

ELLEN G. WHITE

PREDICTIONS AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

1. Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Work "Like Streams of Light"

It was just a little company of Sabbath-keeping Adventists who met in the home of Otis Nichols in Dorchester, Massachusetts, that November day in 1848 to study and pray. These pioneer workers were seeking light from God as to their responsibility to convey to others the thrilling truths they held concerning the Sabbath, Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, and His imminent return to this earth. Heaven seemed near, and Ellen White was taken in vision. From the words spoken to her husband when the vision was over, we gain a glimpse of the startling revelation of that hour.

"I have a message for you," she said. "You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."--  
Life Sketches, p. 125.

"Streams of light. . . clear round the world'" How could this be? Jesus was coming so soon. Their numbers were few. There were none of wealth in the group. There were no great scholars among them. The world was unbelieving. And yet here was a young woman in their midst who predicted that a work of publishing to be started by her penniless husband would grow until it would encompass the globe. More than half a year went by before James White could make even the smallest beginning, arranging for the printing of a thousand copies of an eight-page paper on a charge account.

Fulfillment: 1868 Statistics

46 Publishing Houses (2 latest Houses--Yugoslavia and Belgium)  
\$39,322,022.65 Sales of All Literature  
\$674,332,280.30 Value of Sales from 1845-1968  
2,181 Publishing House Employees  
6,405 Colporteurs  
263 Languages in Which Literature is Issued

2. The Rochester Rappings and Spiritualism

The year 1848 witnessed some strange developments or manifestations in the village of Hydesville, New York, not far from Rochester. These, Ellen White predicted, were destined to become world-wide in proportions and would take on religious significance. This has since become known as Spiritualism. But in 1848 it was only a mysterious signal code of "rappings" and "knockings."

When these communications first became known, many regarded them as a fraud or trick, or some sort of a short-lived delusion. But on March 24, 1849, Ellen White wrote of a revelation given her regarding this mysterious phenomenon. She predicted that it would become more and more common and would assume a religious garb. Here are her words:

"I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York. . . was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb, so as to lull the deceived to greater security."--Early Writings, p. 43.

This initial warning constituted a protection to God's people, and other warnings soon followed. Its rapid growth was re-emphasized in 1854 in an interesting symbolic representation:

"I saw the rapidity with which this delusion was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. . . . Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a stately, fair person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, "It is Satan. He is the conductor in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. . . . They are all going with lightning speed to perdition."--Early Writings, p. 88

These sentences taken from fuller, gripping presentations explained the real source of the phenomena, foretold its rapid acceptance, and forecast its future religious characteristics. Spreading with the speed of wildfire, Spiritualism is far from obscure today. It has penetrated the churches, and has also its own churches and ministers. Adherents from all professions and walks of life are numbered in the millions. As to its "religious garb" an official publication of the Spiritualists daringly declares;

"Spiritualism, with its signs, wonders, visions and healing gifts was the religion of the apostles; of the post-apostolic fathers, and the primitive Christians."--Centennial Book of Modern Spiritualism in America, p. 115 (1948)

"Spiritualism is the coming universal religion. It is the life blood of Christianity; in fact, it is Christianity plus."--Ibid., p. 69.

Before hastening to other topics, let us take two more early predictions and compare them with declarations made by Spiritualistic leaders in 1948, just one hundred years after the mysterious rappings at Hydesville, New York:

Ellen G. White Prediction in 1850: "I was shown that by the rapping and mesmerism these modern magicians would yet account for all the miracles wrought by our Lord Jesus Christ."--Early Writings, p. 59.

Spiritualism in 1948 declares: "A medium foretold the birth of Jesus, whose brief life on earth was filled with the performance of many so-called miracles which in reality were spiritual phenomena."--Centennial Book, p. 68.

Ellen G. White Prediction in 1850: "I saw that soon it would be considered blasphemy to speak against the rapping, and that it would spread more and more."--Early Writings, p. 59.

Spiritualism in 1948 declares: "Neither priest nor press should uncharitably speak of, or touch this holy word Spiritualism, only with clean hands and pure hearts; and Spiritualists themselves should honor their blessed gospel of immortality."--Centennial Book, p. 34.

Here we have it, the fulfillment in almost the very words penned by inspiration a hundred years in advance.

### 3. The County Treasurer and His Embezzlement

Elder Loughborough, early in the work, gives us an account of what took place at Oswego, New York, in the winter of 1849-1850. While Elder and Mrs. White were there laboring for souls, a revival was started in one of the Protestant churches by a layman who was county treasurer. This man seemed to have a great burden for the unconverted. A young man, Hiram Patch, and his fiancée were in the balance as to whether to cast their lot with the revival or join with the Sabbath-keeping Adventists. In vision Ellen White was shown the true character of the man conducting the revival, and as she spoke of it to Mr. Patch, she told him she was instructed to tell him, "Wait a month, and you will know for yourself the character of the persons who are engaged in this revival, and who profess to have such a great burden for sinners. He has no real burden for sinners." Mr. Patch replied, "I will wait."

Two weeks went by and the treasurer-revivalist, in his affected agony for sinners, burst a blood vessel in his stomach and was confined to his bed at home. When others took over the treasurer's work at the county office, a shortage of \$1,000 in county funds was immediately found. An inquiry made by the sheriff brought only solemn denials from the treasurer of any knowledge of the missing money, until another officer observed the treasurer's wife hastily hide something in a snow bank, and found the bag containing the money, and confronted the embezzling treasurer with the evidence.

Needless to say the revival collapsed, and Hiram Patch and his affianced, with the words of prediction still fresh in their ears, became fruitful members of the remnant church. This experience of a prediction fulfilled within two weeks after the words were spoken inspired confidence in the hearts of those who looked on. This was also true of the prediction made at the dedication of the Parkville, Michigan, church a little more than a decade later.

### 4. Disasters Predicted

At about the turn of the century warnings came from Ellen White's pen that because of crime and corruption and capital-labor tensions, there would soon be great distress and disasters. Through the columns of the Review she warned:

"Calamities, earthquakes, floods, disasters by land and by sea will increase. God is looking upon the world today as He looked upon it in Noah's time. He is sending His message to people today as He did in the days of Noah."-- Review and Herald, Dec. 11, 1900, p. 796.

Three years later she cried:

"O that God's people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry."--Review and Herald, September 10, 1903. (Published in Evangelism, p. 29.)

Repeatedly she warned by voice and pen:

"I am bidden to declare the message that cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God."--E. G. White Manuscript 35, 1906. (Published in Evangelism, p. 27.)

In oral and written word she warned two cities located less than one hundred miles from her home with the prediction:

"Not long hence these cities will suffer under the judgments of God. San Francisco and Oakland are becoming as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Lord will visit them in wrath."--E. G. White Manuscript 114, 1902. (Published in Evangelism, pp. 403-404.)

Not a few, and among them non-Adventists, heeded the warning and moved with their families from San Francisco and Oakland to more retired locations. Those who remained soon understood the full significance of the prediction of disaster when on April 18, 1906, San Francisco was largely destroyed by an earthquake followed by fire, and Oakland and other cities also suffered.

Reflect, for a moment, on the rapid increase in the destruction of cities the world around by fire, flood, earthquake, and then in the recent cataclysmic wars. All stand as bold evidence of predictions accurately fulfilled!

##### 5. Prediction of 1890 - The Tempest is Coming

In a message published to the world in the Signs of the Times in 1890 Ellen White solemnly predicted:

"The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near!"-- Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890. (Published in Messages to Young People, pp. 89, 90.)

These words do not sound strange to us now, but they were bold words for 1890--a time of peace and of anticipated lasting tranquility thought to be ushering in the hoped for "millennium" when there would be no more war. This prediction, with its call for preparation for the fury of the coming tempest, stood out in bold relief as one from a prophet of gloom, in a world of bright hopes.

Again in 1904, through the columns of the church paper, Ellen White warned:

"Soon great trouble will arise among the nations,--trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes."- Review and Herald, Feb. 11, 1904.

Just a few years later the fury of World War I broke forth, and this was followed by World War II. The sinking of the proud navies of great world powers easily fulfilled the prediction, "Navies will go down." The heavy shipping losses on the part of all participating countries marked the "thousands of ships" that were to be "hurled into the depths of the sea." On battlefield and in the bombing of scores of large cities, "human lives" were "sacrificed by millions." The palaces of the earth were literally "swept away in the fury of the flames." Incendiary bombs, unthought of in 1890, created fires that "no human effort" could quench. How literal has been the fulfillment of this prediction of the coming tempest!

But we should take a second look at this amazing prediction of 1890. Note these words:

"Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel."

Two years after these words were published the first American auto was produced. A decade later the first plane made its trial flight. The words of the prediction come to the mind with force with each recurring headline of sudden death by rail, car, or plane. And the words seem doubly important when we contemplate that in the United States from the year 1900 to the year 1955, 1,149,414 Americans died in highway accidents alone--20,000 more American lives than have been lost in all wars in which the United States has participated. "Collision" "on the great lines of travel" in the year 1956 injured more persons in the United States than were wounded on all the battlefields in the nation's history. Who but God could have foreseen this at the time Ellen White in the 1890's was inspired to pen the words of solemn prediction of "what God's foreknowledge had seen would be"?

#### 6. Avenues of Travel to be Hedged Up

In the Testimonies for the Church published in 1900, this interesting prediction is found in words destined to hasten the spread of the gospel message:

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now."--Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 22.

At the time these words were penned, and for another decade and a half, one was free to travel without passport or restriction in practically every part of the earth. How easy it was to send missionaries to distant lands. How simple it was for General Conference leaders to inspect the work and give encouragement and help in almost any part of the globe! Not until 1918 did the United States enact a law requiring all American citizens who travel abroad to carry passports.

The words of this prediction have been literally fulfilled before our eyes. Large parts of the world are entirely cut off from visitors and even the exchange of mail. Certain other countries are well nigh impossible to enter. Mission appointments are not infrequently cancelled when entrance to, or residence in, a country which in years past we entered with freedom is now denied. Surely the way is "hedged up" "on the right hand and on the left."

#### 7. A Forecast of Broad Mission Advance

On the opening day of our newly started "Bible School" in Melbourne, Australia, in 1892, the first in the southern hemisphere, Ellen White seemed to lose sight of the meager rented quarters, the small constituency and the less than two dozen students. There sprang from the prophets' lips words depicting what she had seen of the amazing development of the work yet future.

"The missionary work in Australia and New Zealand is yet in its infancy, but the same work must be accomplished in Australia, New Zealand, in Africa, India, China, and the islands of the sea, as has been accomplished in the home field."--Life Sketches, p. 338.

It seemed totally beyond the grasp of those present that a work comparable to that done in America would be done in yet unentered fields. We had not yet opened our first mission station in Africa. It was yet a year before colporteurs were to enter India, and a full decade before missionaries were dispatched to China. As for the islands of the sea, we had just made the smallest beginning. But the well developed work in all these and many other lands today, with publishing houses, medical institutions, colleges, and food factories, manned in part by the graduates of that school, cry out that another prediction has been fulfilled.

#### 8. Threefold Union of Papists, Protestants, and Spiritualists

The Great Controversy chapter "The Impending Conflict" sets forth with startling clarity what is before us. On pages 588 and 589 we find this prediction:

"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.

"As Spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of Spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them; and Satan determines to unite them in one body, and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of Spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world, and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium."

The rapid developments in efforts toward unity between the Protestant churches and the Papacy would make obsolete any presentation of quotations here. Watch for material in the religious and public press.

#### Some Predictions Yet Unfulfilled

Conversions as at Pentecost: "The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost, after the disciples had received the Holy Spirit."--Review and Herald, June 29, 1905. (Published in Evangelism, p. 692.)

Significance of a United States National Sunday Law: "By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near."--Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 451. (1885)

National Apostasy Ending in National Ruin: "Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will by a national act give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism. With rapid steps are we already approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall seek the support of the secular power, thus following the example of that apostate church, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will there be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin."--Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, p. 410.

An Advance in Health Reform: "Greater reforms should be seen among the people who claim to be looking for the soon appearing of Christ. Health reform is to do among our people a work which it has not yet done."--Review and Herald, May 27, 1902. (Published in Counsels on Health, p. 575.)

"Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods, tea and coffee, and rich and unhealthful food preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue

to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetites be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people."--Testimonies, vol. 9, pages 153-154. (1909)

False Prophets in America and Overseas: "There will be those who will claim to have visions. When God gives you clear evidence that the vision is from Him, you may accept it, but do not accept it on any other evidence; for people are going to be led more and more astray in foreign countries and America."--Review and Herald, May 25, 1905. (Published in Evangelism, p. 610.)

Great Parade of Heathen Power: "As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world."--Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 117, 118.

The Last Deception of Satan: "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.' Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony."--E. G. White Letter 12, 1890. (Published in Our Firm Foundation, pp. 272, 273, vol. 1.)

The Church Will Not Fall: "Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out--the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths."--E. G. White Letter 55, 1886. (Published in Review and Herald, May 3, 1956.)

A Great Reformatory Movement and Its Results: "In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence."--Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 126.

"Even to the End": "I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God in Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end."--General Conference Bulletin, May 28, 1913. Republished in The Remnant Church, p. 70.

There are many, many more predictions; watch for them, and watch for their fulfillment.