

163

Printable Version of Topic

Click here to view this topic in its original format

BlackSDA _ Adventism: Theology and Related Subjects _ An Ellen White Reality Check...

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 25 2006, 10:53 AM

In another thread, Watchbird mentioned the articles and papers written by Dr. Arthur Patrick, a noted Adventist church historian/theologian and one time Director of the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Center that serves the South Pacific Division, on EGW, her writings and the necessary perspective we need to have today in order to properly understand and apply the counsel handed down to us through the Testimonies.

Dr. Patrick had a series of 4 interviews with the editor of the Record which were published in the South Pacific Division Record and which are available to be read at <http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-surfing.htm> and the editor of the Record wrote an editorial in the issue containing the first of the articles that carried the title of this thread.

I would encourage anyone interested to read them; I feel this is a dialog we need to have and while I recognize that some are unwilling and others are unable to deal with such a topic at this point in their walk with Christ, that cannot prevent the remainder of us from looking at this in an objective fashion, parking the preconceived notions of what we may have been taught in order to see EGW and her ministry as she saw it rather than how others chose to paint it after her death...

So... once more into the breach, dear friends...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Clay Sep 25 2006, 11:07 AM

one mo agin.....

Posted by: Clay Sep 25 2006, 11:52 AM

when did we abandon this position?

QUOTE

Most Seventh-day Adventists are well aware that White affirms Scripture as the church's only rule of faith and practice, the foundation of faith and the test of Christian experience.¹² As she reflected on her role during the church's formative years, she indicated that often it was to confirm steps already taken on the basis of prayerful yet diligent Bible study. She also describes her ministry as a "lesser light" leading to the "greater light" of Scripture.¹³ It is instructive to observe the way in which she refused to settle theological debates even when her legitimacy was, thereby, brought into serious question. Her lifelong attitude is well illustrated by the occasion in 1901 when she quite bluntly counselled assembled leaders to lay her writings aside until they understood the Scriptures.¹⁴

<http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-scripture.htm>

Posted by: Clay Sep 25 2006, 12:09 PM

this is a BOMBSHELL!!!!!!!

QUOTE

White states that "scenes," "views" and "representations" were disclosed to her mind in prophetic visions and dreams. Her son, William White, who more than any other person associated with her during her long literary career, described these experiences as "flashlight" or "panoramic" scenes. If her 1858 Great Controversy vision was like a two-hour video of the war between righteousness and sin, subsequently reinforced by flashbacks and similar experiences, there was every reason for her to explore and select from the multiple sources she used in writing on the Old Testament, New Testament, Christian and Adventist history. There was rationality in her reliance on literary assistants, advisers and editors in the initial process of preparing her writings for publication and in the subsequent revision of such works as the 1888 edition of The Great Controversy. **When Bible and history teachers met with administrators during 1919, the recorded discussion makes it clear that such processes were remembered within the group quite adequately. However, obscurantist impulses were so apparent at the time that the records of the 1919 discussions were packaged, stored and lost to the memory even of the church's thought-leaders. So, during the next six decades, the entire Adventist community largely forgot the vibrant lessons offered by this aspect of its past. It moved White's writings away from their historic role toward making them the definitive and authoritative encyclopaedia of Adventist thought and practice as her authority in the church increased markedly after her death.**

how significant is this???? VERY!!!!

<http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-scripture.htm>

Posted by: watchbird Sep 25 2006, 01:21 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Sep 25 2006, 11:52 AM) □

when did we abandon this position?
<http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-scripture.htm>

"We" didn't. But there have been those in the church ... even some in leadership positions from the very beginning, who elevated the "gifts" above scriptures. James White met this in some rather pointed articles very early on, taking the position that scripture was always above the gifts mentioned in scripture. The two lines of thought have continued within our church all through the years..... and the elevation of Ellen White was especially strong in the years immediately after her death, and remained so until the 70's when one thing and another forced the "brethren" to take a closer look at their own position statements.

Patrick was one of the leaders in taking a new look at Ellen White, though the GC Archivist, Bert

Haloviak did some very fundamental work from his position as the primary reader through the unread material in the GC vault. It was Bert, in fact, who introduced the readers of today to the 1919 Bible Conference papers, via publication in Spectrum Magazine. His articles on that topic are also on the At Issue website, as well as on the GC Archives articles page.

QUOTE(Clay @ Sep 25 2006, 12:09 PM) □

this is a BOMBSHELL!!!!!!
 how significant is this???? VERY!!!!
<http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-scripture.htm>

Are you saying that Patrick's statment was a bombshell, or that the things said about the 1919 Bible Conference were a bombshell?

And does you statement merely for effect, or does it indicate that this is your first exposure to these concepts?

If the latter, you'd better don your best suit of armor as you continue on through the articles on the At Issue website for there are similar things scattered all over the place.

Enjoy

Posted by: västergötland Sep 25 2006, 01:53 PM

I think transcripts of the meetings refered to in Clays last quote are aviable online, maybe the WallaWallaU archives or something like that. Someone else may know more.

 This link appears to be relevant
<http://dlearn.wwc.edu/classes/relh457/articles/bc1919/bc1919.html>

Posted by: watchbird Sep 25 2006, 03:57 PM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Sep 25 2006, 01:53 PM) □

I think transcripts of the meetings refered to in Clays last quote are aviable online, maybe the WallaWallaU archives or something like that. Someone else may know more.

 This link appears to be relevant
<http://dlearn.wwc.edu/classes/relh457/articles/bc1919/bc1919.html>

They are also here: <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/books/1919bc/index.htm> , along with an article by Bert Haloviak, "In the Shadow of the 'Daily': Background and Aftermath of the 1919 SDA Bible and History Teachers' Conference", and Chapter 38: "1919 Bible Conference/History Teachers Council", from the book, *Messenger of the Lord. The Prophetic Ministry of Ellen G. White* , by Herbert E. Douglass.

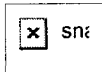
Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 25 2006, 05:25 PM

Folks ain't gonna read this in detail. I will be ignored.

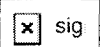
Why?

Because it refutes many of the beliefs that many hold within the SDA Church!

OOOoooo!



Posted by: simplysaved Sep 25 2006, 05:35 PM

I have said this for about a year and a half...the church does not put EGW over the Bible...a few extremist do.... So  Watchbird!!!!

That has nothing to do with her messages not being inspired...

QUOTE(watchbird @ Sep 25 2006, 01:21 PM) □

"We" didn't. But there have been those in the church ... even some in leadership positions from the very beginning, who elevated the "gifts" above scriptures. James White met this in some rather pointed articles very early on, taking the position that scripture was always above the gifts mentioned in scripture. The two lines of thought have continued within our church all through the years..... and the elevation of Ellen White was especially strong in the years immediately after her death, and remained so until the 70's when one thing and another forced the "brethren" to take a closer look at their own position statements.

Patrick was one of the leaders in taking a new look at Ellen White, though the GC Archivist, Bert Haloviak did some very fundamental work from his position as the primary reader through the unread material in the GC vault. It was Bert, in fact, who introduced the readers of today to the 1919 Bible Conference papers, via publication in Spectrum Magazine. His articles on that topic are also on the At Issue website, as well as on the GC Archives articles page.

Are you saying that Patrick's statment was a bombshell, or that the things said about the 1919 Bible Conference were a bombshell?

And does you statement merely for effect, or does it indicate that this is your first exposure to these concepts?

If the latter, you'd better don your best suit of armor as you continue on through the articles on the At Issue website for there are similar things scattered all over the place.

Enjoy

Posted by: princessdi Sep 25 2006, 06:16 PM

No, not a few extremists. it is as basic as SDAs believing that a no meant diet is the only

preferred, and carried some favor with God. Why do I say that? Because, the case cannot be made this his reasoning from the Bible, but is always made from EGW writings about the future state of meat, and the compiled writings of her advice for which we are not given the questions or particular situations, etc. We have made doctrine from it to the point hat it is an issue about eating/serving it on church/institution grounds. In that instance you[general] EGW's writings above the Bible, because they are not pointing to any "greater light" in the Bible. You[once again, general] have made doctrine from something she said, but has no biblical basis.

Another example is that recently there was thread started about the Bible not contradicting itself. The OP contained one Bible text and at least 4 EGW quotes. Ok about the Bible not contradicting itself? It read more like EGW not contradicting herself, or the Bible.

So, it is not a clear and concise proclamation as it is our actions. We give lip service to the fact that we don't place her writings equal or above the Bible, however, whenever we cannot make our doctrinal case from the Bible and the Bible only, in using her writings to complete that case, you have given them at least equal status. Let me just say that I do believe that she was inspired to write, but like the Bible writers not dictated what to write. So, her writings are also subject to her understanding of whatever revelations she was given. Had there been two people writing at that time we would probably have the same basic message, but from two different perspectives. The four Gospels were written by men who saw the same things happen at the same time and yet the perspective is different. The basic message is[The Good News], however, still there.

Also if it were only a few extremist, SDAs would not be widely known as a cult that follows EGW more than the Bible. That is a reputaion that has stuck for as long as I can remember. If it was only a few extremist, it would have died with them. Instead it is so prevalent the label did and still stands today. It is, I believe, one of the reasons churches are "encouraged" to have Rev. Sems. in other places than our churches, the literature for them does not identify them to be SDA in origin, etc. to spare us the first impressions. I do realize that many are held at churches and full disclosure is made, but as those who claim to have "The Truth" the practice should not be acceptable as business as usual. So this mean we are fully aware of this less than stellar reputation.

It is not a few extremist, it was and is the impression we give to the world. The only way to stop it is for us to truly understand, as a denomination, and just not in lip service the true place of her writings, as she asked. We are not of one accord on this, because we have failed to make it crystal clear from the beginning. As she said herself, her writings are for "after" you understand the Bible on it's own. It actually had meaning before she started to write several centuries later. We see the danger in trying to get that initial understanding through her writings.

Posted by: simplysaved Sep 25 2006, 06:26 PM

Any denomination that is not mainstream is considered an cult...for SDA's it begins with keeping the Sabbath and then the Sanctuary, State of the Dead, etc....our beliefs are different w/o EGW....

Fortunately, that belief (of SDA being a cult) is the exception and not the rule in 2006.

QUOTE(princessdi @ Sep 25 2006, 06:16 PM) □

No, not a few extremists. it is as basic as SDAs believing that a no meat diet is the only preferred, and carried some favor with God. Why do I say that? Because, the case cannot be made this his reasoning from the Bible, but is always made from EGW writings about the future state of meat, and the compiled writings of her advice for which we are not given the questions or particular

situations, etc. We have made doctrine from it to the point that it is an issue about eating/serving it on church/institution grounds. In that instance you[general] EGW's writings above the Bible, because they are not pointing to any "greater light" in the Bible. You[once again, general] have made doctrine from something she said, but has no biblical basis.

Another example is that recently there was thread started about the Bible not contradicting itself. The OP contained one Bible text and at least 4 EGW quotes. OK about the Bible not contradicting itself? It read more like EGW not contradicting herself, or the Bible.

So, it is not a clear and concise proclamation as it is our actions. We give lip service to the fact that we don't place her writings equal or above the Bible, however, whenever we cannot make our doctrinal case from the Bible and the Bible only, in using her writings to complete that case, you have given them at least equal status. Let me just say that I do believe that she was inspired to write, but like the Bible writers not dictated what to write. So, her writings are also subject to her *understanding of whatever revelations she was given*. Had there been two people writing at that time we would probably have the same basic message, but from two different perspectives. The four Gospels were written by men who saw the same things happen at the same time and yet the perspective is different. The basic message is[The Good News], however, still there.

Also if it were only a few extremist, SDAs would not be widely known as a cult that follows EGW more than the Bible. That is a reputation that has stuck for as long as I can remember. If it was only a few extremist, it would have died with them. Instead it is so prevalent the label did and still stands today. It is, I believe, one of the reasons churches are "encouraged" to have Rev. Sems. in other places than our churches, the literature for them does not identify them to be SDA in origin, etc. to spare us the first impressions. I do realize that many are held at churches and full disclosure is made, but as those who claim to have "The Truth" the practice should not be acceptable as business as usual. So this means we are fully aware of this less than stellar reputation.

It is not a few extremist, it was and is the impression we give to the world. The only way to stop it is for us to truly understand, as a denomination, and just not in lip service the true place of her writings, as she asked. We are not of one accord on this, because we have failed to make it crystal clear from the beginning. As she said herself, her writings are for "after" you understand the Bible on its own. It actually had meaning before she started to write several centuries later. We see the danger in trying to get that initial understanding through her writings.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 06:34 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Sep 25 2006, 11:52 AM)

when did we abandon this position?
<http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-scripture.htm>

I'll abandon that position right now. It has a false statement in it. Can you find/prove to me that Ellen White said her writings were the lesser light leading to the greater light of scripture? That is heresy.

Posted by: princessdi Sep 25 2006, 06:46 PM

No Sarah, in 2006, you can still walk into a bookstore and find us listed under cults.....everywhere. It is more the rule than the exception. Our name would be on the Rev. Sem. literature, in 2006. It is rule enough, in 2006, for GC to continue to do damage control.

those actions speak louder than your words any day.

No, any denom that is not mainstream is not called a cult. True we have no problem making these doctrinal cases from the Bible only, but it does not go for all of our belief, such as our approach to the health message. We took our cue from EGW writings, tried to make it biblical, and then tried to(and still do) one's salvation. We lost our credibility in this area because there was no biblical support for it being of salvific value. That is the epitome of putting EGW's writings above the Bible.

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 25 2006, 04:26 PM)

Any denomination that is not mainstream is considered an cult...for SDA's it begins with keeping the Sabbath and then the Sanctuary, State of the Dead, etc....our beliefs are different w/o EGW....

Fortunately, that belief (of SDA being a cult) is the exception and not the rule in 2006.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 06:53 PM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Sep 25 2006, 06:16 PM)

... Let me just say that I do believe that she was inspired to write, but like the Bible writers not dictated what to write. So, her writings are also subject to her understanding of whatever revelations she was given. Had there been two people writing at that time we would probably have the same basic message, but from two different perspectives. The four Gospels were written by men who saw the same things happen at the same time and yet the perspective is different. The basic message is[The Good News], however, still there.

...

You said it! She was inspired. Well, then? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

Posted by: princessdi Sep 25 2006, 07:08 PM

EGW's writings are not scripture. In fact, a whole lot of folks were writing when the Bible writers as we know them now were writing, I am sure at least some of them were inspired to write, they just didn't make the cut by the catholic priests to compile the Bible as we know it. However, no one, except for Moses, with the Ten Commandment were told "what" to write. God actually dictated to him what to write. The rest just recorded history as they saw it, including Moses before and after the writing of the !OC. They were just told "to" write. It does not change the fact that their writings were subject to their education, comprehension skills, belief systems and culture at the time of their writings.

Am I missing your point here?

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 04:53 PM)

You said it! She was inspired. Well, then? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 07:24 PM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Sep 25 2006, 07:08 PM)

EGW's writings are not scripture. In fact, a whole lot of folks were writing when the Bible writers as we know them now were writing, I am sure at least some of them were inspired to write, they just didn't make the cut by the catholic priests to compile the Bible as we know it. However, no one, except for Moses, with the Ten Commandment were told "what" to write. God actually dictated to him what to write. The rest just recorded history as they saw it, including Moses before and after the writing of the !OC. They were just told "to" write. It does not change the fact that their writings were subject to their education, comprehension skills, belief systems and culture at the time of their writings.

Am I missing your point here?

Yeah. First of all, the Ten Commandments were not "dictated" to Moses. Those have such a high status as to have been written by God's own hand, in stone no less. However, I'm sure we both agree that the Ten Commandments are not the only Scripture in existence today, just because God didn't etch any more into stone for us. So, what is your definition of "Scripture?"

First of all, trusting the Scriptures to give us a definition for Scripture is already circular reasoning. I'm sorry, but it takes a faith choice--and this is true for all of Christendom, not just Adventists. So, assuming you, like me, are willing to put your faith in those "self-proclaimed" scriptures, what are the specific texts to show what the definition of "Scripture" is? Once you have thus defined Scripture, go back and see if Ellen White's writings can fall into a different category than any of the Bible authors' writings do.

The basic problem, here, is that Adventists have misinterpreted for years the meaning of the term "spirit of prophecy" spoken of in Revelation. That has contributed to a false understanding of the role of Ellen White. We have been ever since making comparisons to the Bible that were unwarranted.

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 25 2006, 07:55 PM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Sep 25 2006, 08:16 PM)

No, not a few extremists. it is as basic as SDAs believing that a no meat diet is the only preferred, and carried some favor with God. Why do I say that? Because, the case cannot be made this his reasoning from the Bible, but is always made from EGW writings about the future state of meat, and the compiled writings of her advice for which we are not given the questions or particular situations, etc. We have made doctrine from it to the point hat it is an issue about eating/serving it on church/institution grounds. In that instance you[general] EGW's writings above the Bible, because they are not pointing to any "greater light" in the Bible. You[once again, general] have made doctrine from something she said, but has no biblical basis.

Another example is that recently there was thread started about the Bible not contradicting itself. The OP contained one Bible text and at least 4 EGW quotes. Ok about the Bible not contradicting

itself? It read more like EGW not contradicting herself, or the Bible.

So, it is not a clear and concise proclamation as it is our actions. We give lip service to the fact that we don't place her writings equal or above the Bible, however, whenever we cannot make our doctrinal case from the Bible and the Bible only, in using her writings to complete that case, you have given them at least equal status. Let me just say that I do believe that she was inspired to write, but like the Bible writers not dictated what to write. So, her writings are also subject to her understanding of whatever revelations she was given. Had there been two people writing at that time we would probably have the same basic message, but from two different perspectives. The four Gospels were written by men who saw the same things happen at the same time and yet the perspective is different. The basic message is [The Good News], however, still there.

Also if it were only a few extremist, SDAs would not be widely known as a cult that follows EGW more than the Bible. That is a reputation that has stuck for as long as I can remember. If it was only a few extremist, it would have died with them. Instead it is so prevalent the label did and still stands today. It is, I believe, one of the reasons churches are "encouraged" to have Rev. Sems. in other places than our churches, the literature for them does not identify them to be SDA in origin, etc. to spare us the first impressions. I do realize that many are held at churches and full disclosure is made, but as those who claim to have "The Truth" the practice should not be acceptable as business as usual. So this mean we are fully aware of this less than stellar reputation.

It is not a few extremist, it was and is the impression we give to the world. The only way to stop it is for us to truly understand, as a denomination, and just not in lip service the true place of her writings, as she asked. We are not of one accord on this, because we have failed to make it crystal clear from the beginning. As she said herself, her writings are for "after" you understand the Bible on it's own. It actually had meaning before she started to write several centuries later. We see the danger in trying to get that initial understanding through her writings.

Dead on! Too dead on! Thank you!



QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 25 2006, 08:26 PM)

Any denomination that is not mainstream is considered an cult...for SDA's it begins with keeping the Sabbath and then the Sanctuary, State of the Dead, etc....our beliefs are different w/o EGW....

Fortunately, that belief (of SDA being a cult) is the exception and not the rule in 2006.

We are still considered a cult. If you look up a listing of "cults" we are still listed as a "cult". Is the B'hai religion (a sector of Islam) considered a cult?

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 09:24 PM)

.....The basic problem, here, is that Adventists have misinterpreted for years the meaning of the term "spirit of prophecy" spoken of in Revelation. That has contributed to a false understanding of the role of Ellen White. We have been ever since making comparisons to the Bible that were unwarranted.

Dead on again! So why does EG White have to be compared to the BIBLE? Is it a way of SDA's justifying her writings as being "dead on truth" without a need of questioning?




Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 08:47 PM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Sep 25 2006, 07:55 PM) □

Dead on again! So why does EG White have to be compared to the BIBLE? Is it a way of SDA's justifying her writings as being "dead on truth" without a need of questioning?



Lest you be overly gleeful, hahaha!  rofl Actually, the "lesser light" (or the moon) and the "spirit of prophecy" are BOTH referring to scripture, which in turn is defined as Holy Spirit-inspired writings. Can you tell me, then, what the "greater light" represents?

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 25 2006, 09:32 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 08:34 PM) □

I'll abandon that position right now. It has a false statement in it. Can you find/prove to me that Ellen White said her writings were the lesser light leading to the greater light of scripture? That is heresy.

Review and Herald, Jan 20, 1903:

Many more of our larger books might have been sold if church members had been awake to the importance of the truths these books contain, and had realized their responsibility to circulate them. My brethren and sisters, will you not now make an effort to circulate these books? and will you not bring into this effort the enthusiasm that you brought into the effort to sell "Christ's Object Lessons"? In selling this book many have learned how to handle the larger books. They have obtained an experience that has prepared them to enter the canvassing field. {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 7} Sister White is not the originator of these books. They contain the instruction that during her life-work God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given his servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. There is in them truth which to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. They are silent witnesses for God. In the past they have been the means in his hands of convicting and converting many souls. Many have read them with eager expectation, and, by reading them, have been led to see the efficacy of Christ's atonement, and to trust in its power. They have been led to commit the keeping of their souls to their Creator, waiting and hoping for the coming of the Saviour to take his loved ones to their eternal home. In the future, these books are to make the gospel plain to many others, revealing to them the way of salvation. {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 8} The Lord has sent his people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. **Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth.** {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 9}

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: princessdi Sep 25 2006, 09:38 PM

Ok, so you missed the part of the story where Moses got mad at the COI down there worshipping the golden calf and broke the wone written by God, and he had to write the second set himself. So not only did God write them he also dictated them. Scripture is the Bible, not EGW writings. this is exactly how people get confused. her writings do not hold the same weight as Biblical Scripture. She said so herself. You are tight, however, that EGW is not "The" Spirit of Prophecy. We ar eerrant in that it still stands stoday. When in the baptismal vows condidates are asked if they believe in the Spirit of Prophecy, the are asking if they believe in EGW. This is also the SOP referred to int he 28 FB.

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 06:24 PM) □

Yeah. First of all, the Ten Commandments were not "dictated" to Moses. Those have such a high status as to have been written by God's own hand, in stone no less. However, I'm sure we both agree that the Ten Commandments are not the only Scripture in existence today, just because God didn't etch any more into stone for us. So, what is your definition of "Scripture?"

First of all, trusting the Scriptures to give us a definition for Scripture is already circular reasoning. I'm sorry, but it takes a faith choice--and this is true for all of Christendom, not just Adventists. So, assuming you, like me, are willing to put your faith in those "self-proclaimed" scriptures, what are the specific texts to show what the definition of "Scripture" is? Once you have thus defined Scripture, go back and see if Ellen White's writings can fall into a different category than any of the Bible authors' writings do.

The basic problem, here, is that Adventists have misinterpreted for years the meaning of the term "spirit of prophecy" spoken of in Revelation. That has contributed to a false understanding of the role of Ellen White. We have been ever since making comparisons to the Bible that were unwarranted.

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 25 2006, 09:43 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 08:53 PM) □

You said it! She was inspired. □ Well, then? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." □

1. Her belief is significant beyond herself only if you believe Di's utterance is authoritative for the church.
2. While All scripture is given by inspiration, all that is given by inspiration is not scripture. Any time the word is rightly divided, it is by inspiration since spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 10:32 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 25 2006, 09:32 PM)

...

The Lord has sent his people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. **Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth.** {RH, January 20, 1903 par. 9}

In His service,
Mr. J

Yes, Mr. J, that's exactly what I mean. And what do you infer from that passage to be the meaning of "lesser light" and of "greater light"? Please share.

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 25 2006, 10:50 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 25 2006, 11:32 PM)

Yes, Mr. J, that's exactly what I mean. And what do you infer from that passage to be the meaning of "lesser light" and of "greater light"? Please share.

Nothing to infer and nothing is implied; the explicit context makes it plain that she is referring to her writings as the lesser light.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 25 2006, 11:03 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 25 2006, 09:43 PM)

1. Her belief is significant beyond herself only if you believe Di's utterance is authoritative for the church.
2. While All scripture is given by inspiration, all that is given by inspiration is not scripture. Any time the word is rightly divided, it is by inspiration since spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

In His service,
Mr. J

And by so saying in 1) you imply to me one of the following:

A) You do not believe Ellen White was inspired, and therefore choose to differ with Di and myself and/or the church.

- You are wishing to argue this point because you feel there is a different interpretation.
 C) You simply wish to have a more authoritative (i.e. supporting evidence) source.

If A, I cannot help you, for you surely have seen much of the same evidence I myself have built my faith upon. If B, I'm concerned that you might be heading towards A, where again, I may have nothing for you. If C, what evidence do you feel you need? I'd be happy to study this part together, but realize that in the end, each of us makes a faith choice. I have made mine, and will not be moved from it. You are free to choose for yourself as well.

Point 2) you have chosen to twist the meaning of scripture. Scripture, in its very root meaning, implies written matter. You can divide the Word of Truth rightly, but your understanding through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit does not convert to "Scripture." Scripture is simply writing done under inspiration of God for the purposes of reproof, doctrine, correction, and instruction in righteousness. If it does not have those purposes, or it was not written from inspiration of God, then it is not scripture.

I, for one, do not believe that only that contained in the "Canon" is scripture and nothing else. That simply does not follow from the Bible's own definition. It is quite possible that the Bible has left out many documents which were equally inspired by God during the same time period.

So, if as you say "all that is given by inspiration is not scripture," **what is your definition of scripture?**

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 25 2006, 10:50 PM)

Nothing to infer and nothing is implied; the explicit context makes it plain that she is referring to her writings as the lesser light.

In His service,
 Mr. J

Well, I think you have the same view as that of multitudes of Adventists. Perhaps you are right, but as one who has studied languages extensively, I view the grammar of Ellen White's statement carefully, and find it to be ambiguous. It certainly could have the meaning you suggest. However, I also see another possibility, and I hope you and many other Adventists might allow yourselves to consider something new. For clarity and comparison to a text in scripture of similar construction, I shall requote that sentence of hers:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain!" -EGW

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 25 2006, 11:49 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 12:03 AM)

And by so saying in 1) you imply to me one of the following:

A) You do not believe Ellen White was inspired, and therefore choose to differ with Di and myself and/or the church.

You are wishing to argue this point because you feel there is a different interpretation.

C) You simply wish to have a more authoritative (i.e. supporting evidence) source.

You need to learn the difference between implication and inference. You may infer the things stated above, however that in no wise obligates me to have implied them. FWIW you are wrong on all three counts.

QUOTE

If A, I cannot help you, for you surely have seen much of the same evidence I myself have built my faith upon. If B, I'm concerned that you might be heading towards A, where again, I may have nothing for you. If C, what evidence do you feel you need? I'd be happy to study this part together, but realize that in the end, each of us makes a faith choice. I have made mine, and will not be moved from it. You are free to choose for yourself as well.

Your argument is built on a set of fallacious premises and as such requires no refutation; it is prima facie errant from the outset.

QUOTE

Point 2) you have chosen to twist the meaning of scripture. Scripture, in its very root meaning, implies written matter. **You can divide the Word of Truth rightly, but your understanding through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit does not convert to "Scripture."** Scripture is simply writing done under inspiration of God for the purposes of reproof, doctrine, correction, and instruction in righteousness. If it does not have those purposes, or it was not written from inspiration of God, then it is not scripture.

I did not make the claim that if I rightly divide the word, my doing so is scripture; in fact, the bolded statement you make above in a supposed attempt to refute what I've said actually supports the argument I made... I have twisted nothing; the bible speaks of men of God who judged and prophesied and acted under inspiration of the Holy Ghost and never wrote any of it down. The inspiration which led them is the same that caused holy men of God to speak as they were moved by the Holy Ghost but their actions, decisions and counsel are not in and of themselves scripture... even if the fact that they performed said actions, made said decision and gave said counsel is noted in scripture.

QUOTE

I, for one, do not believe that only that contained in the "Canon" is scripture and nothing else. That simply does not follow from the Bible's own definition. It is quite possible that the Bible has left out many documents which were equally inspired by God during the same time period.

So, if as you say "all that is given by inspiration is not scripture," **what is your definition of scripture?**

Well, I think you have the same view as that of multitudes of Adventists. Perhaps you are right, but as one who has studied languages extensively, I view the grammar of Ellen White's statement carefully, and find it to be ambiguous. It certainly could have the meaning you suggest. However, I also see another possibility, and I hope you and many other Adventists might allow yourselves to consider something new. For clarity and comparison to a text in scripture of similar construction, I shall requote that sentence of hers:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain!" -EGW

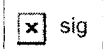
"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

You have not considered the context of either statement and it is arguable that your lack of consideration in that wise was by intent. I've never been one who was particularly swayed by "who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes" type arguemnts and that is what you have offered here. If it helps you to swallow that particular camel by categorizing me based on your presumptions, then I'm glad I could be of assistance... but suffice it to say that you are so wrong... on so many levels.


In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: västergötland Sep 26 2006, 02:21 AM

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 26 2006, 01:35 AM)

I have said this for about a year and a half...the church does not put EGW over the Bible...a few extremist do.... So  sig Watchbird!!!!

That has nothing to do with her messages not being inspired...

A few? 

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 02:24 AM

When I said "imply to me", I meant just that. That's how it came across. You cannot refute a personal testimony, which is what that was, though of course it is possible to misunderstand it. Perhaps I misunderstood you. Or perhaps you would like to express it more clearly.

Posted by: västergötland Sep 26 2006, 02:29 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 02:34 AM)

I'll abandon that position right now. It has a false statement in it. Can you find/prove to me that Ellen White said her writings were the lesser light leading to the greater light of scripture? That is heresy.

How does that qualify as heresy?

Main Entry: **her·e·sy**

Pronunciation: 'her-&-sE, 'he-r&-

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): *plural -sies*

Etymology: Middle English *heresie*, from Anglo-French, from Late Latin *haeresis*, from Late Greek *hairesis*, from Greek, action of taking, choice, sect, from *hairein* to take

1 a : adherence to a religious opinion contrary to church dogma **b** : denial of a revealed truth by a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church **c** : an opinion or doctrine contrary to church dogma

2 a : dissent or deviation from a dominant theory, opinion, or practice **b** : an opinion, doctrine, or practice contrary to the truth or to generally accepted beliefs or standards

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 02:33 AM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Sep 26 2006, 02:29 AM)

How does that qualify as heresy?

I'm using this defintion of heresy:

A teaching which denies a doctrine essential to the existence of the Gospel.

Posted by: västergötland Sep 26 2006, 02:48 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 10:33 AM)

I'm using this defintion of heresy:

A teaching which denies a doctrine essential to the existence of the Gospel.

Now I understand even less. In what way is anything that has to do with Ellen essential to the existence of a Gospel preached and shared for 1800 years before Ellen was born?

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 04:20 AM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Sep 26 2006, 02:48 AM)

Now I understand even less. In what way is anything that has to do with Ellen essential to the existence of a Gospel preached and shared for 1800 years before Ellen was born?

Well, to state it plainly, as no one has volunteered an answer to the question about what the "lesser light" or the "greater light" means, Ellen White may be a part of the lesser light, but **the Bible is not the greater light**. That was the heresy I referred to. The greater light is none other than Christ Himself. The scriptures are the lesser light, and I will freely include, along with most of Adventism, Ellen White's writings in this category as well, however, she is not the sum and total of the "lesser light" but only a part of it.

This, to me, is fundamental to an understanding of the Gospel. It is the very premise put forward in John 5:39, pointing us to eternal life, not through the scriptures, but through Christ of whom they testify.

QUOTE

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. O, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain!" -EGW

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

To see the parallel between these two statements a little more easily, allow me to shorten them slightly:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light." -EGW

"Search the scriptures; ...and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

And the lesser light is that which leads to the greater light. There can be no greater than Christ Himself. ☐ ☐

John, in the Bible, spoke this plainly:

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:6-9

And now, Ellen White on the same point:

"The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. **He was the lesser light, which was to be followed by a greater.** The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that he might shed light upon his people; **but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus.** Christ and His mission had been but dimly understood as typified in the shadowy sacrifices. Even John had not fully comprehended the future, immortal life through the Saviour." {DA 220.2}


And perhaps we need just a little more context to the previously quoted Ellen White statement, as to take it out of its context is to invite a misinterpretation of it. ☐

"The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth." {YRP 232.3}

Which reminds me of Isaiah 28:13 "But the **word of the Lord** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..."

Now, where's the Bible-reading smiley? ☐

Posted by: Clay Sep 26 2006, 05:16 AM

Greenie (can I call you that?), I like that thought, the bible is not the greater light, Christ himself is..... I am gonna have to borrow that..... thanks for sharing that.... 

Posted by: västergötland Sep 26 2006, 05:46 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 12:20 PM)

Well, to state it plainly, as no one has volunteered an answer to the question about what the "lesser light" or the "greater light" means, Ellen White may be a part of the lesser light, but **the Bible is not the greater light**. That was the heresy I referred to. The greater light is none other than Christ Himself. The scriptures are the lesser light, and I will freely include, along with most of Adventism, Ellen White's writings in this category as well, however, she is not the sum and total of the "lesser light" but only a part of it.

I could see Jesus rather than the bible being the light. But this use of "lesser lighth"? Im undecided as for now.



QUOTE

This, to me, is fundamental to an understanding of the Gospel. It is the very premise put forward in John 5:39, pointing us to eternal life, not through the scriptures, but through Christ of whom they testify.

To see the parallel between these two statements a little more easily, allow me to shorten them slightly:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light." -EGW

"Search the scriptures; ...and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

And the lesser light is that which leads to the greater light. There can be no greater than Christ Himself.  

John, in the Bible, spoke this plainly:

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:6-9

And now, Ellen White on the same point:

"The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. **He was the lesser light, which was to be followed by a greater.** The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that he might shed light upon his people; **but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus.** Christ and His mission had been but dimly understood as typified in the shadowy sacrifices. Even John had not fully comprehended the future, immortal life through the Saviour." {DA 220.2}

[http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?](http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=33&version=kjv)

[book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=33&version=kjv](http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=33&version=kjv)Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the

truth.

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=34&version=kjv>

But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=35&version=kjv>

He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/cgi-bin/popup.pl?book=Jhn&chapter=5&verse=36&version=kjv>

But I have greater witness than [that] of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

The apostle writes that the Baptist was not the light, Jesus said he was a burning and shining light and Ellen writes that he was the 'lesser' light. Must be some context missing here somewhere. Did anyone find any context laying around somewhere?

QUOTE

And perhaps we need just a little more context to the previously quoted Ellen White statement, as to take it out of its context is to invite a misinterpretation of it.

"The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth." {YRP 232.3}

Which reminds me of Isaiah 28:13 "But the **word of the Lord** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..."

Now, where's the Bible-reading smiley?

Upon looking at the context of Isaiah 28:13 it appears a bit more complicated than that. It starts with Isaiah prophesying Gods judgement upon "the drunkards of Ephraim". They have crowned themselves with pride but God will be the "crown of glory" for His people. Apparently everyone from peasant to priest and prophet is drunk and mocks God and Isaiah by "precept upon precept, line upon line". That which was meant to be a rest for them they see as a burden. So God through Isaiah tells them (v14 and forward), "~you think you can hide behind self delusion and lies? think again and think right!"

Somewhat loosely paraphrased, may have missed even further context in the neighbouring chapters. (now would be the time to bring out the chainsaw if I am wrong)

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 07:06 AM

Jesus is THE LIGHT. In the Bible, this light is variously represented as "the greater light" (the sun), "the bright and morning star", the "Sun of righteousness", etc. Revelation describes Him as having eyes as a flame of fire, His countenance "was as the sun shineth in his strength."

All other "lights" are secondary, and we might even think of them as reflections of the True Light. Just as the "greater light" of creation week (the sun) is the source of light, and the "lesser light" (the moon) merely reflects that light, so also have the prophets spoken only as they have received from God. Thus, the scriptures are, and can only be, a lesser light to that of Christ, the source of all light.

And, Clay, no problem! "Greenie" is fine by me.

1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 07:29 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 03:24 AM)

When I said "imply to me", I meant just that. That's how it came across. You cannot refute a personal testimony, which is what that was, though of course it is possible to misunderstand it. Perhaps I misunderstood you. Or perhaps you would like to express it more clearly.

If you are referring to your own perception of what I said, you are inferring, not implying. You can only imply when you are the speaker, not the hearer. As the hearer, you infer... but your inferring does not mean that I have actually implied; more often than not it simply means the hearer has inferred incorrectly, reading something into a statement that the speaker never meant to convey.

Surely you would have come across this concept a time or two in all of your extensive studies of language...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 07:39 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 08:06 AM)

Jesus is THE LIGHT. In the Bible, this light is variously represented as "the greater light" (the sun), "the bright and morning star", the "Sun of righteousness", etc. Revelation describes Him as having eyes as a flame of fire, His countenance "was as the sun shineth in his strength."

All other "lights" are secondary, and we might even think of them as reflections of the True Light. Just as the "greater light" of creation week (the sun) is the source of light, and the "lesser light" (the moon) merely reflects that light, so also have the prophets spoken only as they have received from God. Thus, the scriptures are, and can only be, a lesser light to that of Christ, the source of all light.

And, Clay, no problem! "Greenie" is fine by me.

1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

The problem with this is that it is not relevant to what EGW is speaking of in the R&H from Jan 20, 1903. In that she is talking about the testimonies versus the bible, to which many have paid little

heed thus making the testimonies necessary.

FWIW, I see the analogy thusly... EGW is a flashlight, which can help one find the spotlight which is scripture...which can lead one into the light of the sun of righteousness. If one is in the fullness of the light of the sun, neither the flashlight nor the spotlight make that light any greater.

Jesus is indeed the light... but in the statement at hand, in context she is not talking about Jesus; she is talking about the complementary relationship between her writings and the bible.

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: watchbird Sep 26 2006, 07:40 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 07:06 AM)

Jesus is THE LIGHT. In the Bible, this light is variously represented as "the greater light" (the sun), "the bright and morning star", the "Sun of righteousness", etc. Revelation describes Him as having eyes as a flame of fire, His countenance "was as the sun shineth in his strength."

All other "lights" are secondary, and we might even think of them as reflections of the True Light. Just as the "greater light" of creation week (the sun) is the source of light, and the "lesser light" (the moon) merely reflects that light, so also have the prophets spoken only as they have received from God. Thus, the scriptures are, and can only be, a lesser light to that of Christ, the source of all light.

And, Clay, no problem! "Greenie" is fine by me.

1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

And the scriptures are the written record of that Light, and when comparing the writings of scripture with the writings of Ellen White..... which is what the whole context of the passage you have been tearing in pieces was all about..... the writings of scripture are the GREATER witness to and record of that Light.... thus are called the "greater light".... and the writings of Ellen White are the LESSER witness that points to the scriptures as "the greater light" and through them to the same "Greater Light", that of God and His Christ which are the subject of scripture.

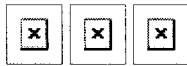
If you don't like calling the writings of Ellen White a "lesser light" and don't like calling the scriptures a "greater light".... so be it. That is your privilege. But if the purpose of the discussion is to determine what Ellen herself meant by the use of this symbolic language, then it is only fair to make the determination of what she meant and your judgement of what she meant as two different issues and statements. And it CERTAINLY is not appropriate for you to label those of us who accept her own definition of her use of her symbols as "heretics".

The facts are that symbols, by their very nature, can have multiple meanings and uses.... and that very often they can hold those different meanings all at the same time. That is one reason why symbols are used. They add a richness to the statements that would be lost if those multiple shades of meaning were not present.

I realize there are those who are incapable of understanding and using symbols as anything other than one more set of literal words, so bound to one dictionary meaning that all other shades of

meanings... or even other definitions and connotations are considered to be wrong. I accept those who have those limitations. I do not grant them the right to claim that theirs is the only correct way to view the world of communication.

Posted by: **simplysaved** Sep 26 2006, 07:50 AM



Preach on, Preacha!!!!

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 04:20 AM)

Well, to state it plainly, as no one has volunteered an answer to the question about what the "lesser light" or the "greater light" means, Ellen White may be a part of the lesser light, but **the Bible is not the greater light**. That was the heresy I referred to. The greater light is none other than Christ Himself. The scriptures are the lesser light, and I will freely include, along with most of Adventism, Ellen White's writings in this category as well, however, she is not the sum and total of the "lesser light" but only a part of it.

This, to me, is fundamental to an understanding of the Gospel. It is the very premise put forward in John 5:39, pointing us to eternal life, not through the scriptures, but through Christ of whom they testify.

To see the parallel between these two statements a little more easily, allow me to shorten them slightly:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light." -EGW

"Search the scriptures; ...and they are they which testify of me." -- John 5:39

And the lesser light is that which leads to the greater light. There can be no greater than Christ Himself.

John, in the Bible, spoke this plainly:

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:6-9

And now, Ellen White on the same point:

"The prophet John was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As God's representative he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. **He was the lesser light, which was to be followed by a greater**. The mind of John was illuminated by the Holy Spirit, that he might shed light upon his people; **but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus**. Christ and His mission had been but dimly understood as typified in the shadowy sacrifices. Even John had not fully comprehended the future, immortal life through the Saviour." {DA 220.2}

And perhaps we need just a little more context to the previously quoted Ellen White statement, as to take it out of its context is to invite a misinterpretation of it.

"The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-

denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth." {YRP 232.3}

Which reminds me of Isaiah 28:13 "But the **word of the Lord** was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..."

Now, where's the Bible-reading smiley? ☹

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 08:04 AM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 07:29 AM) ☐

Surely you would have come across this concept a time or two in all of your extensive studies of language...

Perhaps. Therefore, absolve my faux pas at parrying perceived querulousness, s'il vous plaît, for I be no loquacious backfisch flush with pasigraphy. ☹ ☹

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 08:17 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 10:04 AM) ☐

Perhaps. Therefore, absolve my faux pas at parrying perceived querulousness, s'il vous plaît, for I be no loquacious backfisch flush with pasigraphy. ☹ ☹

Wait a sec... *rummage*... where's that pointy hat I got on victrola fellas day...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 08:19 AM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Sep 26 2006, 07:40 AM) ☐

If you don't like calling the writings of Ellen White a "lesser light" ...And it CERTAINLY is not appropriate for you to label those of us who accept her own definition of her use of her symbols as "heretics".

Watchbird, are you addressing me? These statements seem out of character to anything I have said. I honestly am shocked you would say this. ☹ If you perceived that I called you, or anyone else, a heretic, forgive me, and I did not mean to say, imply, or infer any such thing. ??Did I get those right now?? To say that the Bible is the greater light leaves Christ out of the picture. I called that **concept**

heresy. I never used the word you did. And there's a big difference in my mind.

Posted by: Nuggie Sep 26 2006, 08:21 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 09:04 AM)

Perhaps. Therefore, absolve my faux pas at parrying perceived querulousness, s'il vous plaît, for I be no loquacious backfisch flush with pasigraphy.

Greenie, you're funny...

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 08:25 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 10:19 AM)

To say that the Bible is the greater light leaves Christ out of the picture. I called that **concept** heresy.

Actually, it only leaves Christ out of the picture if one is speaking of greater vs lesser in absolute, rather than relative terms... and we all know only a Sith deals in absolutes.

The passage refers to the testimonies relative to the bible... and in that relative relationship the bible is indeed the greater light of the 2...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Sep 26 2006, 08:32 AM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 08:25 AM)

Actually, it only leaves Christ out of the picture if one is speaking of greater vs lesser in absolute, rather than relative terms... and we all know only a Sith deals in absolutes.

The passage refers to the testimonies relative to the bible... and in that relative relationship the bible is indeed the greater light of the 2...

In His service,
Mr. J

To say that the Bible is the greater light, sort of sounds like you've arrived, though, doesn't it?

Nuggie, I like your signature line...nice quote!

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 09:00 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Sep 26 2006, 10:32 AM)

To say that the Bible is the greater light, sort of sounds like you've arrived, though, doesn't it?

Only if we're going back to the whole inferred/implied thing... dunno if it's just human nature... but folk seem to have an inherent need to interpret what they read and see something beyond what is on the page...

Problem with that is it tends to miss the fact that sometimes a cigar is **just** a cigar... going back to the flashlight:spotlight:sun analogy... relative to the flashlight, the spotlight is a 'greater' light... relative to the sun, that same light is lesser to the point of insignificance...to view it as either greater or lesser it has to be juxtaposed against something else and comparison made and such comparison can be made accurately and without error as long that the relational basis of the comparison is kept in view... but perhaps that's another topic for another time...

DISCLAIMER: The above was made while standing on my general observation soapbox... while your statement brought it to mind I was not replying specifically to you in saying the above... just felt I needed to throw it out there...

As for arriving... umm... I was already there when you showed up

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: watchbird Sep 26 2006, 09:24 AM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 08:25 AM)

Actually, it only leaves Christ out of the picture if one is speaking of greater vs lesser in absolute, rather than relative terms... and we all know only a Sith deals in absolutes.

The passage refers to the testimonies relative to the bible... and in that relative relationship the bible is indeed the greater light of the 2...

In His service,
Mr. J

Absolutely!


btw ... what's a Sith. It sounds like a wonderfully useful word, but I'd sure like to know the context from which it came.

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 09:00 AM)

Only if we're going back to the whole inferred/IMPLIED thing... dunno if it's just human nature... but folk seem to have an inherent need to interpret what they read and see something beyond what is on the page...


Problem with that is it tends to miss the fact that sometimes a cigar is *just* a cigar... going back to the flashlight:spotlight:sun analogy... relative to the flashlight, the spotlight is a 'greater' light... relative to the sun, that same light is lesser to the point of insignificance...to view it as either greater or lesser it has to be juxtaposed against something else and comparison made and such comparison can be made accurately and without error as long that the relational basis of the comparison is kept in view... but perhaps that's another topic for another time...

DISCLAIMER: The above was made while standing on my general observation soapbox... while your statement brought it to mind I was not replying specifically to you in saying the above... just felt I needed to throw it out there...


As for arriving... umm... I was already there when you showed up 


In His service,
Mr. J

Agreed with your general soapbox speech ... and....

As for arriving ummmmm.... yes..... the statement with its context was already there and had been understood by most as saying just what we are saying it is saying a whale of a long time before Greenie showed up. Oh well ... maybe his name is more appropriate than we realized.... 

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 09:25 AM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Sep 26 2006, 11:19 AM) 


Absolutely! 

btw ... what's a Sith. It sounds like a wonderfully useful word, but I'd sure like to know the context from which it came.

Star Wars, Episode III... Obi-Wan tells Anakin that "only a Sith deals in absolutes"... the Sith are the masters of the dark side of the force...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: watchbird Sep 26 2006, 12:01 PM

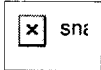
QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 09:25 AM) 

Star Wars, Episode III... Obi-Wan tells Anakin that "only a Sith deals in absolutes"... the Sith are the masters of the dark side of the force...

In His service,
Mr. J

Hmmmm..... OK..... thanks. It does seem quite appropriate. I'll have to remember that.

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 26 2006, 06:05 PM



Yall all above lil' ol' dumb me nah.....

le'sigh

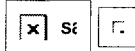
Posted by: seeshell Sep 26 2006, 06:10 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 10:25 AM) □

Star Wars, Episode III... Obi-Wan tells Anakin that "only a Sith deals in absolutes"... the Sith are the masters of the dark side of the force...

In His service,
Mr. J

Oh great...now I'm related to a stripey red guy...sigh.

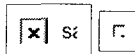


Posted by: princessdi Sep 26 2006, 06:14 PM



QUOTE(seeshell @ Sep 26 2006, 05:10 PM) □

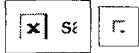
Oh great...now I'm related to a stripey red guy...sigh.



Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 26 2006, 06:19 PM

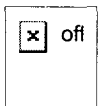
QUOTE(seeshell @ Sep 26 2006, 08:10 PM) □

Oh great...now I'm related to a stripey red guy...sigh.



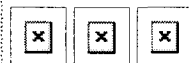
Better the red guy then the....um....black guy.....

OOOOooo we are so



Posted by: seraph|m Sep 26 2006, 07:33 PM

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 26 2006, 09:50 AM) □

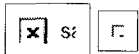
 Preach on, Preacha!!!!



Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 26 2006, 07:44 PM

QUOTE(seeshell @ Sep 26 2006, 08:10 PM) □

Oh great...now I'm related to a stripey red guy...sigh.



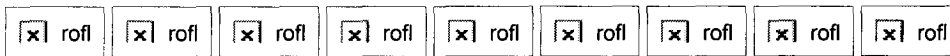
No one has been called a Sith... or anything else... in this thread; that considered, what are you talking about?

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: nick Sep 27 2006, 03:56 AM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Sep 26 2006, 03:24 PM) □

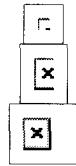
As for arriving ummmmm.... yes..... the statement with its context was already there and had been understood by most as saying just what we are saying it is saying a whale of a long time before Greenie showed up. **Oh well ... maybe his name is more appropriate than we realized....** □



Posted by: simplysaved Sep 27 2006, 07:39 AM



QUOTE(seraph|m @ Sep 26 2006, 08:33 PM) □



Some to many Black SDA churches in major cities to not place her writing before the Bible...some do not even make regular inferences to EGW...

QUOTE(västergötland @ Sep 26 2006, 03:21 AM) □

A few? □

Posted by: awesumtenor Sep 27 2006, 05:36 PM

Ennyway... back on topic...

Dr. Patrick makes the following point in the introduction of his essay "Re-visioning the role of EGW for Seventh-day Adventists beyond 2000":

QUOTE

Christianity offers a saving knowledge of God through Jesus Christ (John 17:3; 1 John 5:20), taught of the Holy Spirit (John 14-16). Libraries of books can be consulted about the process of disclosure (revelation), its trustworthy communication (inspiration), and the help of the Spirit for those who seek to understand and apply the message (illumination).² Christianity has witnessed creative and destructive battles over these doctrines, few more intense than those within the United States during the first three decades of the twentieth century as Fundamentalism³ and Modernism⁴ engaged each other. Seventh-day Adventists belong in neither camp.⁵ However, with a valid concern about Modernism and an ambiguity with reference to Ellen White, many Adventists aligned themselves with the Fundamentalists. Especially since 1970, when Ellen White studies entered a new phase, this lack of clarity has threatened the unity and mission of Adventism.

Unrealistic concepts of inspiration caused many Adventists to adopt extreme positions⁶ with reference to Ellen White's ministry, including reversionist attitudes. The Adventist of Fundamentalist inclination, confronted with a massive amount of new information, tends to elevate an idealized past as normative for the present, requiring a strong continuity (even identity) with that past. Therefore, historical data may be seen as the cause of unnecessary problems; primary sources may appear to initiate doubt about the leading of God; probing questions may seem threatening, with even their asking categorized as evidence of lack of faith. Thus judgmental groups tend to form on the edges of the church and mount a guerrilla war, firing salvos at people and institutions.

The polar opposite to reversion is a rejectionist stance, which declares the past is so unreliable in view of present knowledge or so irrelevant to present needs that separation from it is essential. Historical data may be grasped as a weapon with which to attack the church (as in the writings of Gregory Hunt and Wallace Slattery); primary sources may be used by the rejectionist in an attempt to discredit claims about God's leading. During the resultant confusion some people quietly slip out of the church because they perceive the church as dishonest, or congregations may divide when the advocacy of opposing ideas fragments relationships, or militant individuals may leave Adventism in anger and direct long-range missiles back at them body of Christ.

Meanwhile, the church and its institutions experience turmoil. At a time when there is an enormous need to comprehensively support creationism, great effort may be expended to prop up a peripheral idea--the chronology of Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656). When health and educational institutions need creative help to express Adventist values to patients and students, they may be threatened by well-meaning authors and administrators responding to negative reports which often turn out to be rumors. With unity under threat, bewildered leaders may grasp promising solutions offered in books like *Omega and Receiving the Word*, only to witness intensified conflict and a tarnishing of the church's credibility.⁷ Adventist ministers, historians, scientists, and religion teachers at times find hazardous the professions for which they prepared with great effort and outlay. Accountability is essential, as is a creative tension between academic freedom and academic responsibility. But to be effective, these professionals and their institutions also need accurate understanding from laity and leaders if the church is to proceed coherently with the fulfillment of its mission.

This point begs the following question... how then does the church pilot it's way through this latter day Scylla and Charibdis without being dashed on the rocks of either the reversionist or rejectionist sides? How do we stay on that middle path and avoid either extreme? Can those extremes even be avoided at all?

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Clay Sep 27 2006, 06:19 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 27 2006, 05:36 PM)

Ennyway... back on topic...

Dr. Patrick makes the following point in the introduction of his essay "Re-visioning the role of EGW for Seventh-day Adventists beyond 2000":

This point begs the following question... how then does the church pilot it's way through this latter day Scylla and Charibdis without being dashed on the rocks of either the reversionist or rejectionist sides? How do we stay on that middle path and avoid either extreme? Can those extremes even be avoided at all?

In His service,
Mr. J

i don't know that it is possible.... as you have noted, there is a polarization taking place and each polar opposite ain't moving towards the center.... so both fight for the extremes...

Posted by: watchbird Sep 27 2006, 06:53 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 27 2006, 05:36 PM)

Ennyway... back on topic...

Dr. Patrick makes the following point in the introduction of his essay "Re-visioning the role of EGW for Seventh-day Adventists beyond 2000":

This point begs the following question... how then does the church pilot it's way through this latter day Scylla and Charibdis without being dashed on the rocks of either the reversionist or rejectionist sides? How do we stay on that middle path and avoid either extreme? Can those extremes even be avoided at all?

In His service,
Mr. J

Keep reading. The answer is in the other option.... "Re-visioning" the role. And there are a LOT of practical suggestions in the material, as well as a lot of reporting on how various individuals... including scholars..... are going about it.

Patrick was on the "bleeding edge" of Ellen White studies back in the early 80's.... and even got his hands slapped a few times. But he has outlasted his critics, and is being joined by many others especially in his own country, but also in the United States and elsewhere.

Will ALL join in the "re-visioning"? of course not. But as more and more material is brought out which utilizes this thought framework there is more for the rest of us to focus upon. And here, as in life in general, "where you look is where you go". One can focus on criticizing either of the extremes..... and be drawn into one or the other "camp". Or one can focus on the new and help establish "re-visioning" as the view of choice for future generations.

It's our individual choice.

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 27 2006, 09:13 PM

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 27 2006, 09:39 AM)

Some to many Black SDA churches in major cities to not place her writing before the Bible...some do not even make regular inferences to EGW....

More do take her over the Bible than don't - GC proved that in several sermons.

Posted by: seraph|m Sep 29 2006, 06:15 PM

QUOTE(simplysaved @ Sep 27 2006, 09:39 AM)



Some to many Black SDA churches in major cities to not place her writing before the Bible...some do not even make regular inferences to EGW....

Well, is it "some or many"? And have you attend all of those some or many churches you speak of to make said statement? Yes/No or, have tried but it became to tiresome and or costly doing all that traveling? Please share.

Posted by: SoulEspresso Sep 29 2006, 06:40 PM

QUOTE(seraph|m @ Sep 29 2006, 05:15 PM)

Well, is it "some or many"? And have you attend all of those some or many churches you speak of to make said statement? Yes/No or, have tried but it became to tiresome and or costly doing all that traveling? Please share.

I can't speak to black churches in urban areas, not having been to even one in a long time sc .
But in my experience, it depends on the local body.

Right now I live in a very rural part of the country where some congregations use her all the time, to the point of using her to interpret the Bible, and some don't. I think it mostly depends on the lay leadership (since the pastors aren't necessarily there every Sabbath).

It was the same thing when I lived overseas. Individual congregations vary in flavor elsewhere too.

Posted by: seraph|m Sep 29 2006, 07:12 PM

Fact is: we live on a sinful planet in the midst of a war. Fact is, Ellen White didn't like that, nor does God, nor do I.

and?

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 30 2006, 09:12 AM

The fact remains that many....Many - more than not... (per my visitation of at least 50 different churches in the north to the south; east to west) have stated a Bible scripture; and then stated something akin to...


"We know this to be a fact because EG White also states...."

OR


"Sister White says.....and this we know is true...."

That is it. Point Blank.

Posted by: HUGGINS130 Sep 30 2006, 02:12 PM


 snr deep thoughts thus far!!!

Posted by: Hersheys99 Sep 30 2006, 04:05 PM

Then they wonder why some people have a problem & quit attending church when its their self righteous attitudes that caused it or should I say Holier than thou attitudes. 

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Sep 30 2006, 04:25 PM

QUOTE(Hersheys99 @ Sep 30 2006, 06:05 PM)

Then they wonder why some people have a problem & quit attending church when its their self righteous attitudes that caused it or should I say Holier than thou attitudes. 



 snr

Posted by: västergötland Oct 1 2006, 01:58 AM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Sep 30 2006, 04:12 PM)

The fact remains that many....Many - more than not... (per my visitation of at least 50 different churches in the north to the south; east to west) have stated a Bible scripture; and then stated something akin to...

"We know this to be a fact because EG White also states...."

OR

"Sister White says.....and this we know is true...."

That is it. Point Blank.

That sounds just wrong...

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 1 2006, 08:28 AM

QUOTE(västergötland @ Oct 1 2006, 02:58 AM)

That sounds just wrong...

Yes...it sounds wrong.
...but it is repeated many Sabbaths in many churches.



Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 1 2006, 08:49 AM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Oct 1 2006, 08:28 AM)

Yes...it sounds wrong.
...but it is repeated many Sabbaths in many churches.



Would you consider it "self-righteous" or "wrong" to quote, say, Exodus 20:8 and James 2:10 and then say that we know that the Sabbath is God's law and it's wrong to break it?

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 1 2006, 10:21 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 1 2006, 10:49 AM)

Would you consider it "self-righteous" or "wrong" to quote, say, Exodus 20:8 and James 2:10 and then say that we know that the Sabbath is God's law and it's wrong to break it?

What I feel is "wrong" is to say that the Bible is "Right" due to this "agreeing" with EG White..... or even taking it further....

"This is against the Bible - *however* EG White says it *this* way so...it must be right..."

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 1 2006, 10:39 AM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Oct 1 2006, 10:21 AM)

What I feel is "wrong" is to say that the Bible is "Right" due to this "agreeing" with EG White..... or even taking it further....

"This is against the Bible - *however* EG White says it *this* way so...it must be right..."

And do you have a list of things that are "against" the Bible which Ellen White says?

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 1 2006, 08:18 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 1 2006, 11:39 AM)

And do you have a list of things that are "against" the Bible which Ellen White says?

I only need the one for now.....

EG White's "judgement" on people that eat meat having a "lesser spirituality" and "animalistic tendencies" and "passions" that are caused strictly by the eating of meat.

Since no where in the Bible does it say that someone eating meat is a "lower" CHRISTian I believe this is contradictory. (Also note that JESUS ate meat. So when EG White spoke this statement - she was also speaking about my LORD & SAVIOR JESUS).

...but nobody (except for one) will address this.....

Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 1 2006, 08:55 PM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Oct 1 2006, 09:18 PM)

I only need the one for now.....

EG White's "judgement" on people that eat meat having a "lesser spirituality" and "animalistic tendencies" and "passions" that are caused strictly by the eating of meat.

Since no where in the Bible does it say that someone eating meat is a "lower" CHRISTian I believe this is contradictory. (Also note that JESUS ate meat. So when EG White spoke this statement - she was also speaking about my LORD & SAVIOR JESUS).

...but nobody (except for one) will address this.....

And she also perpetuates the lie that Mary Magdalene was a woman of ill-repute... not to mention commingling the woman of Nain in Luke 7, Mary Magdalene and Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus as if they were one in the same person.... when it is clear in scripture that they are not...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: alramwill Oct 1 2006, 08:55 PM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Oct 1 2006, 08:18 PM)

I only need the one for now.....

EG White's "judgement" on people that eat meat having a "lesser spirituality" and "animalistic tendencies" and "passions" that are caused strictly by the eating of meat.

Since no where in the Bible does it say that someone eating meat is a "lower" CHRISTian I believe this is contradictory. (Also note that JESUS ate meat. So when EG White spoke this statement - she was also speaking about my LORD & SAVIOR JESUS).

...but nobody (except for one) will address this.....

Good response....I was thinking the same thing.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 1 2006, 10:10 PM

QUOTE(PrincessDrRe @ Oct 1 2006, 08:18 PM)

I only need the one for now.....

EG White's "judgement" on people that eat meat having a "lesser spirituality" and "animalistic tendencies" and "passions" that are caused strictly by the eating of meat.

Since no where in the Bible does it say that someone eating meat is a "lower" CHRISTian I believe this is contradictory. (Also note that JESUS ate meat. So when EG White spoke this statement - she was also speaking about my LORD & SAVIOR JESUS).

...but nobody (except for one) will address this.....

Perhaps it will ease your mind a little to know that Ellen White does not counter the Bible on this issue. The Bible itself recognizes that the eating of meat is not best. (It is one of the seven "gray issues" I have found in the Bible and posted in another thread.) For a start, consider that meat was not in the original diet, nor will it be eaten in heaven. We are trying to prepare for life in heaven, right? The children of Israel provide a clear example of the moral/spiritual decline which results from the use of flesh foods. The story of the quail is an appropriate study here. I grant you that God

Himself has allowed the use of meat, but permission is not the same as recommendation. In the case of the Israelites, God had provided them something **better**, and they complained and wanted to go back to that which was worse. Because of their insistence, God gave them their way, "but sent leanness to their souls." This is always the case whenever we choose a lower standard, not just with meat, but with any other aspect of Christian life. God may permit certain things, but when we cling to that which is not best while at the same time have something better available, do you think He is happy and glorified?

QUOTE

"They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." Psalm 106:13-15

Our bodies are the temple of God. We should take care of it as best we can. I am a lifelong vegetarian who almost made the difficult choice to commence the eating of meat while in a foreign country deprived of adequate protein in the diet. I had felt myself growing weaker over time, and perhaps, if I had not found a good source of imported beans, it would have been **best** for me to eat some meat (which is not even palatable to me!). We must take care of our bodies with the **best** that we have. If, however, one has something better than meat available, they accept a lower standard for their body temple to continue in its use.

The Bible may not always say what we like to hear--but that should serve to increase our respect for it.

Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 1 2006, 10:47 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 2 2006, 12:10 AM)

Perhaps it will ease your mind a little to know that Ellen White does not counter the Bible on this issue. The Bible itself recognizes that the eating of meat is not best. (It is one of the seven "gray issues" I have found in the Bible and posted in another thread.) For a start, consider that meat was not in the original diet, nor will it be eaten in heaven.

Grains and vegetables werent part of the original diet either and the entrance of sin caused the whole of creation on the earth to suffer under it's curse... yet you have no issue with their consumption; in fact you endorse and recommend it...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 1 2006, 10:53 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Oct 1 2006, 10:47 PM)

Grains and vegetables werent part of the original diet either and the entrance of sin caused the whole of creation on the earth to suffer under it's curse... yet you have no issue with their consumption; in fact you endorse and recommend it...

In His service,
Mr. J

You sound defensive. Especially since I did not say would you say I said. Nor does the Bible say what you say it does. Read Genesis 1:29 carefully, and then tell me what part of that diet does NOT include grains and beans.

Posted by: Clay Oct 2 2006, 12:25 AM

Greenie said:

QUOTE

For a start, consider that meat was not in the original diet, nor will it be eaten in heaven. We are trying to prepare for life in heaven, right? The children of Israel provide a clear example of the moral/spiritual decline which results from the use of flesh foods.

Well a couple of points... we are not the original people so consequently our bodies may not respond to the "original diet" like the original people's bodies did.... The original clothing was nakedness.... not endorsing that I see....

We are not preparing for heaven, we are being prepared for heaven... there is a significant difference...

The issue of quail and the COI used in this discussion is way off base... given that while in captivity they developed habits and tastes, and worship practices that God had to re-educate them, it was not moral decline... unless you are saying that the whole captive experience impacted them and they had to become reacquainted with what God wanted from them..... so it wasn't the food, it was the overall experience....

Posted by: Denny Oct 2 2006, 05:32 AM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 2 2006, 07:25 AM)

Greenie said: Well a couple of points... we are not the original people so consequently our bodies may not respond to the "original diet" like the original people's bodies did.... The original clothing was nakedness.... not endorsing that I see....

We are not preparing for heaven, we are being prepared for heaven... there is a significant difference...

The issue of quail and the COI used in this discussion is way off base... given that while in captivity they developed habits and tastes, and worship practices that God had to re-educate them, it was not moral decline... unless you are saying that the whole captive experience impacted them and they had to become reacquainted with what God wanted from them..... so it wasn't the food, it was the overall experience....

Plus if God thought that the COI eating meat contributed to their spiritual decline He would not have made it a part of their rituals e.g Passover.

Amazing how people who are so eager to endorse the original diet say very little or nothing about bringing back original gender relationships but seem to prefer the Paulian model.

And even if the whole of humanity became vegetarians we would still be a bunch of sinners who happened to be vegetarian; there would be no spiritual 'increase' or decline in immoral behaviour.

Posted by: Clay Oct 2 2006, 05:42 AM

true..... folks want to adhere to the pre sin diet and the post sin relationship.... interesting what we pick and choose to make our practice.....

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 2 2006, 07:56 AM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 2 2006, 05:42 AM)

true..... folks want to adhere to the pre sin diet and the post sin relationship.... interesting what we pick and choose to make our practice.....

You won't hear me telling everyone to become vegetarian...certainly not for their own personal level, at least. I do, however, greatly appreciate our churches and institutions providing vegetarian cuisine, because it can appeal to everyone. Meat eaters *can* eat non-meat dishes, at least once in a while!

I feel like it should be left to the Holy Spirit to convict each of us of the things in our lives that we need to change. God knows how much and how fast we can individually handle those changes in our lives, and I'm sure glad He is patient with me. I, for example, gave up milk a few years ago. The proverbial straw to break the camel's back for me was learning that a relative had died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. I have been much more stable in physical and emotional health since I've been weaned.

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 2 2006, 08:19 AM

QUOTE(princessdi @ Sep 25 2006, 09:38 PM)

Ok, so you missed the part of the story where Moses got mad at the COI down there worshipping the golden calf and broke the wone written by God, and he had to write the second set himself. So not only did God write them he also dictated them....

Did I now? I'm a little suprised that no one else answered this...so...may the Bible defend itself:

Deuteronomy

10:1 At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood.

10:2 And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark.

10:3 And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand.

10:4 And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

Don't forget that not only did God write the commandments on two tables of stone TWICE, He also proclaimed them audibly to all the host of Israel, in their hearing. Hundreds of thousands of people

witnessed this, and had Moses later misrepresented them in any way (of course God's own handwriting was stored in the ark), someone would have doubtless corrected him.

Posted by: Clay Oct 2 2006, 08:53 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 2 2006, 08:19 AM)

Did I now? I'm a little suprised that no one else answered this...so...may the Bible defend itself:

we knew you wanted to answer the question in your own unique way Greenie.....

Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 2 2006, 09:06 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 2 2006, 12:53 AM)

You sound defensive. Especially since I did not say would you say I said. Nor does the Bible say what you say it does. Read Genesis 1:29 carefully, and then tell me what part of that diet does NOT include grains and beans.

LOL... *I* sound defensive? You've been nothing but since you opened your mouth... nevertheless...

Gen 1:29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

I was incorrect; grains were part of the original diet... 'every herb bearing seed' is more accurately rendered 'grass bearing ' or in modern english every grain.

Beans and other plants that require cultivation (the sweat of man's brow) did not become part of the diet until after sin.

In His service,
Mr. J

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 2 2006, 02:25 AM)

Greenie said: Well a couple of points... we are not the original people so consequently our bodies may not respond to the "original diet" like the original people's bodies did.... The original clothing was nakedness.... not endorsing that I see....

Not to mention these bodies we currently inhabit cannot enter heaven; this mortal must put on immortality and this corruptible must put on incorruption.

Bottom line the argument is thin... but not unexpected from one who by his own admission was culturally a vegetarian first and then later acquired the purported theological rationalization for that cultural stance. As one who has been a vegetarian all his life, GC has never seen meat eating

objectively... and in all likelihood has never tried to; that is why he keeps standing up all the traditional strawmen and then patting himself on the back for a job well done when he has knocked them down...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: LeePaDee Oct 2 2006, 12:31 PM

GREENCO WROTE:

For a start, consider that meat was not in the original diet, nor will it be eaten in heaven. We are trying to prepare for life in heaven, right?

-----There will be no marriage in heaven ... are you advocating that we practice "no marriage" these days??

Posted by: Vada Oct 2 2006, 02:15 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Sep 26 2006, 02:53 AM) □

In another thread, Watchbird mentioned the articles and papers written by Dr. Arthur Patrick, a noted Adventist church historian/theologian and one time Director of the Ellen G White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Center that serves the South Pacific Division, on EGW, her writings and the necessary perspective we need to have today in order to properly understand and apply the counsel handed down to us through the Testimonies.

Dr. Patrick had a series of 4 interviews with the editor of the Record which were published in the South Pacific Division Record and which are available to be read at <http://sdanet.org/atissue/white/patrick/egw-surfing.htm> and the editor of the Record wrote an editorial in the issue containing the first of the articles that carried the title of this thread.

I would encourage anyone interested to read them; I feel this is a dialog we need to have and while I recognize that some are unwilling and others are unable to deal with such a topic at this point in their walk with Christ, that cannot prevent the remainder of us from looking at this in an objective fashion, parking the preconceived notions of what we may have been taught in order to see EGW and her ministry as she saw it rather than how others chose to paint it after her death...

So... once more into the breach, dear friends...

In His service,
Mr. J

Dr Patrick's assessment of Ellen White and her writings seems to be much the same as Dr Graeme Bradford's. Someone has just directed us to this official statement by the White Estate.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/more-prophet.asp>

A NOTICE REGARDING MORE THAN A PROPHET

Dr. Graeme Bradford, retired professor from the Theology Department of Avondale College, recently authored a privately-published book entitled, *More Than a Prophet: How We Lost and Found Again the Real Ellen White*. The Foreword and advertising incorrectly state that the manuscript was evaluated favorably by officers of the Ellen G. White Estate. In actuality, while recognizing elements of the book on which we can agree, the White Estate staff has strong concerns regarding several of

the viewpoints expressed in the book.

Included among these concerns are the following:

- The book expresses the view that prophets in the New Testament and beyond generally carry less authority than Old Testament prophets, and that the individual and/or congregation must separate the wheat from the chaff in the messages even of genuine prophets. Such a view confirms people in the human tendency to accept what they like in inspired writings and to reject as "chaff" the things with which they disagree.
 - The book suggests that because Ellen White used sources in her writings relating to history, prophecy, health, or theology, the views she expressed may have originated more from her contemporaries than divine inspiration. Her depiction of end-time events, for example, as found in *The Great Controversy*, is portrayed as deriving primarily from the expectations of 19th century North American Adventists, having little application to today's global society.
 - While the White Estate staff recognizes that Ellen White was fallible and subject to human frailties—not unlike the biblical prophets—we maintain that certain positions taken in the book do not fairly reflect the understanding of Ellen White and her associates regarding her prophetic ministry, and fail to represent fully Ellen White's prophetic contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- A review of *More Than a Prophet* will be offered at this site in the future. For a well-balanced discussion of God's system of communication with human beings, we recommend *The Voice of the Spirit*, by the former director of the White Estate, Dr. Juan Carlos Viera, and *Messenger of the Lord*, by Dr. Herbert E. Douglass.

Posted by: SoulEspresso Oct 2 2006, 02:30 PM

QUOTE(Vada @ Oct 2 2006, 01:15 PM)

<http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/more-prophet.asp>

A NOTICE REGARDING MORE THAN A PROPHET

Dr. Graeme Bradford, retired professor from the Theology Department of Avondale College, recently authored a privately-published book entitled, *More Than a Prophet: How We Lost and Found Again the Real Ellen White*. The Foreword and advertising incorrectly state that the manuscript was evaluated favorably by officers of the Ellen G. White Estate. In actuality, while recognizing elements of the book on which we can agree, the White Estate staff has strong concerns regarding several of the viewpoints expressed in the book.

Included among these concerns are the following:

- The book expresses the view that prophets in the New Testament and beyond generally carry less authority than Old Testament prophets, and that the individual and/or congregation must separate the wheat from the chaff in the messages even of genuine prophets. Such a view confirms people in the human tendency to accept what they like in inspired writings and to reject as "chaff" the things with which they disagree.
- The book suggests that because Ellen White used sources in her writings relating to history, prophecy, health, or theology, the views she expressed may have originated more from her contemporaries than divine inspiration. Her depiction of end-time events, for example, as found in *The Great Controversy*, is portrayed as deriving primarily from the expectations of 19th century North American Adventists, having little application to today's global society.
- While the White Estate staff recognizes that Ellen White was fallible and subject to human frailties—not unlike the biblical prophets—we maintain that certain positions taken in the book do not fairly reflect the understanding of Ellen White and her associates regarding her prophetic ministry, and fail to represent fully Ellen White's prophetic contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A review of *More Than a Prophet* will be offered at this site in the future. For a well-balanced discussion of God's system of communication with human beings, we recommend *The Voice of the Spirit*, by the former director of the White Estate, Dr. Juan Carlos Viera, and *Messenger of the Lord*, by Dr. Herbert E. Douglass.

Well, all due respect to the White Estate, but they've got a long history of inflating her role and authority (\$ a factor, perhaps?) ... and *Messenger of the Lord* is **not** a balanced book. It's hagiography. Bradford's stuff is a little better, what I've seen of it anyway.

Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 2 2006, 02:42 PM

QUOTE(Vada @ Oct 2 2006, 04:15 PM) □

Dr Patrick's assessment of Ellen White and her writings seems to be much the same as Dr Graeme Bradford's. Someone has just directed us to this official statement by the White Estate.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/more-prophet.asp>

A NOTICE REGARDING MORE THAN A PROPHET

Dr. Graeme Bradford, retired professor from the Theology Department of Avondale College, recently authored a privately-published book entitled, *More Than a Prophet: How We Lost and Found Again the Real Ellen White*. The Foreword and advertising incorrectly state that the manuscript was evaluated favorably by officers of the Ellen G. White Estate. In actuality, while recognizing elements of the book on which we can agree, the White Estate staff has strong concerns regarding several of the viewpoints expressed in the book.

Included among these concerns are the following:

- The book expresses the view that prophets in the New Testament and beyond generally carry less authority than Old Testament prophets, and that the individual and/or congregation must separate the wheat from the chaff in the messages even of genuine prophets. Such a view confirms people in the human tendency to accept what they like in inspired writings and to reject as "chaff" the things with which they disagree.
- The book suggests that because Ellen White used sources in her writings relating to history, prophecy, health, or theology, the views she expressed may have originated more from her contemporaries than divine inspiration. Her depiction of end-time events, for example, as found in *The Great Controversy*, is portrayed as deriving primarily from the expectations of 19th century North American Adventists, having little application to today's global society.
- While the White Estate staff recognizes that Ellen White was fallible and subject to human frailties—not unlike the biblical prophets—we maintain that certain positions taken in the book do not fairly reflect the understanding of Ellen White and her associates regarding her prophetic ministry, and fail to represent fully Ellen White's prophetic contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A review of *More Than a Prophet* will be offered at this site in the future. For a well-balanced discussion of God's system of communication with human beings, we recommend *The Voice of the Spirit*, by the former director of the White Estate, Dr. Juan Carlos Viera, and *Messenger of the Lord*, by Dr. Herbert E. Douglass.

You'd think that some could do just a little better than guilt by association as a means of discrediting...

Riddle me this, batman...

If the views of Dr. Patrick and anyone else who diverges from the .org party line are so dismissable, why did the transcripts of the 1919 Bible Conference lie hidden for 64 years? The issues raised by Dr. Patrick, Dr. Bradford and others are not new; they are merely new to this generation of Adventists. Had the information they are addressing been brought out 65 years ago as it should have been, in all likelihood, there is no "The White Lie" because Ellen White would not have be set up as someone worthy of worship... yeah I know; I've already heard it.... the whole 'we dont worship EGW' spiel...

and from many of those spouting it they sound like the current administration on torture... the track record is patently inconsistent with the claim.

The church, IMO, has so embraced the ellenolatrist view that they have no choice but to try to discredit anything that could do damage to that view or call it into question...

The church disagrees with Dr Bradford... and by associative extension Dr. Patrick... but given that the points they make were not initiated by them but rather were items of concern for those who worked with Sis. White going back 100 years from today, concerns that the church saw fit to bury in favor of the revisionist, infallible posthumous pope of Adventism slant speaking ex cathedra ex sepulchra and hoping that none of the concerns which were widely known in the church prior to 1920 and buried since saw the light of day...

Why is that?

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: Clay Oct 2 2006, 02:52 PM

as Soul Espresso hinted... follow the money... and the other factor, but elevating her writings the powers that be could control the members... literally causing many to stop thinking and rely on egw for everything from dress, to diet, to proper marriage activity..... and the dollars keep rolling in....

Posted by: Mel Oct 3 2006, 09:34 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Sep 29 2006, 07:55 PM)

the fact is that her writings are used incorrectly.... and they are used in a manner she would not have liked... Now let's deal with the issues of the church covering up the leaderships reservations about her writings and how they should be used.... not to mention they met about it then burying the minutes of the meeting for decades...

Here's some historical research and facts that speak to this matter. Following are the first 8 or 9 paragraphs of a chapter on the 1919 Bible Conference/History Teacher's Council from Dr. Herb Douglass's book "Messenger of the Lord". It was particularly interesting for me to note the circumstances and motivations around the "burying of the minutes for decades". The balance of this chapter (indeed the whole book) can be found on the White Estate's website at <http://www.whiteestate.org/books/mol/Chapt38.html> -Mel

P.S. Just noticed the following comment by SoulExpresso, "...Messenger of the Lord is not a balanced book. It's hagiography...". I have not seen anything like that in the little I've read in this book. Mind sharing some examples of what has struck you as the book's hagiographic lack of balance...? Thanks... -Mel

Chapter 38
Hermeneutics/7
1919 Bible Conference/History Teachers Council

The Locked-up Manuscript
The Fruit of Ellen White's Ministry
The Core Issue

Dark Cloud of Verbal Inspiration
What Should We Learn From the 1919 Conference/Council?
W. C. White Not Present
Downside of Verbal Inspiration
Endnotes
Study Questions

"The 'pioneer position' urged that the writings could not be divided into 'inspired' and 'uninspired' sections, but seemed to have no real means of dealing with apparent discrepancies. The 'new view position,' with its emphasis upon context, offered a means of explaining those apparent discrepancies. Each side seemed to have additional concepts that could have been useful to the other. Sufficient opportunity for a dialogue seemed to be present."¹

In 1919 a Bible Conference was held July 1-19, and a Teachers Council July 20-August 1. About sixty-five people attended these two meetings, not all present for both. About twenty-eight teachers are listed in attendance at the Council, representing fourteen colleges (2- and 4-year).²

Stenographers transcribed not only the lectures but also much of the ensuing discussions—a massive record of 2,494 pages. However, nearly half of these pages are duplicates, with the first copy totaling 1,308 pages. Of the 1,308 pages, about 1,100 are from the Bible Conference, the remainder from the Council.³

This material lay unnoticed in the General Conference archives until a year after the establishment of the General Conference Archives in 1983. Why were these records placed in the archives? The answer lies in the record itself. Many delegates talked freely, often in strong disagreement. Some would make comments that they would moderate after discussion. The judgment of many suggested that no possible good could come from publicizing the disagreements among leading Adventist thinkers over such colorful topics as "the Eastern question." Some believed that it would be "a rather hazardous thing to throw this out all over." Others wanted the material reduced about fifty percent and provided to the delegates only. Some wanted a synopsis sent to all church members, and others wanted nothing sent out.

After listening to the discussion, A. G. Daniells, president of the General Conference and chairman of the Bible Conference, said: "I sometimes think it would be just as well to lock this manuscript up in a vault, and have anyone who wishes to do so come there for personal study and research."⁴

The Locked-up Manuscript

It is more than interesting that the president's suggestion (which was eventually followed) was made subsequent to a spirited discussion regarding such subjects as the Eastern question and the Arian-Trinity controversy.⁵ Unfortunately, some have used Daniells' statement to include the discussion on the authority and inspiration of Ellen White, a discussion that took place on July 30 and August 1, two weeks after Daniells's suggestion "to lock up this manuscript."

The two-day discussion in the Teachers Council on the role and function of Ellen White illuminated how Christians through the centuries, especially since the Reformation, have been in disagreement as to how God speaks through His prophets. One of the Adventist advantages is that Adventists lived very closely to Ellen White throughout her seventy-year ministry. They saw all aspects of her life and work. But even then, some Adventists strongly advocated the verbal inspiration position while others, more keenly aware of the process of revelation/inspiration, maintained the thought-inspiration position. This fundamental contention lay at the bottom of the discussion in 1919.

With W. E. Howell as chair of the Council, Daniells was asked to make the opening statement. He referred to his confidence in Ellen White even though he "had perplexities through the forty years" of his ministry, "but time has helped me to understand; and I have concluded that we do not see from the Lord's standpoint."

One of his concerns was the charge that he himself was a "doubter of the Testimonies" because he

did not believe that they were verbally inspired.⁶ He appealed to the teachers: "Oh, I would feel terribly to have this denomination lose its true, genuine, proper faith in this gift that God gave to this church in these messages that have come to us. I want that we shall stay by this clear through to the end."⁷

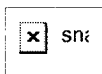
< s n i p >

Endnotes for the above excerpts...

1. Bert Haloviak, "Background and Aftermath of the 1919 Bible and History Teachers Conference," an unpublished paper, 1979.
2. Robert W. Olson, "The 1919 Bible Conference and Bible and History Teachers Council," available from the E. G. White Estate.
3. Ibid.
4. Stenographic report of the 1919 Bible Conference and Bible and History Teachers Council, p. 912.
5. The Eastern question refers to the interpretation of the "king of the North" in Daniel 11. Most had been preaching strongly, especially in evangelism, that the "king" was Turkey; others believed that the "king" referred to the activities of the Papacy at the end of time; see Schwarz, *Light Bearers*, pp. 400-402.
6. See pp. 16, 120, 173, 375, 376, 421 for a discussion of the difference between verbal inspiration and thought inspiration.
7. One of Daniells's most lasting contributions to this church was his book, *The Abiding Gift of Prophecy*.
8. As an example of such "demonstrations," Daniells referred to the story of Ellen White holding a "heavy Bible" on her outstretched hand. J. N. Loughborough records this miracle in his *Rise and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists* (pages 103, 104) and later in *The Great Second Advent Movement* (pages 236, 237) based on interviews he had with eyewitnesses of the event. Cursory readers of this discussion have mistakenly concluded that Daniells questioned the historicity of the event. They have missed Daniells's point, which he clarified later in the discussion when specifically asked whether he was discrediting the miracle or stating that he would not use such manifestations as a "proof" of inspiration. He replied, "No, I do not discount them nor disbelieve them; but they are not the kind of evidence I would use with students or with unbelievers. . . . I do not question them, but I do not think they are the best kind of evidence to produce." (*Spectrum*, vol. 10, No. 1, p. 37.)

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 16 2006, 05:38 PM

Just a quick note - When I went to Elmshaven; the home of EG White - it was stated that the story of her holding a giant bible for hours while preaching on one hand was an exaggeration. They did show her "Bible" - but it was stated by her **own relatives** that the story had been blown out of proportion (in other words - stretched/a lie).



Posted by: Lubega Oct 16 2006, 06:22 PM

WOW that is news to me. Tell me this, Why do they allow the church to print things like that if they have no truth to them? It the church bot

But really why?



Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 16 2006, 06:51 PM

QUOTE(Lubega @ Oct 16 2006, 06:22 PM)

WOW that is news to me. Tell me this, Why do they allow the church to print things like that if they have no truth to them? ...

They have truth. But some folks have exaggerated, that's all. Did they say at Elmshaven that she had held the Bible for about 15-30 minutes? That's what I learned in grade school. Not hours. But we all tried to hold out a large dictionary which would have been equivalent of her family Bible, and we couldn't hold it at arm's length more than a minute. I'd say it was a miracle...I don't know even any grown men who would hold such a weight at arms length for 15 minutes. (I had never heard the "hours" figure before, so that was news to me....)

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 19 2006, 09:09 PM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 16 2006, 07:51 PM)

They have truth. But some folks have exaggerated, that's all. Did they say at Elmshaven that she had held the Bible for about 15-30 minutes? That's what I learned in grade school. Not hours. But we all tried to hold out a large dictionary which would have been equivalent of her family Bible, and we couldn't hold it at arm's length more than a minute. I'd say it was a miracle...I don't know even any grown men who would hold such a weight at arms length for 15 minutes. (I had never heard the "hours" figure before, so that was news to me....)

When I saw the Bible - (replica of same in case) and was given the tour - it was stated that it was held for **5 TO 10 MINUTES** and that it wasn't held by **ONE HAND** but switched back and forth BETWEEN BOTH OF HER HANDS

...by **HER OWN RELATIVES.....**

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 19 2006, 11:57 PM

Heh...let's see you do that! Switch it back and forth between your hands, still holding it out at ARMS LENGTH for, let's say 5 minutes! I'd like to see this! You might actually be able to do it, if you are extremely determined and don't mind a little sweat poppin' out on your forehead!

rofl I doubt you'd feel too comfortable though.

Heh, when I was in school, one of my teachers used to inflict punishments on us for our mischiefs

such as "the wall sit", the "dying cockroach", or the "duck waddle!" Hahaha....none of those was pleasant. Any of you get such punishments? Maybe I'm giving clues to my age now...hahaha... The wall sit was only for a minute usually, maybe two...and if you ever got up to three, you were getting pretty uncomfortable!

As for the relatives...a prophet is not without honor, except in his own house...in Jesus' words. I guess I don't give the relatives any more credibility than any other witness--maybe less. ☐ To me, a book that size at arm's length for even 10 minutes, if you wish are wishing to play down those numbers, is still nothing short of a miracle for a woman whose weakness and frailty is well-documented. BTJM.

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 20 2006, 04:28 AM

QUOTE(Green Cochoa @ Oct 20 2006, 01:57 AM) ☐

Heh...let's see you do that! Switch it back and forth between your hands, still holding it out at ARMS LENGTH for, let's say 5 minutes! I'd like to see this! ☐ You might actually be able to do it, if you are extremely determined and don't mind a little sweat poppin' out on your forehead! ☒ rofl

☐ ☒ I doubt you'd feel too comfortable though.

Heh, when I was in school, one of my teachers used to inflict punishments on us for our mischiefs such as "the wall sit", the "dying cockroach", or the "duck waddle!" Hahaha....none of those was pleasant. Any of you get such punishments? Maybe I'm giving clues to my age now...hahaha... The wall sit was only for a minute usually, maybe two...and if you ever got up to three, you were getting pretty uncomfortable!

As for the relatives...a prophet is not without honor, except in his own house...in Jesus' words. I guess I don't give the relatives any more credibility than any other witness--maybe less. ☐ To me, a book that size at arm's length for even 10 minutes, if you wish are wishing to play down those numbers, is still nothing short of a miracle for a woman whose weakness and frailty is well-documented. BTJM.

Go to Elmshaven. Again - we chose to believe what we want to. While in the tour they (EGW's relatives) also spoke of her not being a "prophet" but having "words from GOD" - and her hate of the elevation to "prophet" (her actual direct command to not do so also).

We call the woman a "prophet" - when she herself stated not to.
We believe what we want; even when given factual information by those that have the true story.


Frail? Naw. Slightly unhealthy due to a head injury - possible. I'll give you that. ...but not frail (per her own relatives again....) Not discrediting the "story" (clutch the invisible/missing pearls!) but showing the fallacy of it and still the story being the basis of a miracle. A true miracle doesn't need embellishment.

Who am I to believe you over them (her own descendents/relatives)? Then again - who are you to believe me who took the tour - spoke directly with her direct descendents (who hold original documents that have not been seen by "outsiders of the family") - over the stories, (proven) lies, and fables that you have heard over the years of your life?



 snk

Posted by: Denny Oct 20 2006, 05:23 AM

Whether EGW held the bible for 10 seconds or 10 hours the fact that some Adventists seem to need these stories to bolster the truth of her messages or that yes EGW was a true whatever to me is no better than people making a trip to Lourdes to see visions etc.... And we like to look down on churches that have that kind of thing don't we.... Good thing the dead know nothing cos Sista Ellen would turn in her grave. 

Posted by: Green Cochoa Oct 20 2006, 09:18 AM

Hmmm....

Some food for thought:

And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?


* * * *


And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

* * * *

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Posted by: watchbird Oct 20 2006, 10:21 AM

QUOTE(Denny @ Oct 20 2006, 07:23 AM) 

Whether EGW held the bible for 10 seconds or 10 hours the fact that some Adventists seem to need these stories to bolster the truth of her messages or that yes EGW was a true whatever to me is no better than people making a trip to Lourdes to see visions etc.... And we like to look down on churches that have that kind of thing don't we.... Good thing the dead know nothing cos Sista Ellen would turn in her grave. 

One of the great mysteries of the Adventist church is why the EGW Estate, which was originally

founded to "carry out the instructions of Ellen White" regarding the use of her materials in perpetuity, so quickly and so thoroughly disobeyed those orders and have continued to "shoot her in the foot" to this very day.

Examples ... she was VERY explicit in forbidding the excerpting of her works.... even going so far as to say that "I have not written a book of proverbs".... and urging people to examine the context, not only of any specific statement, but also comparing that with other statements on the same subject. Yet the books of bound excerpts rolled from the presses ... are still sold ... and books even more fitting the description "proverbs" are still being assembled and marketed.

Meanwhile ... back on the ranch people like Craig Newborn, Jon Paulien, George Knight, Woodrow Whidden, Arthur Patrick, and Greame Bradford ... to name but a few ... are working diligently to "save" the real Ellen for future generations. And while the EGW Estate is also working towards the same goal.... and making it much easier to attain.... by making all the source material available to researchers... and working on making it all available to everyone... they are at the same time, picking and choosing whom they will support and whom they will refuse to support, thus calling into question not only the integrity of the persons they cast doubts upon, but upon their own integrity as well.

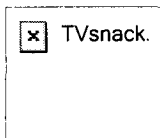
For a very current and explicit example of this, please take a look at the official EGW Estate webpage, <http://www.ellenwhite.com/> and note the item marked with a "new" gif that reads

More Than A Prophet

Official White Estate Statement

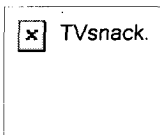
Dr. Graeme Bradford, retired professor from the Theology Department of Avondale College, recently authored a privately-published book entitled, More Than a Prophet: How We Lost and Found Again the Real Ellen White. <http://www.ellenwhite.com/issues/more-prophet.asp>

It is very short ... very vague ... please read before continuing to the info below....

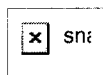


Now ... once you have ruminated on the statement above a bit.... go read Graeme Bradford's response.... which you will find at <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/white/bradford/response.htm>

This will take longer. Take your time.



Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 20 2006, 04:47 PM

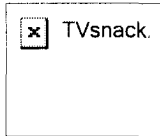


Well!

Posted by: Lubega Oct 21 2006, 12:01 AM

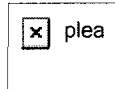
Now ... once you have ruminated on the statement above a bit.... go read Graeme Bradford's response.... which you will find at <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/white/bradford/response.htm>

This will take longer. Take your time.

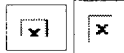


[/quote]

I tried to open this site and it would not load. I would love to read it if you can check it and see what the problem may be.



WOW once I copied it into my reply to you then it opened. So disregard my last post I will go and read now. Carry on

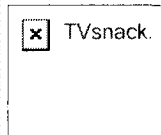


Posted by: watchbird Oct 21 2006, 03:09 AM

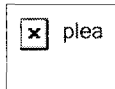
QUOTE(Lubega @ Oct 21 2006, 02:01 AM)

Now ... once you have ruminated on the statement above a bit.... go read Graeme Bradford's response.... which you will find at <http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/white/bradford/response.htm>

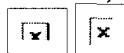
This will take longer. Take your time.



I tried to open this site and it would not load. I would love to read it if you can check it and see what the problem may be.



WOW once I copied it into my reply to you then it opened. So disregard my last post I will go and read now. Carry on

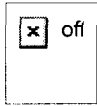


My bad. Really scrambled link code.

Thanks much for waking me up..... all fixed now!

Carry on.....

Posted by: PrincessDrRe Oct 21 2006, 10:55 AM



I thought it was just my computer - I fixed it and found it too....

Oopse!

Maybe I should tell folks when I do that.....



Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 21 2006, 03:26 PM

QUOTE(watchbird @ Oct 21 2006, 05:09 AM)

My bad. Really scrambled link code.

Thanks much for waking me up..... all fixed now!

Carry on.....

Carrying on, aye... Looking at the now properly rendered link, one finds some things of interest:

QUOTE

QUOTE

*2. "The book suggests that because Ellen White used sources in her writings relating to history, prophecy, health, or theology, the views she expressed may have originated more from her contemporaries than divine inspiration. Her depiction of end-time events, for example, as found in The Great Controversy, is portrayed as deriving primarily from the expectations of 19th century North American Adventists, having little application to today's global society."

Here again the White Estate have not fairly represented what I am saying. I would encourage those who want to understand more on Ellen White's ministry the above related items to go to their nearest Research Centre and ask for the papers presented at the "1982 International Prophetic Guidance Workshop". They should especially spend time with the paper presented by the then Director of the White Estate Dr Robert Olson on "Inerrancy in Inspired Writings." They should also listen to the taped recording of the presentation and the discussion that follows. If they do they will hear not only Robert Olson but also Arthur White, Kenneth Wood, Jim Nix, etc discussing these issues. I am amazed that the White Estate should challenge me in many of the above areas when they so openly and freely discussed them in their 1982 workshop.

If they were going to hide these papers and presentations away to avoid their becoming public, why did they bother to allow the research at all? Given the copious amount of references to EGW Estate materials in Dr. Bradford's work, it seems to me that the Estate is lacking in their maintaining the

legacy of EGW if they find a work largely researched in their archives and presenting material they maintain so unpalatable...

QUOTE

In 1982 the White Estate called an "International Prophetic Guidance Workshop" to help meet the threat posed by Walter Rae and others. Many fine papers were presented and I would encourage each reader to not only read these papers but also to listen to the audio tapes of the ensuing discussions.

I have referred to a paper by Roger Coon on page 213 here is its outline:

Re-education of church members needed

In the 1982 International Prophetic Guidance Workshop, Roger Coon presented a paper that called for the re-education of church membership in understanding the function of Ellen White's writings.

The first part of the paper sets out the problems listed, in part, here

A. The Crisis in Hermeneutic

1. Most Seventh-day Adventists probably have a seriously impaired view of inspiration/revelation.

Bias toward strictly verbal (mechanical dictation) position.

2. Danger when they discover factual data contrary to their view:

Instead of adjusting their theory to fit demonstrated facts,[sic]

Discard prophet[sic] instead of bad theory (throw out baby with bathwater)

B. The Crisis in Credibility:

2. Danger to Church member who hears the charges:

Credibility of EGW challenged

Credibility of high church leaders (past/present) challenged.

B. Methodological Approaches That Tend To Build Credibility:

1. Openness: total honesty/candor

a. Admit the honestly made mistakes of the past:

Putting EGW upon pedestal above Bible writers

Misuse of some statements

(the words that I speak . . . " etc.)

Demonstrate her personal fallibility

Demonstrate her personal vulnerability

a. Honestly face controversial issues; don't duck them:

b. Deal openly with the existence of some things "hard to be understood"

The workshop where this paper and others were presented was a high point in the church's attempt to come to grips with the reality of the problems regarding Ellen White and her function and authority. Unfortunately, what Coon and others were advocating was not really taken up. **As in the 1919 Conference so in the 1982 Conference. In both cases there was a determination**

to share the material with the membership at large, but in both cases the material was assigned to the too hard basket with the feeling that the membership could not handle the new information. So the bulk of the Adventist membership has little knowledge of the information that has come to hand over the past two decades and are left vulnerable when forced to face the evidence placed before them in a negative way.

The bolded statement begs a single question: WHY??????????????????

It's like the old Fram oil filter commercials; the church was presented with a choice... both in 1919 and in 1982... pay now... or pay later... and in both instances they chose to pay later with disastrous consequences... even with the loss of those who would have found the material difficult to handle in 1919... or even in 1982 it would have been better for the church to put it out there. The response of some in this forum to these things makes that clear... at least to me it does.

in His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: watchbird Oct 21 2006, 06:10 PM

QUOTE(awesumtenor @ Oct 21 2006, 05:26 PM)

Carrying on, aye... Looking at the now properly rendered link, one finds some things of interest: "Here again the White Estate have not fairly represented what I am saying. I would encourage those who want to understand more on Ellen White's ministry the above related items to go to their nearest Research Centre and ask for the papers presented at the "1982 International Prophetic Guidance Workshop". They should especially spend time with the paper presented by the then Director of the White Estate Dr Robert Olson on "Inerrancy in Inspired Writings." They should also listen to the taped recording of the presentation and the discussion that follows. If they do they will hear not only Robert Olson but also Arthur White, Kenneth Wood, Jim Nix, etc discussing these issues. **I am amazed that the White Estate should challenge me in many of the above areas when they so openly and freely discussed them in their 1982 workshop .**"

If they were going to hide these papers and presentations away to avoid their becoming public, why did they bother to allow the research at all? Given the copious amount of references to EGW Estate materials in Dr. Bradford's work, it seems to me that the Estate is lacking in their maintaining the legacy of EGW if they find a work largely researched in their archives and presenting material they maintain so unpalatable...

The bolded statement begs a single question: WHY??????????????????

In searching for an answer to "WHY???????", it will be helpful to note the implications of the statement above I have bolded.

The striking thing about the negative review of Bradford's book is not that it is an indication of an attitude of general negativity by the White Estate... but that is is so unexpected, given their own work in the same areas that he covers in his book, and that others have done and are currently doing. The wonderment is in the inconsistency they are showing by putting this negative comment on their site... obviously even before they have done a thorough review of the book.

If you will go to their website, <http://www.ellenwhite.com/> and choose "Issues and Answers" from their left hand menu, you will see a wealth of material which is there for the same purpose as Bradford wrote his book.... to combat the myths that have grown up around Ellen White and put her in a more "human" light.

So why do this to his book? I can only conclude that it must have more to do with personalities and politics than it does with his content. But that is, admittedly, only a guess. The important thing, IMO, is that we do not take the EGW Estate negative comment about his book either as an official position of "the church" nor do we use it to make a blanket condemnation of them, since there is much they are doing that is along the very same line.

I'm not sure how much information to put in a single post ... I have some other reference material, but perhaps that would be best left for another time. In the meantime I invite us to wander through the url above.... I think we'll find some interesting stuff.

QUOTE
It's like the old Fram oil filter commercials; the church was presented with a choice... both in 1919 and in 1982... pay now... or pay later... and in both instances they chose to pay later with disastrous consequences... even with the loss of those who would have found the material difficult to handle in 1919... or even in 1982 it would have been better for the church to put it out there. The response of some in this forum to these things makes that clear... at least to me it does.

in His service,
Mr. J

I don't think the two occasions can really be seen as this identical. While it is true that the 1919 materials lay completely unheard of until Haloviak started his task of going through the old boxes that were stored in what was to become the "archives", the 1982 materials were the results of studies already going on by a wide assortment of Adventist scholars. And the study done then resulted in a new openness rather than in further suppression. And the climate for open studies and new ways of handling Ellen White materials loosened up considerably after this time.

Tomorrow I'll post some other source material that is available on-line along these lines, as well as some other information about Bradford's book and what some others are saying about it.

Posted by: Clay Oct 23 2006, 09:14 AM

we are still waiting.... on the additional info I mean... where are you WB?

Posted by: watchbird Oct 23 2006, 04:30 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 23 2006, 11:14 AM)
we are still waiting.... on the additional info I mean... where are you WB?

Don't you know that "tomorrow never comes"?
Sorry about that.... been flyin' here and there ... Just walked in the door a few moments ago..... I'll get back to it soon..... hopefully not prophetic time.....

Posted by: watchbird Oct 23 2006, 08:11 PM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 23 2006, 11:14 AM)

we are still waiting.... on the additional info I mean... where are you WB?

Well ... by now I have quite lost my chain of thought ... or at least it has gotten so tangled in other chains of thought that I'm really not quite sure where I had intended to go next or where to start.

But I'm quite sure I intended to bring the urls of Bacchiocchi's website pages where he introduced and gave a few chapters from Bradford's book as well as some testimonials FOR the book... which help balance out the negative things hinted at by the rather vague EGW Estate statement.

It would probably be helpful if someone would cut out the appropriate portions of Bacchs newsletter and post it here, so it would be easier for others to read and compare.. and if someone else doesn't do it first I might do that myself.... but for tonight I'll just give the urls and a brief description of what is in each. Thanks to Thomas, btw, for initially pointing out which newsletter numbers they were. I would never have found them otherwise.

Bacchiocchi first addressed it in his newsletter number 150, "Ellen White and the Trinity". where there are several paragraphs giving some background on both the book and the author and the purpose for which it is written. http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/et_150.htm


In newsletter number 151, Bacchiocchi repeats his order information for the book and then gives the text of chapters 11 and 12 of Graeme Bradford's book, which address issues having to do with "The Credibility of Ellen White." http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/et_151.htm

Newsletter number 152 gives chapter 24, "Ellen White and the Bible. " http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/et_152.htm

In newsletter number 155, Bacchiocchi shares some responses of favorable experiences people have reported with reading More Than A Prophet http://www.biblicalperspectives.com/endtimeissues/et_155.htm

There is also an essay on "Ellen White's Theological Growth", which is taken from chapter 15.

What is not clear to me (since I don't have the book and cannot make actual comparisons) is whether or not the chapters Bacchiocchi includes are the actual chapters from Graeme's book or are Bacch's approximation or paraphrase of them. Maybe someone here has a copy of his book and could enlighten us on that.

Enjoy the reads..... see you tomorrow.... 

Posted by: Clay Oct 24 2006, 09:23 AM

read it... the question then is in light of her own view of herself why did the church find it necessary to embellish the perception of who she was to the point that she was some superhuman prophetess not to be questioned ever?

Posted by: Denny Oct 24 2006, 09:26 AM

QUOTE(Clay @ Oct 24 2006, 04:23 PM)

read it... the question then is in light of her own view of herself why did the church find it necessary to embellish the perception of who she was to the point that she was some superhuman prophetess

not to be questioned ever?

One word, two syllables, beings with C

Posted by: beanchild Oct 27 2006, 12:35 PM

uhh, so what is the two syllable word?

Posted by: LeePaDee Oct 27 2006, 01:05 PM

cash... nope that can't be it
... and I callz m'sef an Angle-ish teacher ... sometimes I crack me up!!

Posted by: Clay Oct 27 2006, 01:41 PM

QUOTE(beamchild @ Oct 27 2006, 01:35 PM)

uhh, so what is the two syllable word?

con-trol

Posted by: laryfromGary Oct 30 2006, 11:31 AM

As I have read the history of this denomination and the controversy concerning story of Elen White being, or not being, a prophet. I have come to the conclusion that there are some in this church who desires to keep the image of her being a prophet, as many of our older members, those who came after the Miniapolis conference where the first meeting concerning her writings were discussed and the subsequent teaching/promoting her writings as on the same level as the biblical prophets began, and those of us who just see her as one of the founding members of this denomination who helped form the doctrines of our church. This on going battle between the White Library, and those who make use of her writings to formulate their own personal use [Both sides for the purpose of selling books [to make money in order not to get a REAL job, is nothing but a battle of small minded men with an ego complex who are like children arguing over who has the best bike. It is nothing but a "tempest in a tea pot" It means nothing as far as my salvation is concerned because I have already made up my mind as far as she is or is not a prophet.

This childish behavior will do nothing but 1.} Cause them to lose their salvation because the whole thing has nothing to do with Christ and the plan of saving the lost, and 2} Will keep this denomination in a mind set of those who formed the church over 100 years ago.

I think it is time to put this whole thing in a sealed box and store away in locked room. Whether she was a prophet or not has nothing to do with getting people ready to meet the Lord.

Posted by: awesumtenor Oct 30 2006, 12:00 PM

QUOTE(laryfromGary @ Oct 30 2006, 12:31 PM)

2} Will keep this denomination in a mind set of those who formed the church over 100 years ago.

Actually the mindest is of about 85 years ago, after she died. Those that formed this church believed in the idea of progressive truth and as such held no doctrine so dear that they would not toss it overboard if their continued study showed it to be wrong. It was only after EGW died that the faction whose position now holds sway in much of the church became ascendant.

QUOTE

I think it is time to put this whole thing in a sealed box and store away in locked room. Whether she was a prophet or not has nothing to do with getting people ready to meet the Lord.

Ironically, it was putting things " in a sealed box" and storing them "away in a locked room" that allowed these mindsets to become entrenched...

In His service,
Mr. J

Posted by: beanchild Oct 30 2006, 03:28 PM

QUOTE(laryfromGary @ Oct 30 2006, 01:31 PM)

...
I think it is time to put this whole thing in a sealed box and store away in locked room. Whether she was a prophet or not has nothing to do with getting people ready to meet the Lord.

sometimes things have to be brought into the open. things that stay in locked boxes too much tend to mildew and go bad. sunlight i hear is cleansing...

Powered by Invision Power Board (<http://www.invisionboard.com>)
© Invision Power Services (<http://www.invisionpower.com>)