

## **Cunningly Devised Fables: 1.**

As Jesus was entering into the last days prior to His crucifixion, He uttered that beautiful prophetic discourse in Matthew, chapter 24, not only forewarning of the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem, but also speaking of the last days of this earth's history. Knowing of Satan's desire to bring destruction to the people of God, Jesus spoke several times of the deception which would exist in the days just before His return to this earth at the end of time. See verses 4, 5, II, 24. He indicated that "if it were possible." even the very elect would be deceived.

In Galatians 1:6-7 the apostle Paul warned of men who were attempting in his day to bring another gospel to God's people, thereby seeking to deceive them: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

So it has been throughout the history of the church that men have arisen at various times perverting the true message of God and thus seeking to deceive, if possible, God's elect, those desiring to have a close personal walk with Jesus. These men who so deceive are not always doing it purposely. In fact, in many instances they are themselves deluded, and carry that delusion to others.

Ellen White spoke in regard to these men: "False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths. They are to be met and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth." Testimonies to Ministers, 55.

Knowing that the eternal salvation of many souls could be threatened by certain ones, Paul named names so that the people could clearly be made aware of the smooth-tongued deceivers. He spoke of Hymenaeus, Philetus, Alexander the coppersmith, and Demas. See 2 Timothy 2:17-18; 4:10, 14. In the same way and for the same reason, Ellen White speaks of John Harvey Kellogg, Pastor Albion Ballenger, and others in her writings. In many instances, these men were very sincere in what they believed; but what they believed and taught was nonetheless a great deception, and a snare to many.

Again, in our day we have those who are bringing to God's people messages containing deception and error, messages which, if believed and followed, will lead into wrong pathways and weaken God's last-day preparatory message for His remnant people. It is the purpose of this series

of articles to warn of one in particular who is bearing a false message. His name is Larry Wilson.

I do not believe that Brother Wilson is a bad man, but I do believe he is a teacher of falsehood, and that he is "endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth." In providing his own interpretation of what he calls the eighteen apocalyptic prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Larry Wilson directly contradicts not only the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but also the writings of Ellen White.

What concerns me and has prompted this series of articles is that good, devoted Seventh-day Adventists, some of whom are very close friends of mine, have allowed their minds to be carried away by the deceptions presented in the writings of Larry Wilson. They have been convinced that he has a deeper insight and a better grasp of the Scriptures than the proven prophet of this church. They fail to see the speculative nature of what he says, and the human wisdom on which it is based.

### **The White Principle**

A most dangerous aspect of Brother Wilson's teaching is his claim to be using the Bible and the Bible only in his interpretation, while indicating that it is wrong to use Ellen White's writings to test his highly speculative interpretation of the Scriptures. He writes on page six in a document entitled "An Open Letter to Seventh-day Adventists" regarding what he terms "the White principle":

"The Adventist principle for knowing what is true and what is false is this: If Mrs. White endorsed the idea, it is truth. If Mrs. White did not endorse the idea, and if the idea does not conflict with anything written by Mrs. White, then the idea may be true. However, if someone espouses an idea that is blatantly different from what Mrs. White has written, the idea is false."

He then goes on to compare this type of reasoning by Seventh day Adventists with the reasoning of people who follow false prophets or false leaders. But this comparison is totally inappropriate and deceptive unless you also deem Mrs. White to be a false prophet. A true prophet's messages will not conflict with the inspired prophets of the Bible, and we should not hesitate to use a true prophet's writings, especially in regard to those areas of Scripture where man's interpretation may be quite speculative, as in the area of prophecy.

Consider the following quotations:

"The enemy has made his masterly efforts to unsettle the faith of our own people in the Testimonies, and when these errors come in they claim to prove all the positions by the Bible, but they misinterpret the Scriptures. They make bold assertions, as did Elder Canright, and *misapply the*

*prophecies* and Scriptures to prove falsehood." 1888 Manuscripts, 739. All emphasis supplied.

"Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but *all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White*, and has given her a message *will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.*" Selected Messages, book 3, 83-84.

"Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be *merely the opinion of Sister White*. You have thereby insulted the Spirit of God. You know how *the Lord has manifested Himself through the Spirit of Prophecy*. Past, present, and future have passed before me." Testimonies, vol. 5,64.

*"When you find men questioning the testimonies, finding fault with them, and seeking to draw away the people from their influence, be assured that God is not at work through them. It is another spirit."* Selected Messages, book 1,45.

Many more quotations could be given regarding Satan's last deception to make of no effect the testimonies of the Spirit of God as given through Ellen White; but I recommend your own study in this area.

And do not be deceived by the statement that when Sister White used the word "testimonies," she referred only to the nine-volume set written by her, entitled "Testimonies for the Church". She is referring to the testimony of God's Spirit through her, in *all* of her writings. Notice the context, for instance, of the first quotations in the previous series.

In "An Open Letter to Joe Engelkemier" a man by the name of Nick subtly seeks to undermine the prophet by misusing her own writings. He states on the front page of that letter, "I will mention that since Larry Wilson claims his teachings are based on the Bible and not on Ellen White or Adventist traditions, if we really want to be fair we can't use those sources as arguments against his teachings. If we don't have Bible proof we don't have any proof. Even Ellen White, as you are aware, has said that some of our Adventist teachings contain error; it might be argued that it is just those errors Larry exposes."

Brothers and sisters, do not be deceived by this attempt to undermine our confidence in our prophet. Her writings are either inspired or they or not. Any error in Adventist teachings referred to by her will not be in her own writings, which she says God gave her. She writes. "At that time [after the 1844 disappointment] one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted

men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error." Ibid., book 3, 31-32.

"When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No after suppositions contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained." Ibid., book 1, 161. See also the article on new light in this issue of Our Firm Foundation.

"Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people." Ibid., 55.

"In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne. It is true concerning the articles in our papers and in the many volumes of my books." Ibid., 29.

Should we listen to the prophet? A wholehearted Yes! I came into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1977. I had practiced law for twelve years at that time. My whole training was in the area of investigation and analysis of facts. So, when I learned of Ellen White, I had to study and know for myself that she was truly a prophet of God. I had heard of Joseph Smith and other false prophets. But what about this prophet in the Seventh-day Adventist Church? What about inspiration? How did it come? What about those who disclaimed that Ellen White was a prophet? I needed answers to these and many more questions. Through personal study of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy with prayer, I was convinced that the Spirit of Prophecy is without a doubt manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White.

What about you? Have you studied for yourself? Where do you stand? To aid you in your study, I recommend that you request a copy of my article, "The Gathering," or my sermon, "The Final Deception," in which I show through prophetic time periods that we should have been looking for a prophet to appear in 1844. I believe Ellen White was indeed that prophet.

"One thing is certain: Those Seventh day Adventists who take their stand under Satan's banner will first give up their faith in the warnings and reproofs contained in the Testimonies of God's Spirit." Ibid., book 3, 84.

"Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper." 2 Chronicles 20:20.

## **Biblical Rules of Interpretation?**

Larry Wilson has certain rules of Bible interpretation which he thinks are derived from the Bible and when applied would give the interpretation that he presents. Other men have other rules of interpretation that they think come from the Bible and result in the interpretations they present. The fact is that the majority of their rules originate from the finite wisdom of men, and involve very speculative areas.

In contrast, when Ellen White is accepted as a true prophet of God, the infinite wisdom of God revealed through her is a much safer test of true interpretation. Do not be confused by someone's claiming that you are unfair in using the prophet—that is Satan's greatest ploy to drive you away from the sure protection of God in these last days. That is the only way in which the elect can truly be deceived.

Brother Wilson's rules of interpretation are not all inclusive, for other principles might also be drawn from the fulfilled prophecies of Daniel that would override some of his misinterpretation of prophecy.

For instance, throughout the book of Daniel, we find the use of parallelism and enlargement. That means that a prophecy found in Daniel 7 will cover the same period of time as the prophecy found in Daniel 2, but additional information is given in Daniel 7. Likewise Daniel 8 would be parallel to Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 with additional enlargement.

Larry Wilson, however, has taken the little horn of Daniel 8, which very clearly arises after that power identified as Greece (Daniel 8:21), then allows a large gap of time, and says it is Satan in his personal appearance at the end of time.

"The horn power of Daniel 8 is the physical appearing of the devil which is yet to come." *The Revelation of Jesus*, page 75.

He then makes an argument alluding to Protestant interpreters claiming this little horn is the Papacy and says, "But the Papacy is almost 700 years after the death of the four kings of Greece," p. 80, indicating that there is too much time between the powers, while he, in fact, has a greater gap in time with his interpretation. He gives other weak reasons why the little horn cannot be the Papacy. But in all this reasoning Brother Wilson misleads, because Protestant interpreters, including our pioneers, endorsed by Ellen White, have said the horn of Daniel 8 is the Roman power in both its pagan and papal forms, thus fitting in perfectly with the interpretations of the earlier parallel chapters of Daniel. The pagan Roman power followed directly after the Greek power, and came from one of the four winds (directions).

Our prophet has stated in *The Acts of the Apostles*, 583. "In the revelation given to him [John] there was unfolded scene after scene of

thrilling interest in the experience of the people of God, and the history of the church foretold to the very close of time. In figures and symbols, subjects of vast importance were presented to John, which he was to record, that the people of God living in his age and in future ages might have an intelligent understanding of the perils and conflicts before them.

"This revelation was given for the guidance and comfort of the church throughout the Christian dispensation."

The seven churches of Revelation have been interpreted by many to cover a period from the time of John to the close of the Christian dispensation. This interpretation is likewise true of the seals and the trumpets of Revelation. It would fit perfectly with the rule of interpretation as above given and demonstrated in the book of Daniel. However, it disagrees with where Larry Wilson wants to go with these prophecies.

On page 144 of his book on Revelation, Wilson says, "The seven churches are not numbered one through seven. They are not sequential or chronological in order. They are not apocalyptic. They do not represent seven time periods since the ascension of Jesus. They simultaneously exist now."

In other words, the seven churches, as taught by Ellen White and the pioneers, do not fit into the nice package he has put together of man-made rules of apocalyptic prophecy and interpretation.

Sister While says in Acts of the Apostles, 585, "The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world."

Brothers and sisters, beware of those who seem to formulate their own rules of interpretation of Scripture to seek to give what they say greater validity and in so doing undermine the authority of a prophet of God. They will lead many souls into perdition.

Larry Wilson himself says in The Revelation of Jesus on page 31, "In fact, the devil often mixes 99% truth with 1% lie to capture his subjects." And then throughout his book, he does just that. He has many statements that are true and thus seeks to build reliability. But at the same time the falsehood is there.

### **"Prophets can make serious mistakes"**

He seems to go out of his way to disagree with Ellen White and the pioneers. He agrees that Jesus began His ministry in A.D. 27, but then, in order to fit in with his Jubilee ideas, he says, "Jesus died in the middle of

the 70th week (A.D. 30)." page 110. The pioneers, of course, say that Jesus began His ministry in the fall of A.D. 27, and 3 1/2 years later ended it in the spring of A.D. 31. Larry Wilson states that, "Israel lost their position as trustees of the gospel at the end of the 70 sevens (A.D. 33). The pioneers indicate that this happened in the fall of A.D. 34.

In regard to the 144,000, Brother Wilson again uses some Bible manipulation to arrive at something that will fit into his interpretation. In order to bring the 144,000 into chapter 10 of Revelation, he makes prophets out of them. Notice what he says. "Revelation 10:11 says, 'Then I [John. in the experience of the 144,000] was told, you must prophesy again about many people, nations, languages and kings.' Notice in this text, that those who proclaim the message contained in the open book are to prophesy again. Prophets prophesy, don't they?" *The Revelation of Jesus.* page 205.

Now he is building on his already false foundation, and he seeks to reinforce it by proving that the 144,000 are prophets by saying that the 144,000 are called "servants" in Revelation 7:3. Then in Revelation 10:7 prophets are called "servants." Therefore, the reasoning is that the 144,000 are servants, prophets are servants, therefore the 144,00 are prophets.

The fact is that all prophets are servants, but not all servants are prophets, so the 144,000 cannot be proved to be prophets in this manner. This tactic is misleading people by playing with words. Not just prophets are servants of Jesus, for in John 12:26 we are informed that all followers of Jesus are servants.

When Revelation 12:17 combined with Revelation 19:10 speaks of a remnant which have the Spirit of Prophecy,

Larry Wilson thinks more in terms of the 144,000 than of Ellen White. He would rather think of her as "a great author" than as God's last-day prophet. *Ibid.*, 278.

Larry Wilson is very dangerous in his approach because he wants to uphold his understanding of prophecy, seemingly at any cost. To accomplish his objective he must contradict the prophet. And to do that he must say the prophet is wrong. He supports his position on page 307 of his book when he says, "This scripture reveals the fact that prophets can make serious mistakes," and he goes on to relate the story of Abraham, a prophet, lying to Abimelech about Sarah. Brother Wilson does not distinguish between the growth in the life of one of God's prophets—and admittedly all prophets must have character growth—and the writings of a prophet that God has commissioned.

If we go with Larry Wilson's reasoning, we could soon begin to throw aside any Scripture of the Bible or any of the writings of Ellen White if they did not correlate with our own personal understandings. He has in fact done that with Ellen White's writings.

There are other areas of Larry Wilson's writings that could be questioned. For instance, in regard to the Jubilee reckoning, he tries to keep the Jubilee cycle at 49 years so that it can divide evenly into the 490 years of Daniel and also other calculations of his. Of course the Jubilee year was always the fiftieth year (see Patriarchs and Prophets, 533; Ministry of Healing, 184.), and in order to keep it to 49-year cycles, more reasoning has to be employed to try to prove the fiftieth year was also the first year of the next cycle. This method of reckoning is not specifically so indicated in the Bible in regard to Jubilees.

Brothers and sisters, I appeal to you not to let yourselves be carried away by the deceit and subtlety of those who place themselves and their understanding above that of the prophet who was given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### **Uphold the Pioneers**

In speaking of the church of Ephesus, Ellen G. White, spoke of the dying all of the old standard-bearers and the coming of the new generation:

"One by one the old standard-bearers fell at their post. Some of the younger workers, who might have shared the burdens of those pioneers, and thus have been prepared for wise leadership, had become weary of oft-repeated truths. In their desire for something novel and startling they attempted to introduce new phases of doctrines, more pleasing to many minds, but not in harmony with the fundamental principles of the gospel. In their self-confidence and spiritual blindness they failed to discern that these sophistries would cause many to question the experiences of the past, and would lead to confusion and unbelief" The Acts of the Apostles, 580.

And now our own pioneers, including the prophet, are being questioned in the same way. Larry Wilson's writings completely contradict the writings of Uriah Smith in Daniel and the Revelation. The prophet says in regard to this book:

"Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that One teach them what is meant by godliness and truth. The great essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains.... The interest in Daniel and the Revelation is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of

this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth....

"Many of these teachers who bring in heresies, and thus undermine the faith of some, are regarded as men of God, who walk in the light, and are seeking to deliver the church from wrong practices. But they are servants of sin." Manuscript Releases, vol. I, 61-64.

She does not say that everything in the book, 'Daniel and the Revelation' is accurate, but she definitely infers that a good portion is correct. Larry Wilson does not agree.

The 1843 chart as prepared by one of the pioneers, is again in opposition to much that Larry Wilson professes. It shows that prophecy runs from the time of the prophet to the end of time. It shows the 1290 and the 1335 to be years in prophecy, not days. It shows that the seals and trumpets having already been mostly fulfilled, not something totally placed in the future or beginning in 1798 as taught by Larry Wilson. (This chart can be ordered from Hope International)

In commenting on the book, The Great Controversy, another book that Larry Wilson continually contradicts, Ellen White says. "While writing the manuscript of The Great Controversy, I was often conscious of the presence of the angels of God. And many times the scenes about which I was writing were presented to me anew in visions of the night, so that they were fresh and vivid in my mind." Colporteur Ministry, 128.

She further states in referring to The Great Controversy, "I was moved by the Spirit of the Lord to write that book." p. 127.

"God gave me the light contained in the 'The Great Controversy' and 'Patriarchs and Prophets' and this light was needed to arouse the people to prepare for the great day of God, which is just before us." p. 129.

In Colporteur Ministry, 126, she says, "How many have read carefully 'Patriarchs and Prophets', 'The Great Controversy' and 'The Desire of Ages'? I wish all to understand that my confidence in the light God has given stands firm, because I know that the Holy Spirit's power magnified the truth, and made it honorable, saying: 'This is the way, walk ye in it.' Isaiah 30:21. In my books, the truth is stated, barricaded by a 'Thus saith the Lord.' The Holy Spirit traced these truths upon my heart and mind as indelibly as the law was traced by the finger of God, upon the tables of stone, which are now in the ark, to be brought forth in that great day when sentence will be pronounced against every evil, seducing science produced by the father of lies."

## **A Prophet of God or an Impostor?**

Brothers and sisters, Ellen White is either a prophet of God or she is an impostor. If you choose to accept Larry Wilson's speculative interpretation of prophecy, you are saying Ellen White has lied, is wrong, and therefore cannot be a prophet of God, for she claims these materials in her books that are in opposition to Larry Wilson came from God.

Notice again the statements above, as well as the following statement, "I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne. It is true concerning the articles in our papers and in the many volumes of my books."

In Part Two of this article, I will show a comparison of statements between the pioneers, Ellen White, and Larry Wilson.

Remember we are told in Selected Messages, book 1, 48, "Satan is ... constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony."

Sadly, many sincere people have been carried away with the writings of Larry Wilson because they continued to venture deeper into his writings, even when they saw the conflict between what he had to say and the Spirit of Prophecy as expressed through the writings of Ellen White. We are told that Satan has a dish of fables cooked up for every soul who is not cherishing the truth as it is in Jesus. See 'The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary', vol. 5, 1147. "The world is full of men and women who cherish deceptive theories, and it is dangerous to listen to them" Upward Look, 75.

"In some instances men have been turned away from the truth to listen to fables. Efforts were made to set right those thus deceived, but some had drunk so deeply from the polluted fountain, and had become so impregnated with false impressions, that it was impossible to undeceive them." Review and Herald, January 21, 1904.

## **Cunningly Devised Fables, Part 2**

THERE is a danger that we must all guard against. "The natural stubbornness of the human heart resists the light of truth. Its natural pride of opinion leads to independence of judgment and a clinging to human ideas and philosophy. There is with some a constant danger of becoming unsettled in the faith by the desire for originality. They wish to find some new and strange truth to present, to have a message to bring to the people;

but such a desire is a snare of the enemy to captivate the mind and lead away from the truth." Review and Herald, August 19, 1909.

"He [Satan] has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another." Early Writings, 26.

I have friends who would never be deceived by the New Theology. They believe in overcoming sin through the power of Jesus Christ. They seek to have the character of Jesus reproduced in their lives. They know the three angels' messages. They understand the sanctuary. They believe in the non-immortality of the soul. They recognize sundown Friday to sundown Saturday as being the true Sabbath, the Lord's day. Yet, when it comes to Bible prophecy, they are surprisingly open to being deceived, even when it can be shown that those who teach false interpretations such as are in Larry Wilson's book, 'The Revelation of Jesus', clearly contradict the testimony of the Spirit of God as manifested in the writings of Ellen G. White.

They speak of Sister White as being wrong, although she has made straightforward statements which indicate that the Lord has shown her that which she has written. The followers of such men as Larry Wilson quote Sister White as stating that we need to be open to "new light," but do not mention her quotations indicating that new light will never contradict already existing light. Their minds have been captivated.

Ellen White has given the following counsel: "The Lord will not lead minds now to set aside the truth that the Holy Spirit has moved upon His servants in the past to proclaim." Selected Messages, book 2, 110.

In speaking of the pioneers' understanding of prophecy, she proclaimed, "The power of the Holy Spirit was manifested. There was diligent study of the Scriptures, point by point. Almost entire nights were devoted to earnest searching of the Word. We searched for the truth as for hidden treasures. The Lord revealed Himself to us. Light was shed on the prophecies, and we knew that we received divine instruction." Ibid., 109.

"The leadings of the Lord were marked, and most wonderful were His revelations of what is truth. Point after point *was established by the Lord God of heaven*. That which was truth then, is truth today. But the voices do not cease to be heard—'This is truth. I have new light.' But these new lights *in prophetic lines are manifest in misapplying the Word* and setting the people of God adrift without an anchor to hold them." Ibid., 104. [All emphasis supplied unless otherwise indicated].

In Larry Wilson's book, 'The Revelation of Jesus', most of the book of Revelation has been placed in an end-time scenario with the first seal of Revelation, chapter six, depicting activity taking place in 1798, and the other seals and trumpets occurring after that. In contrast, Daniel and the

Revelation by Uriah Smith, and the 1843 chart, both of which were strongly endorsed by Ellen White, (see Early Writings, 74) place the first of these seals in the beginning of the Christian era.

The pioneer view supported by Ellen White was set forth by James White in "The Biblical Institute, A Synopsis of Lectures on The Principal Doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists," in 1878. On page 253, the following is stated:

"The seals are introduced to our notice in the 4th, 5th, and 6th chapters of Revelation, The scenes presented under these seals are brought to view in Revelation 6, and the first verse of Revelation 8. They evidently cover events with which the church is connected from the opening of this dispensation to the coming of Christ.

"While the seven churches present the internal history of the church, the seven seals bring to view the great events of its external history." The seals are then described beginning with the white horse representing "the gospel in its first introduction."

Most of the rest of the book of Revelation as interpreted by the pioneers and Ellen White is quite different from Larry Wilson's interpretation in *The Revelation of Jesus*. A comparison of some of the areas of difference between the teachings of our prophet Ellen White, and Larry Wilson's teaching will follow. It will not be an exhaustive listing by any means. Hopefully, the disparity between statements given will convince you that it is unprofitable to study the writings of Larry Wilson or to go to his meetings, for we are told that "the world is full of men and women who cherish deceptive theories, and it is dangerous to listen to them." *The Upward Look*, 75.

"God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us.... I saw that we have no time to throwaway in listening to fables." *Early Writings*, 125.

All of the quotations by Larry Wilson (indicated by "LW.") which follow are from his book, 'The Revelation of Jesus' unless otherwise noted.

### **The Judgment of Daniel 7**

I. a. L.W. 117-118: "The judgment scene of Daniel 7:9-10 began in 1798."

b. E.G.W., *The Great Controversy* 479-480: In the beginning of the chapter on "Facing Life's Record," Ellen White clearly indicates that the judgment scene of Daniel 7 began in 1844.

## **The Seven Churches**

2. a. L.W. 144: "The seven churches are not numbered one through seven. They are not sequential or chronological in order. They are not apocalyptic. They do not represent seven time periods since the ascension of Jesus. They simultaneously existed in John's day and they simultaneously exist now."

b. E.G.W., The Acts of the Apostles, 585: "The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world,"

## **Daniel 7; Revelation 4, 5**

3. a. L.W. 70: "If the reader will consider the possibility that the scenes in Daniel 7:9 and Revelation 4 and 5 began in 1798, two things will make a lot of sense. First just assume that Daniel and John saw the same service, John's attention is focused on the book sealed with seven seals and the search for someone worthy to open the book. Daniel is focused on the persecution of the saints and the court scene."

b. Note: In examining these two different scriptures biblically, Revelation 4 and 5 are (compare Revelation 4:5 with Exodus 25:31, 37 and Hebrews 9:2) clearly occurring in the holy place while Daniel 7 is clearly happening in the Most Holy Place. They cannot be the same scenes. Not until Revelation 11:19 is the Most Holy Place opened to view.

c. E.G.W., The Great Controversy 414-415: In referring to Revelation 4 and 8:3, Ellen G. White says, "Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven, and he saw there the 'seven lamps of fire' and 'the golden altar' represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth. Again, 'the temple of God was opened' (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the inner veil, upon the Holy of Holies. Here he beheld 'the ark of His testament', represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God."

## **Who Is Being Judged?**

4. a. L.W. 117, 123: In speaking of the judgment scene in Daniel 7, Larry Wilson says that "Each person that lived on earth will be examined and a determination for eternal life or eternal death will be made," and then, "From Daniel, we learned that the judgment of the human race began in 1844."

b. E.G.W., The Great Controversy, 480: "So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those

of the professed people of God," and "The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period."

### **Opening the Book of Life**

5. a. L.W. 150: In speaking of the book of life, "There is only one place in the Bible that tells us when this book is opened: at the end of the 1,000 years. This is when the seventh seal is broken. John says, 'And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life.' (Revelation 20: 12)"

b. E.G.W, The Great Controversy 480: "The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. Says the prophet Daniel: 'The judgment was set and the books were opened.' Daniel 7: 10. The revelator, describing the same scene, adds: 'Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.' Revelation 20:12."

### **Unloosing the Four Winds**

6. a. L.W. 192: Indicates that the four winds are held until the 144,000 are ready, but that there are judgments contained in the fourth seal to eventually help turn people to God with the help of the 144,000.

b. E.G.W, Early Writings, 36: "I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues." [Not the fourth seal.] Note: There is quite a different understanding of the 144,000.

### **The 144,000 Raptured?**

7. a. LW 204, 205: "Then the 144,000, those people who fearlessly bore the testimony of Jesus to the world, are taken to heaven before the gathering up of the rest of the dead. These are special trophies that belong to Jesus and they will attend Him when He appears a few days later." And, "The Bible suggests that some of the 144,000 will die during the great tribulation."

b. Note: This special rapture idea is totally foreign to Seventh-day Adventist pioneer theology, the Bible and Ellen White.

c. E.G.W, Early Writings. 15: "The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united.... At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground....Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which

we all knew was the sign of the Son of man." Ellen White, describing a vision, goes on to speak of Jesus' coming while the 144,000 are on earth, all alive, watching His coming. See pages 14-17.

### **The Two Witnesses**

8. a. L.W. 199: "The Two Witnesses are: 1. The Bible (the two lampstands) 2. The Holy Spirit (the two olive trees producing the oil.)" On page 198: "The Two Witnesses are brought into prominent focus in the final days of earth because sin has almost destroyed the sensibilities of people. The distress caused by the trumpets is carefully designed to give opportunity and credibility to the Two Witnesses. They will offer salvation to all who want to be saved." On page 201: "For 1260 literal days the Bible and the Holy Spirit will mightily work under most distressing circumstances. They will suffer great rejection, but they will gather the elect of God from all corners of the earth."

b. E.G.W., The Great Controversy, 267: "The Two Witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy."

On page 266: "The periods here mentioned [Revelation 11:2-11]—'forty and two months.' and 'a thousand two hundred and threescore days'—are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in AD 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798."

### **The Dragon of Revelation 12**

9. a. LW 218: In speaking of the dragon in Revelation 12, "This dragon is not a nation—either in a primary or secondary sense. This story is not about some nation.... The enormous red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns is the devil. Period."

b. E.G.W, The Great Controversy, 438: "The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus, while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome."

## **The Lamblike Beast**

10. a. L.W 245: "The lamblike [beast] is none other than the devil masquerading as the Lamb of God upon earth." On page 253, "The lamblike [beast] is the physical appearing of the devil for a short time."

b. E.G.W, *ibid.*, 579: "Revelation 13:11-16. It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns."

Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 975: "Here is a striking figure of the rise and growth of our own nation. And the lamblike horns, emblems of innocence and gentleness, well represent the character of our government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, republicanism and Protestantism,"

## **The Mark of the Beast: Visible?**

11. a. L.W 250: "Revelation doesn't reveal the name Satan takes when he appears.... The devil's name will be associated with the number 666, for God has ordained this. Even though no one knows the name the devil will use, billions of people already know about the stigma 666. Think about it. People will willingly receive this number on their foreheads or hands knowing that it is the mark of the Antichrist. ... The writer is convinced that the mark on the forehead or hand is a visible tattoo."

b. E.G.W, *ibid.*, 977: "Sunday keeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet." On pages 979-980:

"John was called to behold a people distinct from those who worship the beast and his image by keeping the first day of the week. The observance of this day is the mark of the beast. ... To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the Word of God. When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God.... This is not a visible mark."

## **The Three Angels Are Future?**

12. a. L.W. In his paper Day Star, March 1991, Larry Wilson says, "I anticipate that the 144,000, sometime during the Jubilee year of 1992, will be granted great power to begin proclaiming the everlasting gospel. This empowerment for 1260 days will be complemented by the judgments of the 7 trumpets!" He later amended the date to 1994. But by using the word "begin" in connection with the everlasting gospel, he apparently sees the proclamation of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 as still future.

b. E.G.W, Selected Messages, book 2, 104-105: "The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the Word of Inspiration. Not a peg or pin is to be removed. No human authority has any more right to change the location of these messages than to substitute the New Testament for the Old. .. The first and second messages were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of these messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for truth."

### **Protection from Strong Delusions**

Brothers and sisters, "Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake, and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of Prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His Word. He has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?"

I am not suggesting that there is no more light to be obtained from the study of the prophecies, but we must be settled on the fact that the **new light will never contradict the previously Holy Spirit confirmed light.** We are to gain from our study of Revelation a clearer understanding of the gospel and the theme of greatest importance is that of the three angels' messages.

"Our lesson for the present time is, How may we most clearly comprehend and present the gospel that Christ came in person to present to John on the Isle of Patmos—the gospel that is termed 'the Revelation of Jesus Christ'? We are to present to our people a clear explanation of Revelation. We are to give them the Word of God just as it is, with as few of our own explanations as possible. No one mind can do this work alone. Although we have in trust the grandest and most important truth ever presented to the world, we are only babes, as far as understanding truth in all its bearings is concerned. Christ is the great teacher, and that which He revealed to John, we are to tax our minds to understand and clearly to define. We are facing the most important issues that men have ever been called upon to meet.

"The theme of greatest importance is the third angel's message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels. All should

understand the truths contained in these messages and demonstrate them in daily life, for this is essential to salvation. We shall have to study earnestly, prayerfully, in order to understand these grand truths." Counsels to Writers and Editors, 29-30.

"I beseech those who are laboring for God not to accept the spurious for the genuine. Let not human reason be placed where divine, sanctifying truth should be. Christ is waiting to kindle faith and love in the hearts of His people. Let not erroneous theories receive countenance from the people who ought to be standing firm on the platform of eternal truth. God calls upon us to hold firmly to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority." Testimonies, vol. 8, 298.

The Lord is coming soon. Through His power working in us now, we need to develop His character in our lives. Satan will seek to take us away into fanciful areas, to subtly place our attention on theories which will result in our not being firmly grounded in truth. Do not allow him to do this, but rather pray that the Holy Spirit will keep us from being led astray. If we will spend our time in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy developing a close and saving relationship with Jesus, gaining victory over all weaknesses of character before probation closes, we will surely be among those who at last are taken to heaven with Him.

"THERE will be men and women who despise reproof and whose feelings will ever rise up against it. It is not pleasant to be told of our wrongs. In almost every case where reproof is necessary, there will be some who entirely overlook the fact that the Spirit of the Lord has been grieved and His cause reproached. These will pity those who deserved reproof, because personal feelings have been hurt. All this unsanctified sympathy places the sympathizers where they are sharers in the guilt of the one reproofed." Testimonies, vol. 3, 359.