero the older she got. They fail to consider her earlier visions in relationship to the demands of the gospel cause during the time. Nor do they consider her spiritual growth in her relationship with Jesus, such as she witnessed May 14, 1889 at the Ottawa camp meeting in Topeka Kansas. As she grew older, she grew and matured spiritually. She had the mind of the Lord; she didn't need "the prophetic visions." She was as Paul in when he spoke in 1 Corinthians 7:25. Remember this and the testimony of all the pioneers of the trials and tribulations which the Lord brought them through as an encouragement to us (such as 1844, 1888).

Not only are there prophets in the church today, but the light given and grace bestowed by God, the standard is greater than the previous generation (Prov. 4:18). Consider this in the light of Hebrews 11:40: "God having something BETTER for us." The understanding given to us is GREATER in our time THAN in Sister White's. In our time we will witness: The Holy Spirit as the latter rain, character perfection, no sin in God's people, following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth for eternity. Then will be fulfilled God's desire in Numbers 11:29, Isaiah 33:5-6 that all were prophets. Man will be restored with the mind which Adam had when he was originally created in Genesis, with the mind of God, able to name the animals. We will be able to stand and communicate with God without a mediator when Jesus puts down the censor. The end result of the sanctuary service is our glorification/perfection.

Professed God's People Today: Apostacy

The condition of God's people is worst today than in Sister White's generation. The reason for this deplorable condition is because we, just as in Sister White's time, "fail to obey God's mandate to study the scriptures" (Messages to Colporteur p.125, CSA Chpt. 17). Today, there are more divisions, ministries, false doctrines, complaining, murmuring, contention, reviling, fighting, bickering within God's church than ever. Further the professed people's lack of understanding of the scriptures is at an all-time high, and the confidence in one's ability to understand the scriptures is at an all-time low (Psalm 147:19-20, 95:10).

Rev. 3:17 Because 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:

What are the goods that the Laodiceans are increased with, which is the foundation of their claim that I am rich and need of nothing? The goods are the sources which they have placed in lieu of the Holy Bible; which leads one to say "The Bible" and "The Spirit of Prophecy." This practice has led to the Laodicean's blinded spiritual condition, one which is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. All this misery has come upon God's people because we have forgotten our heritage; Protestantism, the scriptures only. How quickly have the people forgotten Martin Luther's testimony in replying to the papal attack:

"The Christian believer has no other authority than the Holy Scriptures – they constitute Divine law....

The Word of God, the whole Word of God, and nothing but the Word of God."

In the Seven Day Adventist Statement of beliefs appears:

Belief 18: The Gift of Prophecy

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant

church, and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Num. 12:6; 2 Chron. 20:20; Amos 3:7; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8, 9.) (<https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/>)

However, this statement falls in the same category as when the Lord stated “with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me” (Isaiah 29:13). There is not a SDA church where the “Spirit of Prophecy” is not referenced more than the Bible. Evidence of this fact can be seen in SDA publications, sabbath school lessons and sermons. There is not a SDA church (or “present truth”) which the first reaction of the people to any biblical question will be to search their Ellen White app on their phone, tablet or computer. Further the Biblical questions are settled by and issues concerning the truth are established by thus sayeth Sister White.

Even worse today, there are debates concerning what Sister White meant in explaining/clarifying the scriptures. There are books written on how to study several of Sister White’s publications, such as “*The Ministry of Healing*.” There are other books written with the claim they enhance, make clearer, further simplify what Sister White wrote, hence dumbing down even further the spiritual aptitude, intelligence of the people. Worst still is the errors and ignorance that Her writings/prophecies were given to correct not only still exist today but exist today in greater degree. Further, people claim that there is more/greater knowledge and additional time prophesies in her writing. These people debate/argue these supposed facts, despite the fact that Sister White herself denies this fact in her writings (3SM 30.6, Letter 63, 1893; Testimonies for the Church 5:665, 3SM 31.3).

The casting away of the scriptures has always been the prime strategy of Satan, the means of his success, the power of the

Papacy, which resulted in what we call the Dark Ages. We, the church today, are in a Laodicean state. We are like the Jews at Jesus' first advent. The Jews' thought they were the children of God by their genealogy through Abraham and merely because they possessed the oracles of God. Their confidence was in the ritualism, the physical sacrifices of the sanctuary service which we know pointed to Jesus. The Israelites at one time placed their confidence in the bronze serpent. Similarly today, Sister White's writings are the goods which we have place our confidence in, use to validate our belief, our premise that we are God's people.

The person that holds any other source equal or in the same class, league, category, or even mere mention with the Bible cannot be a Protestant. Throughout the history of man, God has upheld the Bible as the only standard by which man is to live by. God does not changed. The thought, theory, principle teaching that in the end times God would deviate from His original and historical method/purpose, and give to His people the Bible and something else to prepare His people for the trials to come upon the church just before He comes, is totally erroneous. Jesus introduces Himself in Revelation Chapter 3 to the Laodiceans as the Amen, the faithful and true witness. This statement of the witness by Jesus of Himself should bring our minds to reflect on the veracity of the scriptures as our only safeguard from the trials that are soon to come upon the church. Consider the warning in Revelation:

22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.

The Church has Failed to Advance

1 Cor. 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

Eph 4:15-16 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 every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever.

1 Thess. 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all [men], even as we [do] toward you: 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thess. 4:9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. 10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; See also 2 Thess. 1:3 and Phil 1:9.

“Though they did not see all things clearly...” How is our knowledge of truth obtained? We begin with a first understanding of a subject, then a progression, then completion; as in the parable first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear. (Prov. 4:18, Mark 4:26-29). The word/truth of God is progressive; it is always progressing forward, going from strength to a greater strength, from light to a greater light. “We have every reason to believe that the Lord will send us increased truth, for a great work is yet to be done.” (Ellen White, Signs of the Times May 26, 1890)

The biggest problem we have today was expressed 400 hundred years ago and recorded in the book *The Great Controversy* starting at p.291.4. John Robinson, their pastor, who was providentially prevented from accompanying them, in his farewell address to the exiles said:

"Brethren, we are now erelong to part asunder, and the Lord knoweth whether I shall live ever to see your faces more. But

whether the Lord hath appointed it or not, I charge you before God and His blessed angels to follow me no farther than I have followed Christ. If God should reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as ever you were to receive any truth of my ministry; for I am very confident the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of His holy word."--Martyn, vol. 5, p. 70.

"For my part, I cannot sufficiently bewail the condition of the reformed churches, who are come to a period in religion, and will go at present no farther than the instruments of their reformation. The Lutherans cannot be drawn to go beyond what Luther saw; . . . and the Calvinists, you see, stick fast where they were left by that great man of God, who yet saw not all things. This is a misery much to be lamented; for though they were burning and shining lights in their time, yet they penetrated not into the whole counsel of God, but were they now living, would be as willing to embrace further light as that which they first received."--D. Neal, History of the Puritans, vol. 1, p. 269.

"Remember your church covenant, in which you have agreed to walk in all the ways of the Lord, made or to be made known unto you. Remember your promise and covenant with God and with one another, to receive whatever light and truth shall be made known to you from His written word; but withal, take heed, I beseech you, what you receive for truth, and compare it and weigh it with other scriptures of truth before you accept it; for it is not possible the Christian world should come so lately out of such thick antichristian darkness, and that full perfection of knowledge should break forth at once." (Martyn, vol. 5, pp. 70, 71., see also GW310)

The church today has sadly repeated this history. The church has not advanced since the days of the pioneers. Protestants criticize Catholics as puppets, pawns when the catholic responds "I have to ask my priest"; when questioned concerning the meaning of a scripture, what the catholic himself believes, or what he should say. Is the true church any different today? Do

we not do the same thing in our relationship to Sister White's writings? Do we not condemn ourselves? Today, the Church cannot think, defend a position, teach or preach without citing/referencing her writings. We are merely Sister White robots.

The Scriptures Our Only Safeguard

Below is Chapter 37 from *The Great Controversy, The Scriptures a Safeguard*. This chapter is a complete synopsis of the principles, purpose, instruction, implications, realm, scope, application, apostasy, and Satan's war against the Bible. The purpose in quoting this chapter is in harmony with the Holy Bible's principles. This treatise is not interested in "reinventing the wheel". Hence, please find Chapter 37 in its entirety:

Chapter 37—The Scriptures a Safeguard

“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. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. GC593.1

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character,

government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching test: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the rock of God's immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus? GC593.2

Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready. GC594.1

When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image (Revelation 14:9-11), should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the

last days: “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:3. That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love. GC594.2

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord” in its support. GC595.1

Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will. GC595.2

When Christ came to speak the words of life, the common people heard Him gladly; and many, even of the priests and rulers, believed on Him. But the chief of the priesthood and the leading men of the nation were determined to condemn and repudiate His teachings. Though they were baffled in all their efforts to find accusations against Him, though they could not but feel the influence of the divine power and wisdom attending His words, yet they incased themselves in prejudice; they rejected the clearest evidence of His Messiahship, lest they should be forced to become His disciples. These opponents of Jesus were men whom the people had been taught from infancy to reverence, to whose authority they had been accustomed implicitly to bow. “How is it,” they asked, “that our rulers and learned scribes do not believe on Jesus? Would not these pious men receive Him if

He were the Christ?" It was the influence of such teachers that led the Jewish nation to reject their Redeemer. GC595.3

The spirit which actuated those priests and rulers is still manifested by many who make a high profession of piety. They refuse to examine the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the special truths for this time. They point to their own numbers, wealth, and popularity, and look with contempt upon the advocates of truth as few, poor, and unpopular, having a faith that separates them from the world. GC596.1

Christ foresaw that the undue assumption of authority indulged by the scribes and Pharisees would not cease with the dispersion of the Jews. He had a prophetic view of the work of exalting human authority to rule the conscience, which has been so terrible a curse to the church in all ages. And His fearful denunciations of the scribes and Pharisees, and His warnings to the people not to follow these blind leaders, were placed on record as an admonition to future generations. GC596.2

The Roman Church reserves to the clergy the right to interpret the Scriptures. On the ground that ecclesiastics alone are competent to explain God's word, it is withheld from the common people. [See Appendix note for page 340.] Though the Reformation gave the Scriptures to all, yet the selfsame principle which was maintained by Rome prevents multitudes in Protestant churches from searching the Bible for themselves. They are taught to accept its teachings *as interpreted by the church*; and there are thousands who dare receive nothing, however plainly revealed in Scripture, that is contrary to their creed or the established teaching of their church. GC596.3

Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their

religious leaders. They pass by the Saviour's teachings almost unnoticed, and place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers. But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God's word that they are light bearers? A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible; and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another. GC596.4

Many are the ways by which Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes to himself by attaching them by the silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. Whatever this attachment may be, parental, filial, conjugal, or social, the effect is the same; the opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience, and the souls held under their sway have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty. GC597.1

The truth and the glory of God are inseparable; it is impossible for us, with the Bible within our reach, to honor God by erroneous opinions. Many claim that it matters not what one believes, if his life is only right. But the life is molded by the faith. If light and truth is within our reach, and we neglect to improve the privilege of hearing and seeing it, we virtually reject it; we are choosing darkness rather than light.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Proverbs 16:25. Ignorance is no excuse for error or sin, when there is every opportunity to

know the will of God. A man is traveling and comes to a place where there are several roads and a guideboard indicating where each one leads. If he disregards the guideboard, and takes whichever road seems to him to be right, he may be ever so sincere, but will in all probability find himself on the wrong road. GC597.3

God has given us His word that we may become acquainted with its teachings and know for ourselves what He requires of us. When the lawyer came to Jesus with the inquiry, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" the Saviour referred him to the Scriptures, saying: "What is written in the law? how readest thou?" Ignorance will not excuse young or old, nor release them from the punishment due for the transgression of God's law; because there is in their hands a faithful presentation of that law and of its principles and claims. It is not enough to have good intentions; it is not enough to do what a man thinks is right or what the minister tells him is right. His soul's salvation is at stake, and he should search the Scriptures for himself. However strong may be his convictions, however confident he may be that the minister knows what is truth, this is not his foundation. He has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything. GC598.1

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God. GC598.2

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures,

neither the power of God.” Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: “If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.” John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.

We should exert all the powers of the mind in the study of the Scriptures and should task the understanding to comprehend, as far as mortals can, the deep things of God; yet we must not forget that the docility and submission of a child is the true spirit of the learner. Scriptural difficulties can never be mastered by the same methods that are employed in grappling with philosophical problems. We should not engage in the study of the Bible with that self-reliance with which so many enter the domains of science, but with a prayerful dependence upon God and a sincere desire to learn His will. We must come with a humble and teachable spirit to obtain knowledge from the great I AM. Otherwise, evil angels will so blind our minds and harden our hearts that we shall not be impressed by the truth.

Many a portion of Scripture which learned men pronounce a mystery, or pass over as unimportant, is full of comfort and instruction to him who has been taught in the school of Christ. One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness. GC599.2

The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those

things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension. It is the office of heavenly angels to prepare the heart so to comprehend God's word that we shall be charmed with its beauty, admonished by its warnings, or animated and strengthened by its promises. We should make the psalmist's petition our own: "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." Psalm 119:18. Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. Thus "when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19.

Jesus promised His disciples: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. But the teachings of Christ must previously have been stored in the mind in order for the Spirit of God to bring them to our remembrance in the time of peril. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart," said David, "that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11. GC600.1

All who value their eternal interests should be on their guard against the inroads of skepticism. The very pillars of truth will be assailed. It is impossible to keep beyond the reach of the sarcasms and sophisms, the insidious and pestilent teachings, of modern infidelity. Satan adapts his temptations to all classes. He assails the illiterate with a jest or sneer, while he meets the educated with scientific objections and philosophical reasoning, alike calculated to excite distrust or contempt of the Scriptures. Even youth of little experience presume to insinuate doubts concerning the fundamental principles of Christianity. And this youthful infidelity, shallow as it is, has its influence. Many are thus led to jest at

the faith of their fathers and to do despite to the Spirit of grace. Hebrews 10:29. Many a life that promised to be an honor to God and a blessing to the world has been blighted by the foul breath of infidelity. All who trust to the boastful decisions of human reason and imagine that they can explain divine mysteries and arrive at truth unaided by the wisdom of God are entangled in the snare of Satan. GC600.2

We are living in the most solemn period of this world's history. The destiny of earth's teeming multitudes is about to be decided. Our own future well-being and also the salvation of other souls depend upon the course which we now pursue. We need to be guided by the Spirit of truth. Every follower of Christ should earnestly inquire: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey. GC601.1

Many are deceived as to their true condition before God. They congratulate themselves upon the wrong acts which they do not commit, and forget to enumerate the good and noble deeds which God requires of them, but which they have neglected to perform. It is not enough that they are trees in the garden of God. They are to answer His expectation by bearing fruit. He holds them accountable for their failure to accomplish all the good which they could have done, through His grace strengthening them. In the books of heaven they are registered as cumberers of the ground. Yet the case of even this class is not utterly hopeless. With those who have slighted God's mercy and abused His grace, the heart of long-suffering love yet pleads. "Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, ... redeeming

the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:14-16.

When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity. GC602.1

Says the psalmist: “Thy testimonies are my meditation.” “Through Thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.” Psalm 119:99, 104. GC602.2

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom.” “He shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” Proverbs 3:13; Jeremiah 17:8. GC602.3

Conclusion, Admonition, Exhortation

The freedoms which we enjoy today, the principles of Protestantism were purchased by the martyrdom of thousands. Under the fiercest tempests of opposition, they imperiled their lives, resisted temptation to renounce their beliefs, and maintained the faith. Thousands terrified by the fury of their persecutors, at the threat of their lives, died, securing to us today the freedoms we enjoy. Faith in God and His word sustained these holy men as they yielded up their lives at the stake. How can we deny the Protestant Principles which were obtained at such a cost?

Since 1844, the Lord has been preparing His people. The Lord yearns to receive his people, the church, His body. But, we His people, like the Israelites coming out of Egypt, are not prepared to meet our Lord. Like the church coming out of Egypt in Exodus, His people were in gross darkness from the 1260 years in the wilderness, known as the dark ages. Darkness is a condition which is the result of having no light, the word of God. The Bible was veiled, hidden from the common people by the Catholic church during the 1260 years. God's people truly had no knowledge of Him. The condition of the people on the earth when Jesus comes again the second time will be like his first advent: a people not ready, having no faith (Matt. 24:37, Luke 18:8).

We have a final message (a warning) to give to the world, the conclusion of the third angel's message; the unity of the brethren, the perfection of character (1 John 4:17-18, Eph 3:14-19); the mystery of Godliness, Christ in us perfected, the hope of Glory; (1 Tim. 3:16, Col 1:27, 3:16, Rom. 8:29-30, Isaiah 43:7, Eph. 3:1-11, Heb. 9:28). God is testing man today in the same manner as Adam and Eve were tested. The test: obedience and faith to His Word.

We are Protestant. The Protestant Reformation ends as the reformation began Sola Scriptura (The Word of God, The Whole Word of God, Nothing but the Word of God). Let us earnestly contend for our faith, the true gospel. We have a more sure word of prophecy, the very words of God, the Holy Bible. We have the witnesses of the saints in Hebrews 11, whom were overcomers by the power and their faith in the Word of God. Let's us make the Bible our only standard of truth and guide. Let our actions be founded upon, faith in the word alone.

Let us be like Joshua and Caleb. Let us go forth by faith with the Holy Bible only, giving the three angels messages, letting our light shine over this earth. Let us take the kingdom by faith. Give the Holy Spirit His appropriate place when studying God's word and carrying forth the gospel work (Acts 20:32). Jesus is able. Then Jesus will come back to receive His own (Rev. 15:2).

The Word of God, The Whole Word of God, and Nothing but the Word of God.

Martin Luther's testimony under the fiercest tempests of opposition.

Rev. 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (faith of Jesus is total trust in the word of God).

Rev. 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.