

Things To Beware Of

Several concerning things have recently been brought to my attention. The purpose of this newsletter is not to name or shame people, but to compare scripture with scripture to determine what is true.

Universal Legal Justification

Without a doubt, the 1888 message is important to us today. In fact, it is more important to us now than at any time since 1888. This is because the message was given to prepare a people to stand through the final crisis. In 1888, Jesus was at the door; there was an attempt to legislate Sunday as a national day of rest. The times we live in bear striking similarities.

Knowing the necessity of understanding righteousness by faith, Satan has spent the years since 1888 mixing error with truth. Thankfully, the message of righteousness by faith was preserved for us by the prophet in the book "Steps to Christ."

One error that has gained popularity recently is the belief that the death of Christ opens the way for ALL mankind to be saved regardless of their own choices. In technical terms, they hold to the concept that Christ's death at the cross accomplished a legal or objective justification which is universally and unconditionally applied to all men. This is held forth as the "true" gospel. The only way to be lost is to refuse this doctrine, and thus refuse the gospel. So the satanist that has never heard this heresy and had the opportunity to reject it will be in heaven, while the SDA who hears and rejects it will be lost. This is the most advanced form of egotism I have heard!

Our ministers must cease to dwell upon their peculiar ideas with the feeling, 'You must see this point as I do, or you cannot be saved.' Away with this egotism. The great work to be done in every case is to win souls to Christ. Men must see Jesus on the cross, they must look and live. It is not your ideas they must feed upon, but it is the flesh and blood of the Son of God. He says, "My flesh is meat indeed." "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." [John 6:55, 63.] —*Letter 15a, 1890.*

Despite the absurdity of the claim, we cannot merely brush it off without investigation. If we did this, we would not be working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

The central verse to this belief is found in Romans 5:18;

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

This verse clearly states that all men have justification of life. But other verses in the Bible also clearly state that hellfire burns forever. For such a bold claim, we need more evidence. It must be compared and tested with other scriptures and stand the test to be true—The Bible is in harmony with itself. Upon inspection of Paul's letter to the Romans, we come across another similar statement in Romans 3:23-24:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"

Here, the idea may be applied "since all have sinned, all are freely justified." But the question becomes, who is "all?" The answer is found in the preceding verses.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference." —*Romans 3:21-22.*

Here we see that "all" is specifically "all them that believe," whether Jew or Gentile, whether observing the sacrificial laws or not. This idea is repeated again in Romans 4:11:

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also."

The Jews were so dogmatic about the sacrificial laws that they could not conceive of someone being saved without physical circumcision. Paul was assuring his readers that all who believe will be justified by faith, apart from the works of the law. In this case, the term law applies to the Ten Commandments as well as the sacrificial law. Obviously, faith in Christ does justify you of your disobedience to the Ten Commandments. If this were not the case, no flesh could be saved, for all have sinned. The Bible makes it clear that we are to repent AND believe in Jesus. He will not justify those who willfully pursue

a sinful course and use “faith” as a license to sin.
2 Paul tells the Romans in Romans 16:26 that a fruit of faith is obedience.

All men who have genuine faith will bear the fruit of obedience, receiving justification unto life, whether Jew or Gentile, bond or free, regardless of cast, rank, and whether or not they hold to the sacrificial laws and are circumcised. This justification is forgiveness of disobedience to the Ten Commandments. This is the message of Romans 5:18.

We will now draw upon the teachings of Christ to disprove universal legal justification.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” —*John 3:3*.

Christ says you must be born again to enter heaven. He clarifies two different kinds of birth:

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” —*John 3:5*.

Jesus continues his explanation, with the full picture being captured by Ellen White:

Jesus continued: ‘That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’ By nature the heart is evil, and ‘who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.’ Job 14:4. No human invention can find a remedy for the sinning soul. ‘The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.’ ‘Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.’ Romans 8:7; Matthew 15:19. The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.” —*Desire of Ages, pg. 172*.

The second birth is wholly from above, through the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a public confession and a pledge to continue in this new life. The Bible teaches that someone can be born from above before they are baptized. This example is found in Acts 10:47. The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of every human being. There are some who will be in heaven that have never heard the name of Christ. But they have yielded to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, following the spirit of the law; “whatsoever you want done unto

you do ye also unto others.” This does not mean that every man will be saved, nor does it mean that there is no need to share the gospel. Those without the truth will be judged by what is in their hearts, but imagine the joy they will experience when they come to know about the loving God who died for their atonement!

The concept of being born again is embedded in the letter to the Romans; because Adam sinned, all who are born to him are born sinful (Romans 5:12-15). They are born with inherited tendencies to sin; therefore, it is said, “through one man sin entered.” Those who are born to Christ receive righteousness; if sin entered through one man and passed upon all his children, so also, righteousness can enter by one man, Jesus Christ, and pass upon all His children;

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” —*John 1:13*.

They can only be born of God through Christ who is also God. Through His humanity, Jesus unites with mankind, and through His divinity, He elevates them to righteousness. All His children are born by receiving the Holy Spirit. From this, it is obvious that only those who have been born again will be saved, just as Christ has said, and Paul’s letter to the Romans assumes the reader understands.

Ellen White’s “Papacy Vision”

There has recently been a lot of speculation about a certain dream that appears in Testimonies, Volume 1. We will explore this dream in its context. I have no plans to share the misapplications. If you know, you know.

That night I dreamed that I was in Battle Creek looking out from the side glass at the door and saw a company marching up to the house, two and two. They looked stern and determined. I knew them well and turned to open the parlor door to receive them, but thought I would look again. The scene was changed. The company now presented the appearance of a Catholic procession. One bore in his hand a cross, another a reed. And as they approached, the one carrying a reed made a circle around the house, saying three times: “This house is proscribed. The goods must be confiscated. They have spoken against our holy order.” Terror seized me, and I ran through the house, out of the north door, and found myself in the midst of a company, some of whom I knew, but I dared not speak a word to them for fear of being betrayed. I tried to seek a retired spot where I might weep and pray without meeting eager, inquisitive eyes wherever I turned. I repeated frequently: “If I could only understand this! If they will tell me what I have said or what I have done!” —*1 Testimonies, pg. 577*.

The context is vital to properly understanding the dream. James White was in poor health, but Ellen had become convinced that he would not recover without activity. James and Ellen were members of the Battle Creek church at that time. Contrary to the advice and judgment of the brethren at Battle Creek, they ventured a tour of northern Michigan in the severest cold of winter. Ellen recalled:

It required no small degree of moral courage and faith in God to bring my mind to the decision to risk so much, especially as I stood alone, with the influence of the church, including those at the head of the work at Battle Creek, against me.” —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 570.

They labored earnestly to unite the church in the north. There soon arrived a wealthy brother, who had visited Battle Creek and there learned that they had started out contrary to the opinion and advice of the church—and those standing at the head of the work at Battle Creek. He chose to represent James before the people as being partially insane and therefore his testimony was consequently of no weight. This undid nearly two weeks’ worth of work, but God blessed the White’s efforts. Eventually, the wealthy brother returned to Battle Creek to spread an evil report. Ellen White recorded:

As facts have since come to light, it appears that he injured the church, and the church injured him, in their mutual enjoyment from house to house in taking the most unfavorable views of our course and making it the theme of conversation. About the time this cruel work was going on, I had the following dream.” —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 573.

She had a dream in which she saw what was happening in Battle Creek. She mentions the topic had become their “Present Truth.” After seeing these events, she was instructed by her guide:

‘The conversation where Christ and the characteristics of His life are the themes dwelt upon will refresh the spirit and the fruit will be unto holiness and everlasting life.’ He then quoted these words: ‘Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.’ These words so impressed me that I spoke upon them the next Sabbath.” —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 574.

After describing the immense stress of labor and the burden upon her, she recounts that she began to receive letters of a discouraging nature from Battle Creek. The distress she was experiencing from these events, her work, and difficulties with writing prompted her to return to Battle Creek. On their journey home, they held meetings in Orange

and were refreshed by the Holy Spirit. That night, Ellen White received the vision in question. 3

Most of the time, when people misinterpret the vision, it is only half quoted. Here is the remainder:

I wept and prayed much as I saw our goods confiscated. I tried to read sympathy or pity for me in the looks of those around me, and marked the countenances of several whom I thought would speak to me and comfort me if they did not fear that they would be observed by others. I made one attempt to escape from the crowd, but seeing that I was watched, I concealed my intentions. I commenced weeping aloud, and saying: “If they would only tell me what I have done or what I have said!” My husband, who was sleeping in a bed in the same room, heard me weeping aloud and awoke me. My pillow was wet with tears, and a sad depression of spirits was upon me.” —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 578.

When they arrived in Battle Creek again after a three-month absence, Ellen recorded her reception and a subsequent dream:

My husband was terribly disappointed at the cold reception which he met at Battle Creek, and I also was grieved. We decided that we could not bear our testimony to this church till they gave better evidence that they wished our services... I came home to Battle Creek like a weary child who needed comforting words and encouragement. It is painful for me here to state that we were received with great coldness by our brethren, from whom, three months before, I had parted in perfect union, excepting on the point of our leaving home. The first night spent in Battle Creek, I dreamed that I had been laboring very hard and had been traveling for the purpose of attending a large meeting, and that I was very weary. Sisters were arranging my hair and adjusting my dress, and I fell asleep. When I awoke I was astonished and indignant to find that my garments had been removed, and there had been placed upon me old rags, pieces of bedquilts knotted and sewed together. Said I: “What have you done to me? Who has done this shameful work of removing my garments and replacing them with beggars’ rags?” I tore off the rags and threw them from me. I was grieved, and with anguish cried out: “Bring me back my garments which I have worn for twenty-three years and have not disgraced in a single instance. Unless you give me back my garments I shall appeal to the people, who will contribute and return me my own garments which I have worn twenty-three years.” —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 579.

While she had two different dreams, they both involved the same topic and had the same interpretation, just as the dreams of Pharaoh in the story

of Joseph. I will now use references you can find in the story yourself to explain the dream.

The company, which Ellen White knew, appeared as a catholic procession:

I protested against persons' sitting as inquisitors upon my course of action."
—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 584.

"They have spoken against our holy order."

I was filled with grief as I listened to a charge from a fellow laborer whom I had respected, that they were hearing from every quarter things which I had spoken against the church at Battle Creek." —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 580.

"This house is proscribed. The goods must be confiscated."

We were at last brought to want. My husband felt it his duty, before becoming dependent, to first sell what we could spare. He had some few things at the office, and scattered among the brethren in Battle Creek, of little value, which he collected and sold. We disposed of nearly one hundred and fifty dollars worth of furniture. My husband tried to sell our sofa for the meetinghouse, offering to give ten dollars of its value, but could not. At this time our only and very valuable cow died. My husband then for the first time felt that he could receive help, and addressed a note to a brother, stating that if the church would esteem it a pleasure to make up the loss of the cow they might do so. But nothing was done about it only to charge my husband with being insane on the subject of money." —*1 Testimonies*, pg. 582.

There stuff was indirectly confiscated because the brethren refused to support or alleviate their needs. Despite this, James still confessed as if his course was wrong. This is reminiscent of recanting.

At this meeting my husband humbly confessed that he was wrong in several things of this nature, which he never should have done and never would have done but for fear of his brethren and a desire to be just right and in union with the church. This led those who were injuring him to apparently despise him."
—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 583.

Ellen tried to seek a retired spot:

I then said that we thought we should move from Battle Creek and seek a more retired home."
—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 580.

She wanted to know what she had said or done:

The spirit manifested in this meeting distressed me greatly. I returned home still burdened.

as those present made no effort to relieve me by acknowledging that they were convinced that they had misjudged me and that their suspicions and accusations against me were unjust. They could not condemn me, neither did they make any effort to relieve me."
—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 582.

"I made one attempt to escape from the crowd, but seeing that I was watched, I concealed my intentions."

In this state of things we started to fill an appointment at Monterey. On the journey I suffered the keenest anguish of spirit. I tried to explain to myself why it was that our brethren did not understand in regard to our work. I had felt quite sure that when we should meet them they would know what spirit we were of, and that the Spirit of God in them would answer to the same in us, His humble servants, and there would be union of feeling and sentiment. Instead of this we were distrusted and suspiciously watched, which was a cause of the greatest perplexity I ever experienced."
—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 583.

I think this is sufficient to demonstrate the fulfillment of Ellen White's "Papacy" vision. Don't listen to any false prophets who are trying to twist it into some future application. All three of the visions/dreams expressed in this account have already had their fulfillment in the experience of Ellen White. These visions were personal and should be accepted as such, they are not "dual prophecies." That is just a convenient excuse to create your own interpretation.

AI YouTube Channels spouting Nonsense

In this case, I will be naming two You-tube channels that are using Artificial Intelligence to harm and waste the time of God's people. There are, no doubt, many more. These are "Sacred Destiny" and "According to Ellen White." These channels on the media platform You-tube are not safe to watch. They are based in Brazil, meaning the channels may belong to people who cannot even read what is being generated.

You might think to yourself, "What's the big deal? Is this really worth writing about?" Yes, and let me tell you why. These channels use a rapid 5-8 second scene-change format. They recycle the same AI pictures and short videos. This is scientifically proven to capture attention and keep viewers focused. But it comes at a cost. If the brain eats enough of this "junk food," it starts to lose concentration on non-stimulating things like reading the Bible. Research also shows that these videos decrease the brain's ability to remember; it must focus on scanning and shifting rather than on encoding, where the information

becomes part of memory. Additionally, these videos decrease self-control and the ability to concentrate on something for an extended period. More information is available on PubMed.gov or by a simple Google search about 5 second scene changes in videos, for anyone interested. Unfortunately, this research was paramount in the development of the cancerous app known as “Tik-Tok,” which is built around the concept of short 5-11 second scene changes.

What to look out for: Rapid scene changes averaging 5-11 seconds. They may be AI videos or AI pictures that zoom in and out slightly. You can tell if the pictures are AI generated because they look too perfect. The voice is often AI too—you can discern this if you have a good ear for voices. AI reads certain things weird and tends to sound somewhat like a monotone. These videos often have “clickbait” titles. Here is an example: “Ellen White SAW the 7 Types of Adventists Who Will Face 2026 ALONE — The 4th Is the Most Faithful.” Ellen White never mentioned 2026 or seven types of Christians, and she always emphasized that the Christian is never alone. Coupled with this type of title is often a picture of AI Ellen with an exaggerated, shocked look. Generally, the pictures in the video are repeated to minimize effort. There is a key to catching AI Ellen—Always check the references given, or note the lack of references. AI is very creative with Ellen White quotes, and this is very tedious to correct. If it says the quote is from Councils on Diets and Foods or Great Controversy, look it up! YouTubers who do not care about deceiving people will not take the time to ensure their content is accurate. One prime evidence of the creators’ intent is found in click-bait titles. Anyone who uses them has sold their integrity for ad revenue and views. No lie is of the Truth, and anyone learning the truth from a liar is likely to be deceived.

These channels are brilliant. The clickbait title gets the viewer to start the video, the scene changes keep them engaged, the content is somewhat interesting, written by AI, and voiced by AI. The time and effort to make such a video is minimal, but the returns are not! It’s a farm collecting watch time and advertising revenue. The purpose is to get and keep the audience, and the content is not checked for accuracy. Those who watch it develop a taste for mental junk food. Their ability to focus and read the Bible is blunted, as is their interest. It looks like a safe place for the lambs to eat, but the food is poisonous—Beware.

Time setting

The concept of time-setting is not new; it has existed since the 1800’s, perhaps even earlier, and it will continue until the second coming. The newest dates seem to be in 2026 or 2027. These are

all speculations. We see the signs around us of the soon-coming of Christ. I fully believe Jesus is at the door! However, time-setting destroys the faith of God’s people or causes them to cast off the duties of today. With the light given us through Ellen White, anyone who truly fears the Lord will not take part in speculation about the year, month, or day of His appearing; they will be watching, waiting, and working. Stirring messages are to be given, but none should bear the folly of false excitement. We have a prophet who has spoken very strongly against date-setting, but unfortunately, many “present truth” speakers don’t believe her. They mix their wild gourds with the truth, endangering everyone.

Calls to do home churches

Coupled with the time-setting, there have been many calls to do home churches. This is directly contrary to what the Bible teaches:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”—*Hebrews 10:25*.

God has not called us to separate from association with sinners. He has told us to have no fellowship with them. This means we are not to engage in the same unfruitful works of darkness that they do, but reprove them. If we leave the churches that are being leavened by worldliness, how would the salt of the earth exhibit a preserving effect? Aren’t we being shepherds that run from the wolf when he comes to the flock? Who will be there to greet new converts? We read:

The ministry of Christ was in marked contrast to that of the Jewish elders. Their regard for tradition and formalism had destroyed all real freedom of thought or action. They lived in continual dread of defilement. To avoid contact with the “unclean,” they kept aloof, not only from the Gentiles, but from the majority of their own people, seeking neither to benefit them nor to win their friendship. By dwelling constantly on these matters, they had dwarfed their minds and narrowed the orbit of their lives. Their example encouraged egotism and intolerance among all classes of the people... God had directed John the Baptist to dwell in the wilderness, that he might be shielded from the influence of the priests and rabbis, and be prepared for a special mission. But the austerity and isolation of his life were not an example for the people... Jesus reproved self-indulgence in all its forms, yet He was social in His nature. He accepted the hospitality of all classes, visiting the homes of the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, and seeking to elevate

their thoughts from questions of commonplace life to those things that are spiritual and eternal. He gave no license to dissipation, and no shadow of worldly levity marred His conduct; yet He found pleasure in scenes of innocent happiness, and by His presence sanctioned the social gathering... He carried His instruction into the household, bringing families in their own homes under the influence of His divine presence. His strong personal sympathy helped to win hearts. He often repaired to the mountains for solitary prayer, but this was a preparation for His labor among men in active life. From these seasons He came forth to relieve the sick, to instruct the ignorant, and to break the chains from the captives of Satan... As disciples of Christ we shall not mingle with the world from a mere love of pleasure, to unite with them in folly. Such associations can result only in harm. We should never give sanction to sin by our words or our deeds, our silence or our presence. Wherever we go, we are to carry Jesus with us, and to reveal to others the preciousness of our Saviour. But those who try to preserve their religion by hiding it within stone walls lose precious opportunities of doing good.” —*Desire of Ages*, pg. 150-152.

So Jesus mingled with sinners; He did not shut himself away from contact with the “unclean” of the heathen or the Jews. Do you know where Jesus was every Sabbath?

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up to read.” —*Luke 4:16*.

Here, Christ set an example for us. In his own city, where he had the least amount of honor, in a synagogue—or church—filled with leaders who wanted to kill Him, Christ took part in the service by standing up to read. In the light of this example we only have weak excuses...

Today, the spirit of the Pharisees is manifested in many ways. One is by keeping aloof from the majority of our “own people” because they are seen as unclean. How many take the course of Christ by seeking to benefit every class or win their friendship? By separating ourselves from those who are less spiritually mature, we are virtually saying:

Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.” —*Isaiah 65:5*.

By following the example of the Pharisees, we are not allowing Christ’s example to ennoble or broaden us. By dwelling constantly on these matters, the mind is dwarfed, and our sphere of influence is narrowed. Such an example encourages egotism and intolerance among all classes of the people. Granted, we still have explicit instructions about

avoiding a certain class of people:

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.” —*Titus 3:10-11*.

A heretic is someone who sets themselves apart by their choices. Contextually, this class of people knows what they are doing is wrong, but choose to do it anyway after being personally admonished BY US at least twice. These people are to be avoided. Paul specifies how and why in 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15.

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

We are not to treat such a person as an enemy but rather as an estranged family member. This course of action was designed to teach them where they stand in God’s eyes. Their sins have estranged them from Christ, and they must recognize this. It is designed by God to make them ashamed of their sins. The purpose of this course of action is to lead the brother or sister to repentance. It is redemptive by nature, not an arbitrary punishment. It also applies specifically to believers, not to unbelievers.

Home church is necessary only when persecution causes the established church to collapse. This persecution is more than mere words and looks. Even though the Jews hated Paul, we always find him preaching in the synagogue and doing personal ministry from house to house. This is also what Jesus did, and should be the course of our own lives. Don’t forsake the assembling together of the brethren, especially as you see the day approaching. Don’t listen to the Pharisees; Jesus commanded us to feed His lambs.

Some have advanced the thought that as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man’s being independent. The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord’s work may advance healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together.” —*Gospel Workers*, pg. 487.

Now is not the time to separate ourselves from our brothers and sisters, but to draw together and edify one another. We need the leaven of godliness and brotherly love in the church.

The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand

for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause.” —*Early Writings*, pg. 50.

You would be hard pressed to convince anyone that Elijah took a bold and unyielding stand for the truth when he ran away from an angry idolater.

Irrelevant Arguments

I recently became aware of an irrelevant argument claiming that, since the finger of God is the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit wrote the Ten Commandments. As straightforward as this line of reasoning may seem, it has become increasingly contentious among certain members of the church. This topic has even been preached by influential people.

How do we know it is irrelevant? There are two kinds of truth, saving truth and truth that does not save. Allow me to demonstrate. The truth is, the wall in my office is white. This is not relevant to anyone’s salvation except mine, and only if I am intentionally lying. Even in the Bible, some truths are not saving, for instance, how big certain historical armies were. In this section, I hope to convince you that believing the Holy Spirit wrote the Ten Commandments is irrelevant to our salvation and thus not worthy of causing contention.

Those who hold to the idea of the Holy Spirit writing the Ten Commandments have come to this conclusion in the following way:

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.” —*Luke 11:20*.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.” —*Matthew 12:28*.

Using simple reasoning, we discover: Finger of God = Holy Spirit. Thus, the Finger of God wrote the Ten Commandments = the Holy Spirit wrote the Ten Commandments.

It’s so simple, how can it possibly be wrong? Well, does God not have a physical hand? To believe every reference to the hand of God speaks about the Holy Spirit spiritualizes away anything literal about God. Just because the finger of God CAN refer to the Holy Spirit does not mean that it ALWAYS does. The only evidence to support this theory is circumstantial. A prime example:

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.” —*Daniel 5:5*.

Ellen White writes about what was going on at this feast and says:

This was the tenor of their conversation, and God heard; for there was a witness at that feast. The Holy One heard their sacrilegious hilarity and glee, and beheld their base idolatry. That

witness did not depart from the banqueting hall without leaving His testimony. In the same hour came forth the bloodless fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the king’s palace, and the king saw the hand writing, in letters that seemed to burn and flame like fire—characters which he knew not.” —*Letter 8, 1893*.

The Finger of God wrote over against the candlesticks; this must mean the testimony was born by the Holy Spirit, which we know is associated with this article of furniture. Right or wrong? This is purely circumstantial evidence; it could be, but we also know that Christ is ministering at the candlesticks. Upon close inspection, you will find even the best arguments for this idea are merely circumstantial; there is no plain thus saith the Lord, only circumstantial evidence and a possibility.

What about the evidence against the position that the Holy Spirit wrote the Ten Commandments? I have already mentioned that the hand of God is not always a direct reference to the Holy Spirit. Another thing I have heard is that Ellen White says Jehovah wrote the commandments, and “this can only be a reference to God the Father.” There is a problem with this idea too! The Name Jehovah means “Self-Existent One.” By saying this name applies only to the Father, it denies the divinity of both the Son and the Holy Spirit, suggesting that their existence derives from the Father. Of Christ, we know this cannot be the case—on the cross, He was completely separated from His Father as punishment for our sins, yet He remained alive. If He was not self-existent, He could not have survived the wages of sin and cried out, “It is finished.” For the plan of salvation to be successful, one who could survive complete separation from the life of the Father must bear the wages of sin. As far as the Holy Spirit, we know it can search out the mind of God; who can know the mind of God except God? And a defining characteristic of God is His self-existence.

Here is the conclusion: there seems to be a unique lack of defining information on this entire topic. I dare not say it IS the Holy Spirit. All we have is circumstantial evidence and the possibility. To speak against it is dangerous, because the arguments against it are not sound. It’s almost as if the Holy Spirit does not testify of itself. The Evidence itself is not definitive, and the Witness is silent on the topic. Yet if we ask the question “who writes the Commandments on my heart,” the resounding answer is:

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”—*2 Corinthians 3:3*.

Clearly, the matter at hand is not relevant or

W
M
3
4
3

8 necessary to our salvation. If it were, God would give us a plain "Thus saith the Lord." He would not leave us with a mere possibility. All matters like this should not be allowed to divide the church or cause contention among brethren. It's a shame to argue about the God who desires unity among His children. These matters demand good sense; may God grant it to each of us.

Dishonoring God by uniting Science and Religion:

Recently, as in times past, there has been a mingling of the sacred and the common regarding the history of our world. The quote I will be sharing has portions that apply to our previous topic as well:

To many, scientific research has become a curse. God has permitted a flood of light to be poured upon the world in discoveries in science and art, but even the greatest minds, if not guided by the word of God in their research, become bewildered in their attempts to investigate the relations of science and revelation. Human knowledge of both material and spiritual things is partial and imperfect; therefore many are unable to harmonize their views of science with Scripture statements. Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God's word is to be tested by the teachings of "science falsely so called." 1 Timothy 6:20. The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is regarded as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments too often go a step further and doubt the existence of God and attribute infinite power to nature. Having let go their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity. Thus many err from the faith and are seduced by the devil. Men have endeavored to be wiser than their Creator; human philosophy has attempted to search out and explain mysteries which will never be revealed through the eternal ages."—*Great Controversy*, pg. 522.

This one quotation should be sufficient to disprove the notion that God created the world through evolution, but I will add a few more verses for contemplation.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."—*Hebrews 11:3*.

Faith begins with the story of Creation. This is

More Food for the Little Flock —

why God worked upon man to make Genesis the first book of the Bible. If we do not believe God created the world with His word, how can we believe in His promise to recreate it?

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." —*1 Corinthians 15:52*.

If God needed several trillion years to create Mankind, how is He going to recreate them in the twinkling of an eye?

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." —*Romans 5:12*.

Death entered by sin, but death is critical to the theory of evolution. This does away with the whole idea of immortality. Survival of the fittest is directly contrary to the Bible. Evolution looks upon the world as if the things that are now have always been. The Bible contains ideas foreign to the thoughts of man.

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." —*Exodus 20:11*.

God literally told an entire nation that He created the world in six days. The theory of evolution makes God a liar. The seven-day week and the Sabbath is a memorial of the fact that God created the world in only seven days. If evolution were true, Sabbath would be irrelevant.

Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?" —*Job 11:7*.

Science cannot explain God. We may only know of Him what He has seen fit to reveal. He has revealed that He created the world in six days. If He can speak things into existence, He cannot lie.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." —*John 20:29*.

Faith is not sight; cease from the foolishness of "science falsely so called" that testifies against the Truth of the Bible. Choose ye this day which you will believe: the vain ideas of man or the eternal words of God.

For a finished work

Jonathan Taylor

Wisdom is justified of all her children. -Luke 7:35