

April 24, 1962

Regarding: Loughborough's pamphlet, "Questions on Sealing Message."

Dear Brother:

You ask concerning the J. N. Loughborough pamphlet, "Questions on the Sealing Message." In 1914 Elder Loughborough published this material privately. He says, "As the subject is one in which there is some controversy, I thought the publishers would not wish to print the matter in their papers or take the responsibility in any form." This is rather an interesting statement.

There are two points in the Loughborough pamphlet which give me particular concern. On page 17, Loughborough states categorically concerning those who are raised in the special resurrection that "They are raised under the sixth plague and see the final outpouring of God's judgment under the seventh plague and are among those delivered from this decree of death." This is entirely out of harmony with what we find presented by Sister White in GREAT CONTROVERSY. On page 635 there begins the chapter "God's People Delivered." We find that this deliverance comes at midnight at a time when the law would become effective that Sabbathkeepers may be slain. See GREAT CONTROVERSY, p. 636. Following this midnight deliverance, a number of things take place in rapid succession. There is an earthquake, the sea is lashed into fury, islands disappear, and so forth as described at the top of page 637, and then we read near the bottom of the page, "Graves are opened and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law."

We understand these events of the chapter "God's People Delivered" to come under the seventh plague and not the sixth plague. Loughborough says that those who were raised in the special resurrection will be delivered from the decree of death. Sister White, on several occasions, indicates that some will be allowed to sleep in the graves that they may be spared the time of trouble, and she makes allusion to this in her letter to Brother Hastings. The statement appears in SELECTED MESSAGES, book 2, p. 263. You will observe that Sister White said that she saw that we need not mourn for her, (Sister Hastings,) she would rest in the time of trouble.

Another point which gives me concern in the Loughborough statement is his reference to Sister White's reply to a question put before her orally while at the General Conference of 1909, and it is said that the answer was stenographically recorded. This is found on page 18. The paragraph in question reads:

"Among other questions was this one: 'Will those who have died in the message be among the 144,000?' In reply, Sister White said: 'Oh, yes, those who have died in the faith will be among the 144,000. I am clear on that matter.' These were the exact words of question and answer, as Brother Irwin permitted me to copy from his stenographer's report."

What concerns me is that this does not seem to harmonize with the clear cut statement in GREAT CONTROVERSY concerning the 144,000, for in GREAT CONTROVERSY, on page 649, Sister White indicates that this special company which will be translated from the earth from among the living are among those who have passed through the time of trouble, they have passed through the time of Jacob's trouble, they stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments. It is difficult for me to harmonize the report of the conversation with Sister White in which she is supposed to have rather glibly answered, "Oh, yes, those who have died in the faith will be among the 144,000. I am clear on this matter."

I am wondering if Sister White understood the question correctly or if her answer was actually correctly recorded. I will say this, that when we have to choose between a report of what Sister White is supposed to have said and that which is written in her books, we stand by the books. So I can't follow Elder Loughborough's arguments. Elder Loughborough was a grand man, he was entitled to his views, but on certain points, I cannot agree with him, for I feel that there is a lack of harmony with the E. G. White published statements.

I trust this information will be of service to you.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

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