

Our Moses Part II

E.G. White's Books

This is a continuation of the previous newsletter #51, titled Our Moses Part I.

After studying E.G. White's books extensively and comparing them with the Bible, I am strongly convinced that WE have the same problem as the Teachers of the Law in those days. Certainly, not in all areas of our beliefs – but in some! This is the reason for my books and newsletters. They highlight topics that traditionally are considered “truth” but are not in harmony with the Bible.

When we quote “our Moses” a selection process seems to have taken place over the years. Not by *the* specific quotation used, but by all the quotations that have *not* been used. A one-sided selection of quotations limits a harmonious balance of all statements on a specific issue. Therefore, this process has skewed the end result. The end product is no longer in harmony with the Bible.

But this is not E.G. White's mistake! Did you notice that? It is not her fault, but the people in charge of the selection process. They are the ones who are responsible! They are the ones who have selected statements, combined them and compiled “her” books. That is the reason I sometimes write “her” books and the “so-called E.G. White books.” For a layman it seems impossible to determine what was initially written by her and what was compiled later, added or changed.

Last Days Events

Let's take “Last Days Events” as an example. This book came out in 1992 and is filled with quotations from E.G. White, from the beginning to the end. At the end of a quotation the source for it is given. In that perspective it is a book by E.G. White. But she never compiled it! She never arranged the order of the quotations or the chapters in that book. Even if every statement is true, it still might be misplaced, taken out of context, and could modify the true spiritual meaning. It might even be deceptive! In one way it is “her” book and in another way it is not. Let's read the preface to “Last Days Events” written by the White Estate:

We have attempted to present Ellen White's teachings on end-time events in a logical arrangement. However, we do not claim that we have listed all future events in the exact order of their occurrence. In a matter of such great importance as the experience of God's people in the days ahead...it is essential that all Christians have their own convictions, based upon their own study and their own personal relationship with the Lord.
[Emphases are mine]

What an honest and precious statement! It is an “attempt” to present her teachings on end-time events in a “logical arrangement.” What does it mean to be logical? Logical to whom? Well, it simply says that it is an *attempt* to do it in a “logical” order.

It is obviously not E.G. White's attempt. In that case they would have stated that. I have studied the end-time events thoroughly and can confirm that this statement is correct. E.G. White has no chronology of end-time events! Moreover, the publisher indirectly tells us that the “logical arrangement” is not from the Bible either. Furthermore, those who compiled this book do not know the chronology of the end-time events! Can you see that? It is an ATTEMPT to be logical.

Therefore, it must be “logical” according to previous interpretation patterns or traditions within our church

when the book “Last Day Events” was compiled. I am not focusing on the E.G. White Estate only, but on every single user of her writings. Those people working in the E. G. White Estate have given a truthful statement as quoted above.

Be Honest

But let’s be honest! Who reads the preface? Hardly anybody! Everyone who reads Last Days Events believes that everything in it, its words, its context, its order of events, etc. is from E.G. White and consequently from God! But it is NOT! No one has intentionally made a mistake but in reality this book can be misleading. These types of books are usually a collective result of several compilers’ work over many decades.

If the final conclusion is compared with ALL the original writings of E.G. White in a specific issue, it would reduce the risk of misinterpretation. But it doesn’t seem to be the case! According to my understanding, it is generally not made clear what the initial vision was, what her personal initial interpretation was and what her later understanding looked like.

We laymen, who don’t have access to the E.G. White vaults, don’t know what was added, when it was added or why it was changed! For example, the complete 1884 version of the Great Controversy has 288 pages but the 1911 version 678! The difference is almost 400 pages! It does not get better if rumors circulate which imply that significant changes have been done, even if done with the best intentions.

Are we putting our major efforts into defending her mistakes and mistakes we as a denomination have made? Or, are we using our energy to be filled with the Holy Spirit and under His guidance pray and study for more light? Where is our focus? Where is our heart in these matters? Everyone responsible for these compilations will one day face the Judge.

Our Political-religious System

When it comes to the Bible we always want to go back to the earliest and most reliable manuscript and lots of effort is put in to making sure we have the correct wording in the original language. The same ambition is put in to securing an accurate translation or interpretation of God’s Word.

Has this happened when it comes to the writings of “our Moses?” No, here the opposite seems to have taken place. If something is unclear it appears that the “cover-up method” is used. The defense system is activated and *woe* to anyone who dares to even suggest that a mistake might have been made. If someone does this in a repetitive or in a loud way, he takes a risk of suffering consequences through our religious-political system.

Several are the SDA pastors who have privately told me that they disagree with certain issues but have kept their views to themselves. Of course, they do not want to be quoted and consequently this fact cannot be proven to the public. They are afraid of losing their jobs as pastors or church administrators, if their questioning or “critical” attitude would become publicly known. This resembles the Jewish system in place during Bible times and the methods of the Roman Church in the Dark Ages.

Shame on us to have an oppressive system within our denomination! Shouldn’t we as a Christian entity be the first ones to love and support each other? Where is grace, openness and forgiveness? Are we as a church allowed to grow in knowledge and understanding *only* if a few members in the Biblical Research Institute approve it? (At this moment we should not talk about how accessible BRI is.)

Are we defending ourselves – or God’s Truth? Do we trust the Holy Spirit’s leading today? If we defend our own system, we will eventually fall flat on our faces and find ourselves fighting against God, according to Gamaliel in Acts 5:34-39.

A True Adventist

In the inner circles of our denomination we have levels or hierarchies in regards to what constitutes a really genuine and good Seventh-day Adventist. We do not necessarily speak about this in public but it is often implied. One thing is how many generations we have belonged to the church. An introduction of a speaker could be to mention that he or she is a “third-generation Adventist,” etc. Some are fourth-generation SDA’s but the really exclusive ones are fifth or sixth! Recently I heard something incredible; I met a person who told me that he was a seventh-generation Adventist! Wow! Is that the characteristic of a true Adventist?

Another area concerns our health message. Some eat meat and they are usually not considered really good Adventists. In one way or another they have not really “gotten the message.” Some are better and consequently are vegetarians. They are pretty much accepted! But the best ones, without any doubts, are the vegans!

It is a very strange concept and nothing that you will see in writing, but we all have experienced this attitude in real life. It is not of God and does not promote a better relationship with the Lord either. It rather categorizes us unnecessarily and puts labels on people. These two examples are mentioned in order to come to the third one, a more important one.

We have the same problem when it comes to E.G. White. Some believe in her and some do not. Some *really* believe in *everything* she has written, at least what *they* consider “everything.” For some that almost seems to be an issue of salvation. “You can only be saved, if you are a true Adventist,” is a common concept and, of course, to really be a true one “you have to believe in E.G. White.” This is a strange concept and actually idolatry. With that attitude we are turning a true prophet into an idol! Where in the Bible do we find any support for this?

Jeremiah

Let’s use a Bible prophet to illustrate the issue! How would it sound in your ears if someone would come to you and say: “To be a true Adventist, every single doctrine must be found in the Book of Jeremiah. Furthermore, you have to believe in the prophet Jeremiah. If not, you are not a true believer and probably lost!”

We would very likely consider that person crazy or fanatic. Most of us believe that we could have a wonderful Christian life without reading anything from the book of Jeremiah, simply because Isaiah has pretty much the same information, not to mention all the other 64 books of the Bible.

But how sad that this concept in regard to E.G. White is so common among us! Our salvation is NOT based on whether we believe that E.G. White was a true prophet! After accepting grace in our hearts, God will see who is faithful to His Word and to the His Spirit! God will not look at E.G. White’s faithfulness to the Holy Spirit when *He judges you and me!* God will look at *our* faithfulness toward Him!

We will NOT be judged according to how we have accepted her writings. We will be judged by the same criteria as anyone else. Not if we believe in her writings or not! Whether we accept her as a prophet or not, has nothing to do with the issue of salvation! God’s criteria for salvation have not changed after E.G. White accepted to be a prophet. God’s criteria are unchanged and eternal.

My understanding of a true Adventist, which should be the same as for any other Christian, is a person who loves the Lord with all His heart and fully accepts His grace. It is a person who has special interest in the Word of God and wants to understand more and more of it. His life shows a growing relationship with God’s Word, the Bible. Everything he understands, he wants to follow. A true Adventist is eager to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and to follow Him willingly. I believe:

*When we are faithful to the Word of God and the Spirit of God
there will be seen among us a great revival.*

Objections?

Now, I hear someone grumble and say that I am outside the box! If you think so, please read the official document in regard to E.G. White and you might be surprised. It is called:

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church's Understanding of Ellen White's Authority.”

It was published in 1982 by the Biblical Research Institute and the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. I am longing for the day it will be implemented! You can go to the official website of the White Estate, <http://www.whiteestate.org/> click on “**Issues and Answers,**” then scroll down to “**How Do Ellen G. White's Writings Relate to the Bible? The Authority of Ellen G. White's Writings,**” and there you will find the document with the title above, or you can directly click on this link below:

<http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/scripsda.html>

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