

Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.
Proprietor of
**ELLEN G. WHITE
PUBLICATIONS**



GA 25-B-6
General Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists
6840 Eastern Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20012
Phone: (202) 722-6000 Telex: 440186

February 22, 1989

Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church
P. O. Box 2805
Gulfport, MS 39505

Dear Brother

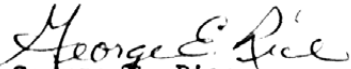
Elder Olson has asked me to answer your question about Ellen White's use of the word "bride" in The Great Controversy, pp. 426, 427 and in Lt. 39, 1902, a paragraph of which appears in SDABC, vol. 7, pp. 985, 986.

In The Great Controversy, Ellen White is dealing with the experience of the disappointment in 1844. She uses the parable of the ten virgins and the cry, "the bridegroom cometh," to establish the fact that this experience was foretold by our Lord. She then points out that the virgins who were ready for the Bridegroom are guests at the marriage feast. At this point she gives Revelation 19:9 as the passage of scripture upon which she is developing her thought. She then points out that if they are guests (Rev. 19:9) at the marriage supper, they cannot be the bride. In fact, John was shown the Holy City, New Jerusalem as the bride of Jesus. Therefore, her statement in The Great Controversy follows the definitions given by John, i.e., guests = those invited to the marriage feast, and bride = New Jerusalem.

In Lt. 39, 1902, Ellen White is not giving an exposition on Revelation 19. She is addressing a minister that was so abrupt in his manner of dealing with people that he was driving them from the church. In the course of her counsel to him, she stresses the point that the church is the possession of God, and He loves it as a husband loves his wife. In describing this relationship she borrows the language of Rev. 19, but she is not saying that this is her interpretation of Rev. 19. Her interpretation of Rev. 19 is found in The Great Controversy, pp. 426, 427. Unfortunately, the compilers of the E. G. White statements in our commentary placed this statement under Rev. 19:7-9, when her statement had nothing to do with interpreting these verses.

If we keep in mind that in Lt. 39, 1902, Ellen White simply borrows the wording of Rev. 19:7-9 and is not telling us what these verses mean, then there is no contradiction with The Great Controversy statement, and thus no problem.

Sincerely yours,


George E. Rice
Associate Secretary