

*277*  
*4-D-2*  
*666*

December 23, 1936.

Box 4929,  
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Brother

Yesterday I received your air mail letter of December 20. In this you ask about the statement in the pamphlet, "A word to the Little Flock," mentioning the number 666. You ask regarding Sister White's view on the Number 666. You ask regarding her attitude toward, "Daniel and Revelation." You ask also for pointed statements from Sister White about her writings.

I shall touch briefly on these matters in your letter and then refer you to documents which I am enclosing which I shall ask you to consider as a part of this letter. We are hard pressed for time and as I have extra copies of these documents I am sending them along rather than having all the matter copied as a part of this letter. Please accept this from us and thus lighten our work.

Now about the statement appearing in, "A Word to the Little Flock." I am enclosing two documents dealing with this, one an answer written by Elder Uriah Smith in 1868 and published in a book entitled, "The Visions of Mrs. E. G. White." Elder James White, speaking of this book, indicates his approval of the statements appearing therein in the following words, "while carefully reading the manuscript I felt very grateful to God that our people could have this able defense of those views which they so much love and prize." You will notice that Elder Smith states that the insertion of the Number 666 in this paragraph is the work of the publisher and no part of the vision. Another statement regarding this same matter was prepared by us a couple of years ago. I am sending this along as well. I send the longer statement by Smith, however, as it deals with phases of the matter which will help in meeting V. T. Houteff's presentation in his pamphlet. You will see from the enclosed statements that all which is included in marks of paranthesis have been inserted either by the first publishers of the vision or by Mr. Houteff.

Your next question relates to Sister White's view on 666. She does not mention this number in her writings. She does refer to the Mark of the Beast and the receiving of the number and identifies this with the Papacy or the leopard-beast. In "Great Controversy" page 445 you will find the following statement in the second paragraph, "The beast mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or

leopard-like beast," and the number given in the last verse of chapter 13 unquestionably applies to that same beast.

Now about the book, "Daniel and Revelation." The quotations which you give are authentic. You will find them both published in "Colporteur Evangelist" page 21. You ask if we have additional statements from Ellen White about this book. Yes, we do. Here are those.

"I consider that that book should go everywhere. It has its place and will do a grand, good work." E. 25a-1889

On November 20, 1890, after speaking of the revelations given to John on Patmos, she says:

"The books 'Daniel and Revelation' and 'The Great Controversy' are the books which above all others should be in circulation now. Give them to the people. Light and truth they must have." MS - 29- 1890.

Again a few days later, November 24, 1890 she wrote:

"The book 'Daniel and Revelation' should be kept before the people and should have large circulation." MS-23-1890

She has made several other statements which I find extra copies of and I am sending along the sheets rather than incorporate them into this letter. You will see by these statements that there was no question in Ellen White's mind as to the particular value of this book or the place which it should have in our work. There is no statement, however, in Ellen White's writings which would lead us to believe that "Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation" is inerrant, and therefore all of its teachings in every minute detail must be accepted and thus preclude further study and the reception of advanced light. This light, of course, will be in harmony with the fundamentals of our truth and with the Spirit of prophecy. I just mention this point because there are some who have been of the opinion that Elder Uriah Smith's views must be accepted in every detail. Sister White's endorsement of the book, does not in any way, indicate this but it does place her stamp of approval on the volume.

Your next question relates to Sister White's statement about Josiah Litch's prediction as found on pages 334, and 335 of "Great Controversy." We do not accept Mr. Houteff's explanation that Sister White had no light on the subject at that time. Her hearty endorsement of this stirring prediction and its fulfilment and the relation of this to the confidence of the Adventist believers in the fulfillment of other prophecies indicate clearly that she was speaking with assurance and confidence which came to her through revelation.

You next ask for statements from Sister White regarding her writings. I would refer you first to the introduction of "Great Controversy" which was written by Sister White herself, in which she makes pointed statements about the way the Lord chooses

human agents to bear His messages to the people and her experience in having presented to her the past, the present and the future which she has traced in the pages of the book, "Great Controversy." We have never claimed for her that her writings were verbally inspired. She makes no such claim. She did claim, however, that that which she presented had been opened before her by the Spirit of God. On another sheet I am sending you several statements from her manuscripts in which she speaks of herself not being the originator of these books and how they contain "clear, straight, unalterable truth" and "instruction" "not the human production." I am also inclosing a leaflet on the "Writing of the E. G. White Books" which contains some statements which bear on this matter.

I trust that the information we have given you will be of service. I sincerely hope that the Shepherd Rod movement will not make inroads in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. It has seemed to me that one of the safe-guards that can be placed about our people to protect them from such movements is to have them thoroughly grounded in the sequence of the closing events of this world's history as presented in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy. This, together with the unbounded confidence in God's leadership of this people and of His instruction to them through the Spirit of prophecy goes a long way in protecting our people from these off-shoot people. Three years ago we prepared quite a comprehensive document showing the inconsistencies and the errors in some of the early teachings of the Shepherd Rod movement. I have a copy of this in manuscript form which could be lent to you if you thought it would be of service.

With the season's greeting, I am

Sincerely your brother,

ALW/r

Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.  
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE.