

Refute To Attacks Against Adventist Beliefs

The items in this section were selected at random to show how misinformed or dishonest (whichever the case may be) that the writers of the various websites attempting to discredit SDA doctrines are. There are many different items on these sites that I have not addressed as yet. It is easy to make accusations, it's quite another thing to present all the facts. These sites are not aimed at telling the whole truth or supplying the facts, but rather, they are feeble attempts at discrediting SDA beliefs. If there are some things on the various sites that you want addressed specifically, please post them on the forum board. This way, when they are answered it benefits all.

Did Seventh-day Adventists distort history as claimed by Steven Korsman on his website?

On Steven Korsman's website, we find some misleading information which attempts to prove that SDAs have misapplied the prophecies in Daniel 7. He makes the claim that there were more than 10 horns (kingdoms) at the time of the fall of the Western Roman Empire, claiming that there were "15-20." He also asserts that their removal from power had nothing to do with the papacy. A close look at his remarks and a little research on the subject shows that he is either misinformed or deceptive.

Mr. Korsman lists many "sources" of information, but upon reviewing some of these, I find that a much different picture is seen than the one he attempts to promote.

One of the books that he said he looked into is Gibbon's: *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

I have read and own a set of Gibbon's *Rome* and can plainly see that while he "looked into" them, he **DID NOT** read them. In fact, Gibbon's *Rome* completely refutes his claims concerning the powers in control at the time of the Western Empire's fall and especially how many kingdoms there were! In fact he says,

"Basically all of the data was taken from encyclopedias, and *the books are merely there for backup proof.*"

This clearly shows that he has not read them. It is obvious that he knows little of history and does not know what he is talking about! Encyclopedias are great for a general overview, but to understand the times we are discussing, much deeper research is required.

For extra input, I spoke at length with noted historian Arthur Kane Scott. Mr. Scott has authored many books and courses for the University of California and therefore I consider him to be a reliable source of information.

The first issue brought to bear concerns the dates of the defeat of the Arian nations of the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths. While Mr. Korsman accepts the Adventist assertion (and well he should!) that the Heruli were toppled in 493A.D. and that the Vandals were vanquished in 534 A.D., he implies that the Ostrogoths ruled until 555. He states that,

"history shows that the uprootment of the final of these three horns, the Ostrogoths, was not complete until 555 AD. So either one must count from 555 AD, or one must not count at all from the defeat of the Ostrogoths. To count their defeat from 2 years before **a minor irrelevant defeat** and 17 years before their actual defeat and annihilation is dishonest manipulation of history . . ."

Concerning the battle between the Ostrogoths and General Belisarius that occurred in 536A.D., Gibbon says, "*The whole nation of the Ostrogoths had been assembled for the attack, and was almost entirely consumed in the siege of Rome.*" *vol. III, pp. 528-529*. This is quite a different scene than the "minor irrelevant defeat" promoted by Mr. Korsman! In 537, the Goths attempted to regain the city of Rome, however, Belisarius held on firmly. In 538, Emperor Justinian landed another army and the Goths abandoned their siege in March. As of 538, the Ostrogoths were no longer an obstacle for the papacy's march to dominance in Western Europe, as the Ostrogothic power had been broken.

The next claim to be addressed is the idea that the papacy had nothing to do with the "uprootment" of the three above mentioned Arian powers.

Let it first be said that Seventh-day Adventist have never claimed that the papacy had overthrown these three powers. That a few SDAs might be mistaken concerning how the papacy was involved does not speak for our denominational beliefs on the subject.

The Bible says,

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots . . ." Dan. 7:8. Notice the term "**before**" whom there were three of the first plucked up . . ."

This phrase indicates that three of the first horns would be removed **before** this "little horn" would gain the power foretold. Indeed, she could not gain this prominence without their removal!

The question now arises as to what role the Catholic religion and the church at Rome played in the removal of these powers.

During the era we are discussing, between 493 and 538 A.D., religious beliefs played a major role in how the "cookie crumbled."

To fully understand, we must start at the reign of Emperor Leo I (457-474). Leo I was a devout Catholic (then called Orthodox - held to the council of Chalcedon). In 468 he tried to expel the Vandals from North Africa. He was unsuccessful. After his death, his daughter, Ariadne, married the Arian Emperor Zeno. That she maintained her "Orthodoxy" and influenced Zeno is quite well established. Emperor Zeno's "language to the Pontiff (at Rome) is respectful, bordering on adulation." Millman's *Latin Christianity*, vol. 1, pg. 331. It is very interesting to note that when an anathema was given against Acacius, the Bishop of Constantinople, (who held strong favor with the emperor) by Felix, Bishop of Rome, Emperor Zeno refused condemnation of Roman pontiff! *ibid.*, 330.

At this time, the Heruli were in power in Italy under Emperor Odoacer. Although Arian, for the most part, the Catholics were not generally interfered with except for the fact that, by decree of Odoacer, election of a bishop could not take place without the emperor's sanction and that "no one, under the penalty of anathema, should alienate any farm, buildings, or ornaments of the Churches; that such alienation by any bishop, present or future, was null and void." (This hated decree, limiting the sacerdotal power of the bishops, was annulled by Pope Symmachus 20 years later.) *ibid.*, 327-328.

Theodoric, the Ostrogothic king, promising to govern Italy in the name of Zeno, was commissioned to remove the "violent and oppressive" mercenary, Emperor Odoacer. Though Theodoric was also Arian, this was a great opportunity for the Catholic church. Theodoric "Attempted nothing toward the Catholic faith. Theodoric treated the Pope, the Bishops and the clergy with grave respect: in the more distinguished, such as Epiphanius, he ever placed the highest esteem and confidence. We shall behold him showing as much reverence, and even bounty, to the church of St. Peter, as though he had been a Catholic. The poor who were dependent on that church were maintained by his liberality. The Arian clergy also shared in the tolerant sentiments of their king." *ibid.*, 414.

The Heruli lost their power to the Ostrogoths. Theodoric, lavishing great gifts upon the Catholic church, though himself an Arian, was a friend of Catholicism and the See of Rome. His parents and many of his own officers were Catholic.

So, Why would the Catholic church want to rid itself of Theodoric and his Goths? During this period, Catholicism concentrated all its hatred towards those who refused the council of Chalcedon, but the tide was to change.

With the ascension of Emperor Justin, a devout Catholic, the command was given that all "Manicheans were to leave the empire on the pain of death." (Those that were against the council of Chalcedon were dubbed "Manicheans.") With the Manicheans out of the way, the ire of Catholicism was turned towards the Arians. Milman states that "Catholicism had concentrated all its hatred on the Manicheans . . . but no sooner were those dissensions healed, than it began to resent, to look with holy jealousy upon, and to burn

with a fiery zeal against the older heterodoxy; it would no longer brook the equality of the detested Arians." *ibid.*, 433.

Theodoric saw what was coming and sent this message to Emperor Justin: "To pretend to a dominion over the conscience, is to usurp the prerogative of God; by the nature of things the power of sovereigns is confined to political government; they have no right of punishment but over those who disturb the public peace; the most dangerous heresy is that of a sovereign who separates himself from part of his subjects, because they believe not according to his belief." *ibid.*, 439. Words of wisdom spoken 1200 years to soon! Catholicism stamped out religious freedom and liberty of conscience everywhere it was present until the Great Reformation took hold (which she tried to suppress!).

Justin stripped the Arians of the eastern empire of all offices; their churches were closed down and the Arians were open to persecution.

Upon Justin's untimely death, Justinian took the throne. Justinian was also a devout Catholic. It was Justinian's general, Belisarius, which conquered the Vandals and Ostrogoths.

The code of Justinian declared that Manicheism and Donatism were crimes against the state. It was considered high treason and those that were guilty could even be convicted in their grave! He defined as heretics all who did not believe the Catholic faith. The assemblies of heretics was forbidden, their books were to be collected and burned, their rites, baptisms, and ordinations prohibited. ***In the preface to the code of Justinian, he acknowledges the supremacy of the Roman Church and commands all churches to be united with her.***

While Justinian's decree giving supremacy to the See of Rome was issued in 533, it could not go into effect until Rome was "liberated" from the Ostrogoths which occurred in March of 538. It is in 538 that papal Rome began her ascendancy.

Now, we will look at the list of supposed "horns" listed by Mr. Korsman. He states the following:

Let's list the nations/tribes who were to be found within the borders of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD, the time when the SDA claims they were all present (including the three he claims were uprooted.)

England (i.e. the Saxons.)

Franks

Lombards

Burgundians

Gauls (French Gauls)

Helvetii (Swiss)

Italians (i.e. Romans)

Iberians

Visigoths

Basques

Libyans

Mauritanians (North Africa, next to where the Vandals were located)

Dacians (Rumania, a Roman province)

Assorted Slavic peoples

Alemanni

And then the 3 the Adventists want uprooted - Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Heruli.

Well, that is more than 10 horns/peoples, so I will stop there. If we wanted to get technical, we could go on.

Surely you jest!

Of those listed, only the Saxons, Franks, Lombards, Burgundians, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Alemanni, Vandals and Heruli actually ruled anything! ***The rest of the peoples he mentioned had no kingdom, in fact,*** the Iberians lived in Spain in the 8th to the 6th century B.C. (are we being deceptive?), they had no part in ruling anything in the divided empire! The Basques never had a kingdom (Interestingly, this is the line that Ignatius Layola comes from); the Libyians were not a ruling party in the Roman empire; the Italians ruled nothing at this time; the Helvetii were ruled by the Alemanni and Burgundians; the "Belgi" [actually, Belgae] were ruled by other various groups beginning in 150 B.C.; the Mauritanians were not rulers in the empire; the French Gauls were ruled by the Franks; the "assorted slavic peoples" and the Dacians ruled nothing. Aside from the above, Mr. Korsman brings up the Huns which never had a kingdom of their own.

It is also important to note that Mr. Korsman says that horns represent "peoples" or, as he says later, "invaders" of the Roman Empire. This is not so at all. Horns represent political powers, that is, ruling nations, not just various "invading" people!

It is also important to keep in mind that though there were other nations vanquished throughout the history of western Europe, it was the elimination of the Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths that initially gave the papacy her foothold - Just as predicted in the Bible!

The last part of his thesis I will address is the statement concerning the "deadly wound."

Mr. Korsman says,

"Furthermore, the ending of the papal political power (which Adventists claim is the mortal wound) occurred in the 1870's. The papal states were restored to the papacy after 1798 when Napoleon took them away - thus that was NOT a mortal wound, for it was only temporary. The ACTUAL wound, or permanent event, occurred in 1870."

I find it interesting that Mr. Korsman admits that the papacy would suffer the deadly wound, don't you? The fact is, that when General Berthier entered Rome, seized the pope and declared a republic, the papal power was nullified. While it is true that a new pope was elected in 1800, and with it, the wound began to heal, her former glory had vanished.

In closing, I would submit that either Mr. Korsman is a lousy historian or very deceptive. His arguments "hold no water!" Mr. Korsman would do well to study an issue thoroughly before publishing falsehoods!

The Number 666: Does it apply to the papacy? To Ellen White?

Among other twisted ideas promoted on the Korsman website is the allegation that Ellen White wrote books . . .

"which preach hatred of the Catholic Church. One book in particular titled, 'The Great Controversy' is almost entirely devoted to this subject."

This is very far from true! The theme of *The Great Controversy* concerns the battle between truth and error; between Christ and Satan. Nowhere in her writings can you find an instance of hatred towards anyone! The facts of Christian history are presented, sin is called sin, error is called error. Where the Catholic church was and is involved with sin and error, it is brought out. It must be remembered that she also speaks of apostasy within Protestant churches. In her writings, you can find many places where she admonishes us to be kind and make no sharp thrusts, especially to our Catholic brethren.

Another falsehood perpetrated on the Korsman site is the idea that Seventh-day Adventists use the spurious document entitled "The Donation of Constantine." All Seventh-day Adventists realize that this is a fake! However, what the author of this part of the Korsman site, Bob Stanley, does not tell you is that *it is cited by no less than TEN popes as proof of their civil authority and sovereignty over Rome and the "Papal states!"*

Next we look at some of the other allegations brought forth:

"The title 'Vicar of the Son of GOD' was never a title of the Pope. It is a Seventh Day Adventists twisting of 'Vicar of Christ', which is one of the Pope's true titles."

What is he trying to prove here?! Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Whether you say in place of (Vicar or, in Latin, Vicarius) Christ or in place of the son of God, you are saying the same thing! It is blasphemy. The Holy Spirit was sent in His place, not the pope!

Mr. Stanley implies the following:

"'Vicar of the Son of GOD' is NOT engraved on the mitre of the Pope. No Seventh Day Adventist has ever been able to show 'proof' of this charge."

What Mr. Stanley needs to do is find out what his own church says about this issue! In an article in the Catholic journal *Our Sunday Visitor* of April 18, 1915, we read,

"What are the letters supposed to be in the Pope's crown, and what do they signify, if anything?" "The letters inscribed in the Pope's mitre are these: *Vicarius Filii Dei*, which is Latin for Vicar of the Son of God."

Seventh-day Adventists only need to look to the catholic church for the evidence! Apparently, Mr. Stanley does not know much about his own church!

Now we'll take a look at his idea of Ellen White being the antichrist. Let it first be noted that the English alphabet does not apply numerical values to its letters as do some of the others. I have seen many spoofs on the "cute purple dinosaur," etc. that turn Barney into the antichrist as well. These are cute, but not Biblical. It should be remembered that neither Ellen White nor Barney put millions to death because they believed differently, the papacy has! Mr. Stanley gives the following:

"Now since 666 is the number of **'its'** name, let us find one that matches it.

Ellen = L+L=100,

Gould=U+L+D=555,

White=a double 'U' = 2 'V's +1 =11.

Total these three numbers, and we have, 100 + 555 + 11 = 666.

One of the first things you will notice is that his assertion is so flimsy that he changed the word *his* to *its*.

Secondly, the letter "W" was introduced into the English language in the 11th century to replace the Anglo-Saxon runic "wen." Since the English language assigns **no numerical value to their letters**, we must use the Latin spelling. In Latin, the "W" sound is signified by a "V" so, Ellen White's name would be spelled "ELLEN GOVLD VHITE" which of course does NOT add up to 666.

Many names could be made to be the antichrist, however, the power described would have to fit all of the characteristics listed in the Bible, not just by the name or title. Before we go on, lets look at the various titles of the papacy in the same languages that Pontius Pilot used to identify the true Christ: Hebrew, Latin and Greek. We will start with the Latin phrase *Vicarius Filii Dei*.

V=5 I=1 C=100 A=0 R=0 I=1 U=5 S=0
 Vicarius = 112
 F=0 I=1 L=50 I=1 I=1
 Filii = 53
 D=500 E=0 I=1
 Dei = 501 TOTAL=666

In the language of the New Testament, Greek, we have:
 (An "accented" Ê=8 - a regular E=5)

HÊ LATINÊ BASILEIA = The Latin Kingdom

H=0 Ê=8
 Λ=30 A=1 T=300 I=10 N=50 Ê=8
 B=2 A=1 Σ=200 I=10 Λ=30 E=5 I=10 A=1 TOTAL=666

ITALIKA EKKLÊSIA= Italian Church

I=10 T=300 A=1 Λ=30 I=10 K=20 A=1
 E=5 K=20 K=20 =30 Ê=8 Σ=200 I=10 A=1 TOTAL=666

LATEINOS = Latin Speaking Man

Λ=30 A=1 T=300 E=5 I=10 N=50 O=70 Σ=200 TOTAL=666

In Hebrew, it comes out the same:
 Romiith= Roman Kingdom

ר=200 י=6 ד=40 י=10 י=10 ן=400 TOTAL=666

I could list other titles such as the Latin "Dux Cleri," and "Ludovicus," or the Hebrew "Romiti," etc., but it's not necessary. Now, in what other ways does the Roman church meet the criteria of the antichrist power? There are many biblical descriptions, but I will only list a few:

- 1.) Out of the ten nations of divided Europe there shall arise another power "diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." Dan. 7:8, 24. Out of the ten political kingdoms (ten horns in Daniel's prophecy) of the Roman Empire, which appeared between AD 351 & 476, there arose a different kind of kingdom, the spiritual kingdom of the papacy. The "Pagan Roman Empire," was to be slowly replaced by the "Holy Roman Empire" ruled by the papal see beginning in 538 A.D. How can we be

sure that this is the power discussed? Easily! How can we be sure that this is the power discussed? Easily! Before this power would rise to its supremacy, three of the ten kingdoms that stood in its way would fall. Of the ten kingdoms of Rome, the Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were overthrown. These three kingdoms were "Arians." With these three out of the way in 538 A.D., the Papal See would begin her reign under the auspices of Emperor Justinian. (See John Mosheim, Ecclesiastical History & Gibbon's Rome)

2.) "He shall speak great words against the most High" & "blasphemies." Dan. 7:8, 25. Rev. 13:5. The popes have assumed infallibility which belongs only to God. (They claim spiritual infallibility. See Converts Catholic Catechism, pg. 30). They profess to forgive sins, which belongs only to God. They go against God by giving indulgences for sin (as if anyone can prepay to commit a favorite sin).

3.) "And think to change times and laws" Dan. 7:25. Of the ten commandments, the Catholic church has deleted the second, which deals with idolatry. This was done, of course, because they venerate various "relics" and "icons." They "transferred the solemnity" of the Sabbath (which they hold as the third commandment instead of the Biblical fourth) from Saturday to Sunday (See Converts Catholic Catechism pg. 50). Eusebius, Constantine's friend and eulogist, says, "All things whatsoever that it was duty to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord's day." (See Eusebius, Psalm 92) Lastly, the church divided the tenth commandment into two to keep the number the same! (Who on earth should think they could change God's laws?)

4.) Shall rule for 1260 years. Dan. 7:25 & Rev. 13:5. (prophetic time is read a day for a year. See Eze. 4:6 & Num 14:34). Did she rule for 1260 years? Yes! By the edict of Emperor Justinian, dated 533 A.D., the Bishop of Rome was made ruler of all churches and was backed by secular law authorities to enforce his dogmas. This decree didn't go into effect until 538 A.D., when the last of the Arianists, the Ostrogoths, were driven from Rome. This supremacy lasted until General Berthier entered Rome, declared Rome a republic and took the pope prisoner. He suffered his deadly wound. This happened in 1798, right on time!

5.) Will suffer a deadly wound that would be healed. Rev. 13:3. Was the wound healed? Almost! In 1929, with the signing of the Lateran Treaty, the Pope regained sovereign rule over Vatican City. Interesting that it should be signed by a Fascist dictator (Benito Mussolini) that wanted to restore the Roman Empire, who had allegiance to Hitler! No wonder the Vatican refuses to release its WWII files to the Jews! In fact, the history of the 20th century is replete with unholy alliances like the ones mentioned above, i.e., the Ustashe of Croatia, Tojo and more recently, Pinochet!

6.) Will "wear out the saints of the Most High." Dan. 7:21 & 25. Rev. 13:7. Can anyone doubt that this is true of the Papacy? The Inquisition, the persecutions of the Waldenses; the papacy may be appealed to in proof that this is applicable to that power. If anything could have "worn out the saints of the Most High" could have cut the saints off from the earth so that evangelical religion would have become extinct, it would have been the persecutions of the papal power. In the year 1208, a crusade was proclaimed by Pope Innocent III against the Waldenses and Albigenses, in which a million men perished. From the beginning of the Order of the Jesuits, between the year 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished during the thirty years of the Inquisition. In the low countries fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, burned, and buried alive for the crime of heresy within a space of thirty eight years, resulting from the edict of Charles V against the Protestants. Eighteen thousand suffered by the hand of the executioner in a space of five and a half years during the administration of the Duke of Alva. Indeed, the slightest acquaintance with the history of the papacy will convince any one that what the Bible says of "making war with the saints" and "wearing out the saints of the Most High" is strictly applicable to that power, and will accurately describe its true character.

The practices mentioned above are known as Genocide! Christ says, "I stand at the door and knock." He wants our allegiance to be founded upon love not force!

In conclusion, this section of Mr. Korsman's website is just another farce.

Did Ellen White Contradict Herself?

The first "evidence" alleged by Mr. Korsman is this:

DEITY "DID" AND "DID NOT" SINK AND DIE

"Men need to understand that Diety suffered and sank under the agonies of Calvary." - Manuscript 153, 1898 (and BC, Vol 7, page 907)

"The Diety did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary"- Manuscript 140, 1903 (and BC, Vol 5, page 1129)

At face value, this would appear to be a contradiction, however, in step with the rest of the Korsman website, the author did not consider the fact that this was more likely (considering the other evidence that I will submit) an error done at the office of the

Review, but rather, *he just simply decided it was a contradiction*. But a third instance using this language helps us to understand better what had probably happened.

Was the human nature of the Son of Mary changed into the divine nature of the Son of God? No; the two natures were mysteriously blended in one person--the man Christ Jesus. In Him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. When Christ was crucified, it was His human nature that died. ***Deity did not sink and die; that would have been impossible.***
BC, vol. 5, page 1113.

The above quote was written in 1904. ***The term "impossible" shows a very strong conviction on the part of Mrs. White that the Deity did not sink at Calvary!*** There is very little time in between the issuance of these statements (6 years), it is not likely that she forgot what she taught on this subject in so little time! This is in full harmony with the second quote given by Mr. Korsman:

"There is no one who can explain the mystery of the incarnation of Christ. Yet we know that He came to this earth and lived as a man among men. The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord God Almighty, yet Christ and the Father are one. The Deity did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary, yet it is nonetheless true that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

This statement refers to the mystery of the incarnation and shows that while Jesus and His Father were one, they were still distinct from one another. She states that ***"The Deity,"*** that is, ***The Father*** did not sink and die on the cross. ***In her own words, "that would have been impossible!"***

When we consider the context of all three statements, it becomes quite evident that there was an error at the *Review* or in the transcription done by one of her secretaries.

"In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Men need to understand that Deity suffered and sank under the agonies of Calvary. Yet Jesus Christ whom God gave for the ransom of the world purchased the church with His own blood. The Majesty of heaven was made to suffer at the hands of religious zealots, who claimed to be the most enlightened people upon the face of the earth."

The Divine nature of Christ is an established doctrine in Christian religions and is well established by Mrs. White in the above statements. In transcribing her words, it would be easy to make the mistake between the words Deity and Divinity. In the last statement we will observe that the word Divinity would be in line with the beliefs of Mrs. White and the rest of the Christian world. The Divine Son of God definitely suffered at Calvary, however, The Deity of the Father within Christ did not.

Considering the many thousands of pages of manuscript written by Mrs. White, it is ridiculous to think that there would not be a few mistranscriptions! In many books I have purchased (not just religious!) I have found "typos" etc. To me, this is a joke!

In the next section we read the following "evidence":

GOD DOES NOT LOVE CHILDREN WHEN THEY DO WRONG

"The Lord loves those little children who do right and he has promised that they shall be in his kingdom; but wicked, naughty children God does not love.... When you feel tempted to speak impatient and fretful [sic], remember that the Lord sees you and will not love you if you do wrong. - Written by Ellen White to her son Willie on 14 March 1860

"God loves honest-hearted children, but cannot love those who are dishonest....The Lord loves those little children who try to do right, and he has promised that they shall be in His kingdom. But wicked children God does not love. . . . When you feel tempted to speak impatient and fretful [sic], remember the Lord sees you, and will not love you if you do wrong.- An Appeal to the Youth, Battle Creek Mich. Steam Press, 1864, pp. 42,62

GOD DOES LOVE CHILDREN WHEN THEY DO WRONG

"Do not teach your children that God does not love them when they do wrong; teach them that He loves them so that it grieves His tender Spirit to see them in transgression" - Signs of the Times, February 15, 1892

First of all, does God love the wicked children? Since God counts all of humanity as His children,(Aren't we supposed to be "sons of God?") we can see that the Bible teaches that God does not love the wicked, children or otherwise:

"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." Hosea 9:15.

When God had various wicked people destroyed, He **always included women and children** He is "no respecter of persons!" Acts 10:34. He deals with all equally. If the children are not instructed in the ways of righteousness, they will perish in the end.

Now, back to our study: Mr. Korsman's main point is that Ellen White is saying that God does not love the children when they are doing wrong in one instance and teaching the opposite in the other; My question is: Where?

Let's look at the **whole** statement published in *Signs of the Times*:

"Jesus would have the fathers and mothers teach their children of this beauty of character. He would have them teach their children that God

loves them, that their natures may be changed, and brought into harmony with God. Do not teach your children that God does not love them when they do wrong; teach them that he loves them so that it grieves his tender Spirit to see them in transgression, because he knows they are doing injury to their souls. **Do not terrify your children by telling them of the wrath of God**, but rather seek to impress them with his unspeakable love and goodness, and thus let the glory of the Lord be revealed before them."

Please note that Mrs. White **does not say that God loves those that do wickedly!** She is instructing the parents that when their children get out of line, it is better to teach the children that **"it grieves his tender Spirit to see them in transgression"** than to "terrify your children by telling them of the wrath of God."

Now, let us consider the context of the letter published in *An Appeal to the Youth*:

"When you do wrong don't conceal your wrong, but heartily and honestly confess it. This I believe you will do. I have confidence in you that you have tried to do it. Continue to do so, and we shall love you better than if you kept your wrongs concealed. God loves honest- hearted, truthful children, but cannot love those who are dishonest. Be obedient, dear children. God has been very merciful to you and to us."

Here, Mrs. White is instructing her children to "confess" their wrongs and expresses her confidence that they have and will continue to do so and then informs them that God loves the "honest hearted children." She does not threaten her children with the wrath of God, but informs them that God cannot love "dishonest" children thus, they should continue to be honest with God.

Mrs. White teaches the same thing the Bible does concerning the wicked!

The first quote Mr. Korsman used, a letter to Willie White, is the same one as quoted in *An Appeal to the Youth* on page 62 which he added to the bottom of the quote on page 42. Again, she does not threaten Willie with the wrath of God, but teaches the same lesson as above.

The Shut Door

Many web sites try to present the old *fable* that Ellen White taught, **through one of her visions**, that the door of mercy had been forever closed to all. **Nonsense! She did no such thing!**

Before we go to the discussion of Mrs. White's visions concerning this issue, let us consider the following Bible verse:

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;** I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Rev. 3:7-8.

The Bible records that there would be a "door that was shut" and a "door that was open." This is *exactly what Ellen White taught!*

Before receiving any visions, Ellen Harmon (White) and her family were "Millerites." The Millerites taught that the door of mercy was to be shut on Oct. 22, 1844. This belief was changed by her first vision.

On Mr. Korsman's site, he judiciously picks various parts of an article in the publication *The Present Truth* (skipping nine paragraphs!!) to sustain his position. This is definitely an attempted deception. If he had quoted properly, his whole argument would crumble (as he well knew!). Let's consider what he put forth and what the article really teaches.

The following is how Mr. Korsman presented the quote:

On March 24, 1849 Mrs. White clearly states that her vision taught her that the door of salvation was shut. She warns the faithful not to allow their faith to be shaken in the shut door by the apparent conversion of sinners since 1844.

"I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, relating to the shut door, could not be separated.... I saw that the mysterious signs and wonders and false reformations would increase and spread. The reformations that were shown me were not reformations from error to truth, but from bad to worse, for those who professed a change of heart had only wrapped about them a religious garb, which covered up the iniquity of a wicked heart. Some appeared to have been really converted, so as to deceive God's people, but if their hearts could be seen they would appear as black as ever. My accompanying angel bade me look for the travail of soul for sinners as used to be. I looked, but could not see it, FOR THE TIME FOR THEIR SALVATION IS PAST"

- Present Truth, pp. 21-22, August 1849 {Emphasis added}

The deception comes in by omitting the important items after the phrase "I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, relating to the shut door, could not be separated. . ."

Had Mr. Korsman quoted the entire phrase for its intent, we would read the following:

"I was shown that the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, relating to the shut door, could not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out, with all their importance, and for God's people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary, where the Ark is, containing the ten commandments. This door was not opened, until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary in 1844. Then, Jesus rose up, and shut the door in the Holy Place, and opened the door in the Most Holy, and passed within the second veil, where he now stands by the Ark; and where the faith of Israel now reaches. {RH, August 1, 1849 par. 2} ***I saw that Jesus had shut the door in the Holy Place, and no man can open it; and that he had opened the door in the Most Holy, and no man can shut it: (See Rev. iii:7, 8:)*** and that since Jesus has opened the door in the Most Holy Place, which contains the Ark, the commandments have been shining out to God's people, and they are being tested on the Sabbath question. {RH, August 1, 1849 par. 3} I saw that the present test on the Sabbath could not come, until the mediation of Jesus in the Holy Place was finished; and he had passed within the second veil; therefore, Christians, who fell asleep before the door was opened in the Most Holy, when the midnight cry was finished, at the seventh month 1844; and had not kept the true Sabbath, now rest in hope; for they had not the light, and the test on the Sabbath, which we now have, since that door was opened."

Now, the people for whom the salvation was past in this vision (given throughout the nine skipped paragraphs) are those who have and will reject the third angel's message, not that everyone who lived beyond 1844! The "door of salvation" is opened to all until the close of probation when Christ declares, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:11-12.

Here is the patience of the saints; Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ." Rev. 14:12. ***That means ALL of the commandments, not just the ones you like!***

So much for the shut door boogey-man!

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