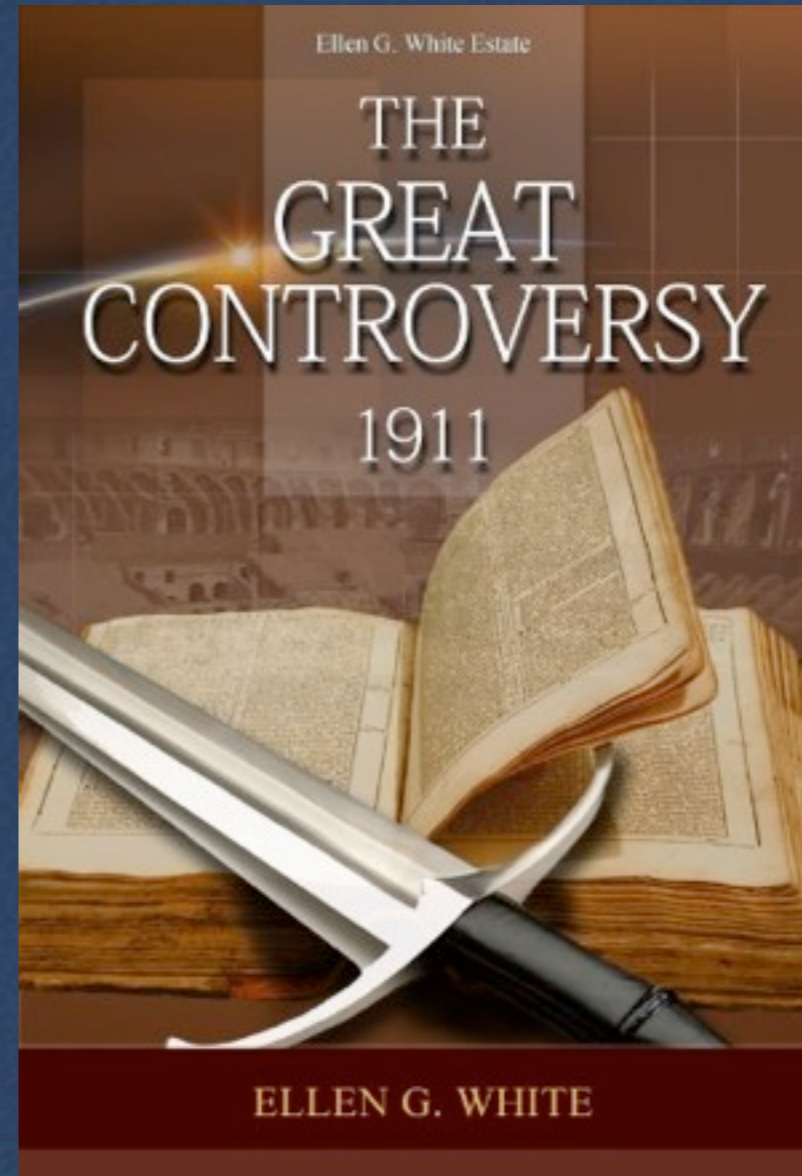


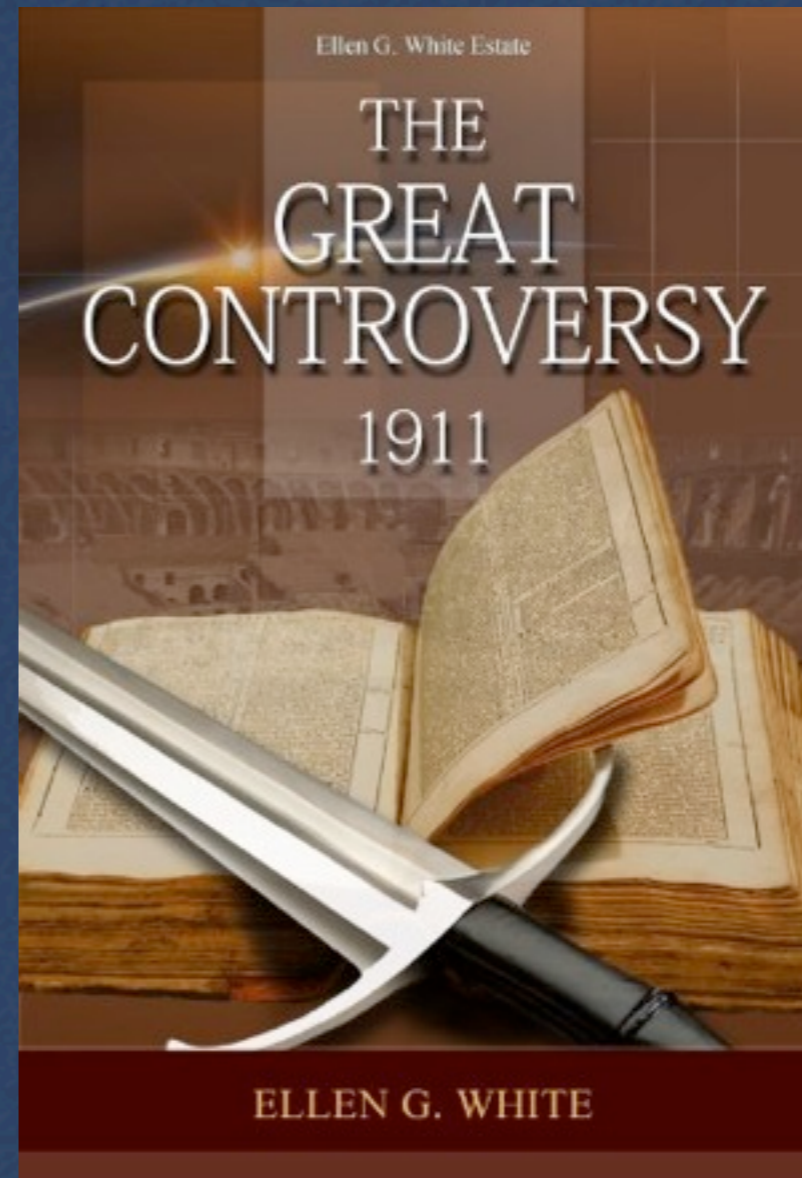
The Most Important Book Outside of the Bible

Norman McNulty, M.D.

January 2, 2014

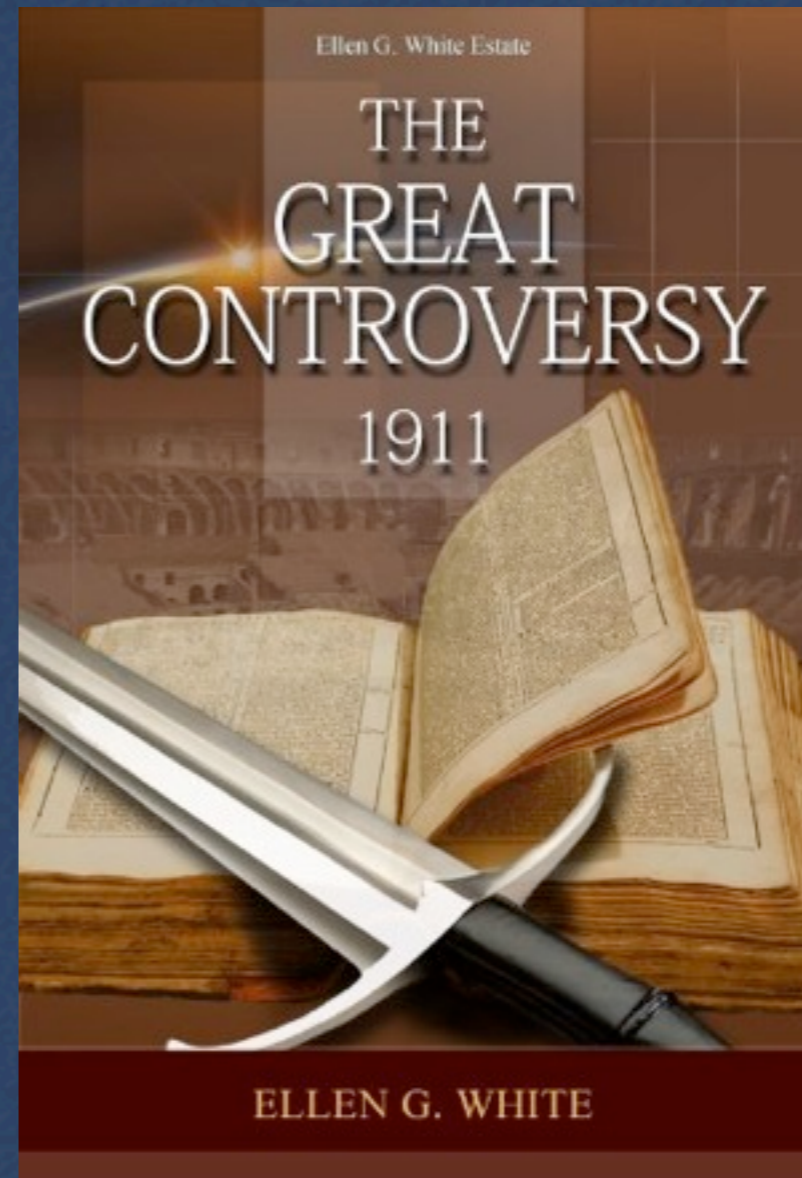


The Great Controversy



The Great Controversy

By Ellen G. White



Personal Testimony



Personal Testimony

Norman McNulty



Ellen G. White



Ellen G. White

- ✦ What was her view on *The Great Controversy*?



Ellen G. White's View

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ "*The Great Controversy* should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written, for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given **more distinctly** than in any of my other books." — Letter 281, 1905

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ In *The Desire of Ages*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Great Controversy*, and in *Daniel and the Revelation*, there is precious instruction. These books must be regarded as of special importance, and **every effort** should be made to get them before the people. — Letter 229, 1903; CM 123

Ellen G. White's View

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ The light given was that *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, The Great Controversy, and Patriarchs and Prophets*, would make their way. They contain the very message the people must have, the special light God had given His people. The **angels of God would prepare the way** for these books in the hearts of the people. — CM 123

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ The results of the circulation of this book [*The Great Controversy*] are not to be judged by what now appears. By reading it, some souls will be aroused, and will have courage to unite themselves at once with those who keep the commandments of God. But a much larger number who read it will not take their position until they see the very events taking place that are foretold in it.

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ The fulfillment of some of the predictions will inspire faith that others also will come to pass, and when the **earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord**, in the closing work, many souls will take their position on the commandments of God as the result of this agency. — Manuscript 31, 1890; CM 128

Ellen G. White's View

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ God gave me the light contained in *The Great Controversy* and *Patriarchs and Prophets* and this light was needed to **arouse the people to prepare for the great day of God, which is just before us.** These books contain God's direct appeal to the people. Thus He is speaking to the people in **stirring words**, urging them to make ready for His coming. The light God has given in these books should not be concealed. — CM 129

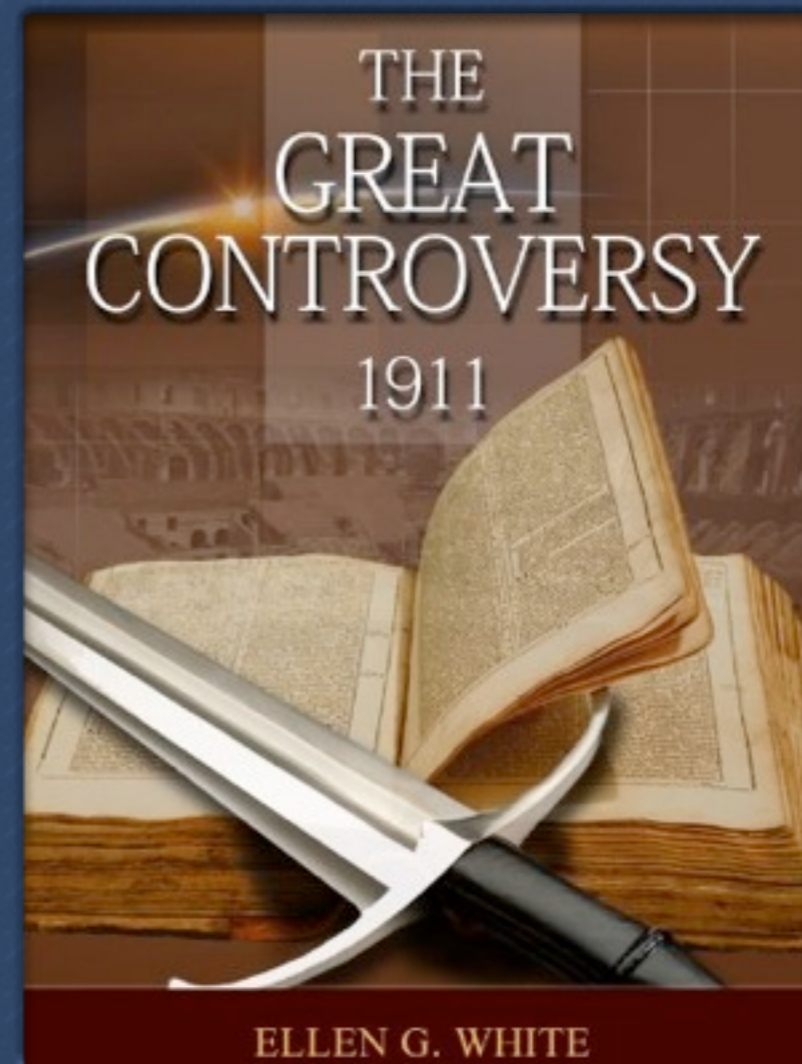

Ellen G. White's View

- ✦ *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *The Great Controversy*, are books that are **especially adapted** to those who have **newly come to the faith**, that they may be established in the truth. The dangers are pointed out that should be avoided by the churches.

Ellen G. White's View

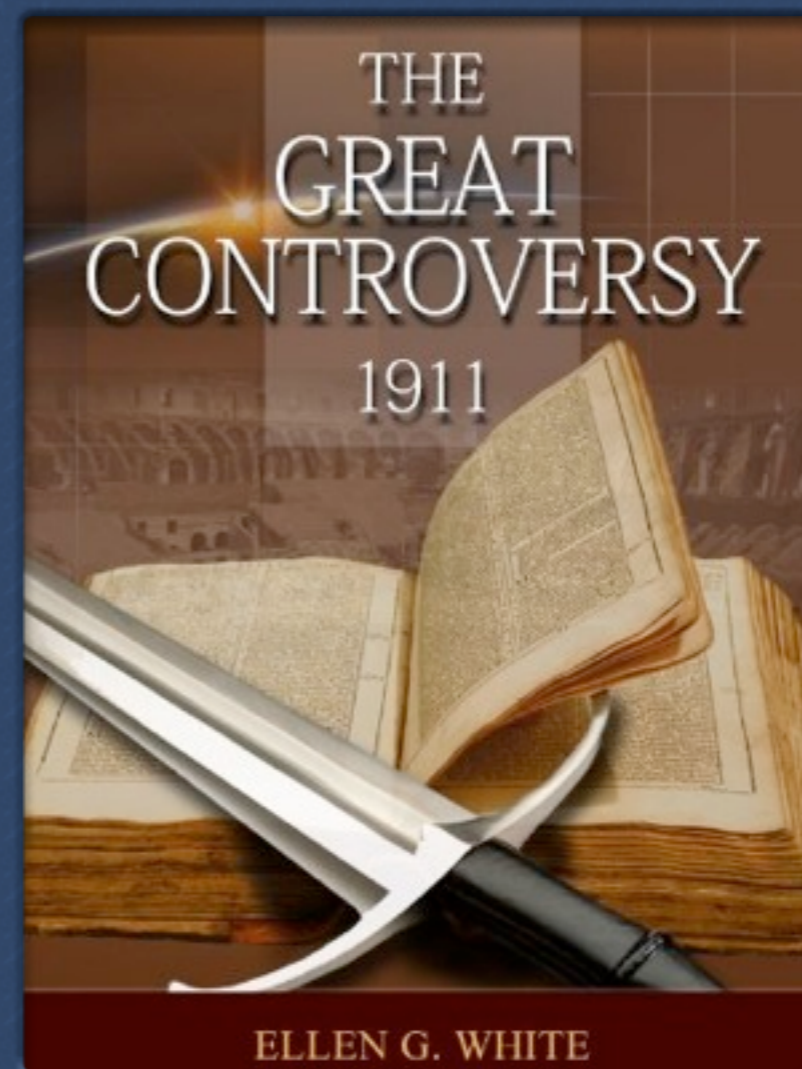
- ✦ Those who become thoroughly acquainted with the lessons in these books will see the dangers before them, and will be able to discern the plain, straight path marked out for them. They will be kept from strange paths. They will make straight paths for their feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. — Letter 229, 1903; CM 129

The Story of Struggle



The Story of Struggle

Satan attacks Ellen White
to prevent its publication



The Great Controversy *Vision of 1858*

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ The weekend of March 13 and 14, 1858, Elder James White and his wife, Ellen G. White, attended meetings at Lovett's Grove, near Bowling Green, Ohio. On Sunday afternoon, the fourteenth, a funeral service was conducted by James White in the schoolhouse where the Sabbath meetings had been held. Following her husband's discourse, Mrs. White arose and began to speak words of comfort to the mourners.

The Great Controversy *Vision of 1858*

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ While thus speaking, she was taken off in vision, and for two hours, during which time the congregation remained in the building, the Lord through divine revelation opened up to her many matters of importance to the church. Of this she wrote:

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ “In the vision at Lovett’s Grove, most of the matter which I had seen ten years before concerning the great controversy of the ages between Christ and Satan, was repeated, and I was instructed to write it out. I was shown that while I should have to contend with the powers of darkness, for Satan would make strong efforts to hinder me, yet I must put my trust in God, and angels would not leave me in the conflict.” —*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 162.

The Great Controversy *Vision of 1858*

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ The day following, James and Ellen White began their homeward journey. On the train, they reviewed their recent experiences and discussed plans for writing out the vision, and for publishing that portion relating to the great controversy. This, it was decided, should be Mrs. White's first work after reaching home.

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ Little did they realize the anger of Satan because of this revelation of his character and wiles, or the intensity of his determination to defeat the plans for the writing and publishing of the proposed book.

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ Arriving at Jackson, Michigan, en route to Battle Creek, they visited their old friends at the home of Daniel R. Palmer. At this time Mrs. White was in usual health, and the following experience, as given in her own words, came as a complete surprise:

The Great Controversy *Vision of 1858*

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ “As I was conversing with Sister Palmer, my tongue refused to utter what I wished to say, and seemed large and numb. A strange, cold sensation struck my heart, passed over my head, and down my right side. For a time I was insensible, but was aroused by the voice of earnest prayer. I tried to use my left limbs, but they were perfectly useless.”—*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p 162.

The Great Controversy Vision of 1858

- ✦ “As I was conversing with Sister Palmer, my tongue refused to utter what I wished to say, and seemed large and numb. A strange, cold sensation struck my heart, passed over my head, and down my right side. For a time I was insensible, but was aroused by the voice of earnest prayer. I tried to use my left limbs, but they were perfectly useless.”—*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p 162.
- ✦ <http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/4sop-suppl.html>: article by Arthur L. White.

Satan's attack on Ellen White



Satan's attack on Ellen White

- ✦ Satan clearly tried to destroy Ellen White so that *The Great Controversy* would never be published.



The Great Controversy



The Great Controversy

✦ Revelation 12



The Great Controversy

- ✦ Revelation 12
- ✦ Clearest Chapter in Scripture on the Great Controversy



The Great Controversy

- ✦ Revelation 12
- ✦ Clearest Chapter in Scripture on the Great Controversy
- ✦ War in Heaven



The Great Controversy

- ✦ Revelation 12
- ✦ Clearest Chapter in Scripture on the Great Controversy
- ✦ War in Heaven
- ✦ War Comes to Earth



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

✦ Revelation 12:17



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Revelation 12:17
- ✦ Dragon is wroth/
enraged with the
woman



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Revelation 12:17
- ✦ Dragon is wroth/enraged with the woman
- ✦ Keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

✦ Revelation 19:10



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Revelation 19:10
- ✦ Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy



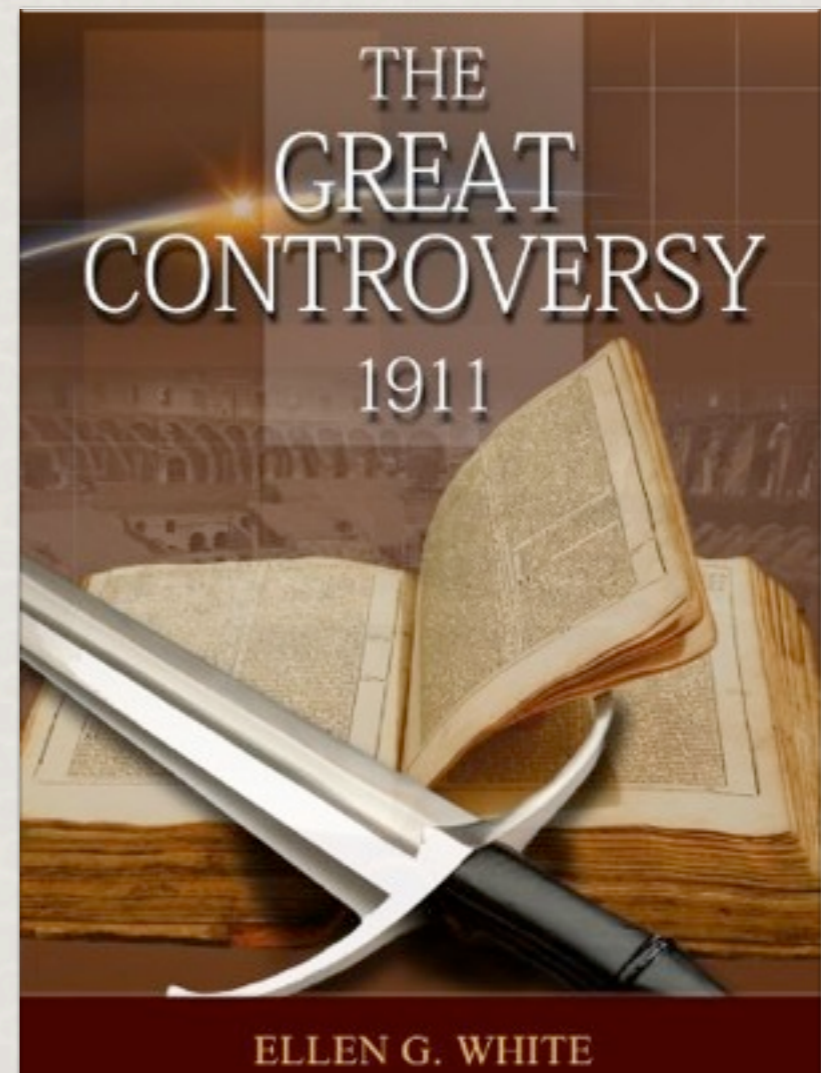
Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Revelation 19:10
- ✦ Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy
- ✦ Revelation 22:9



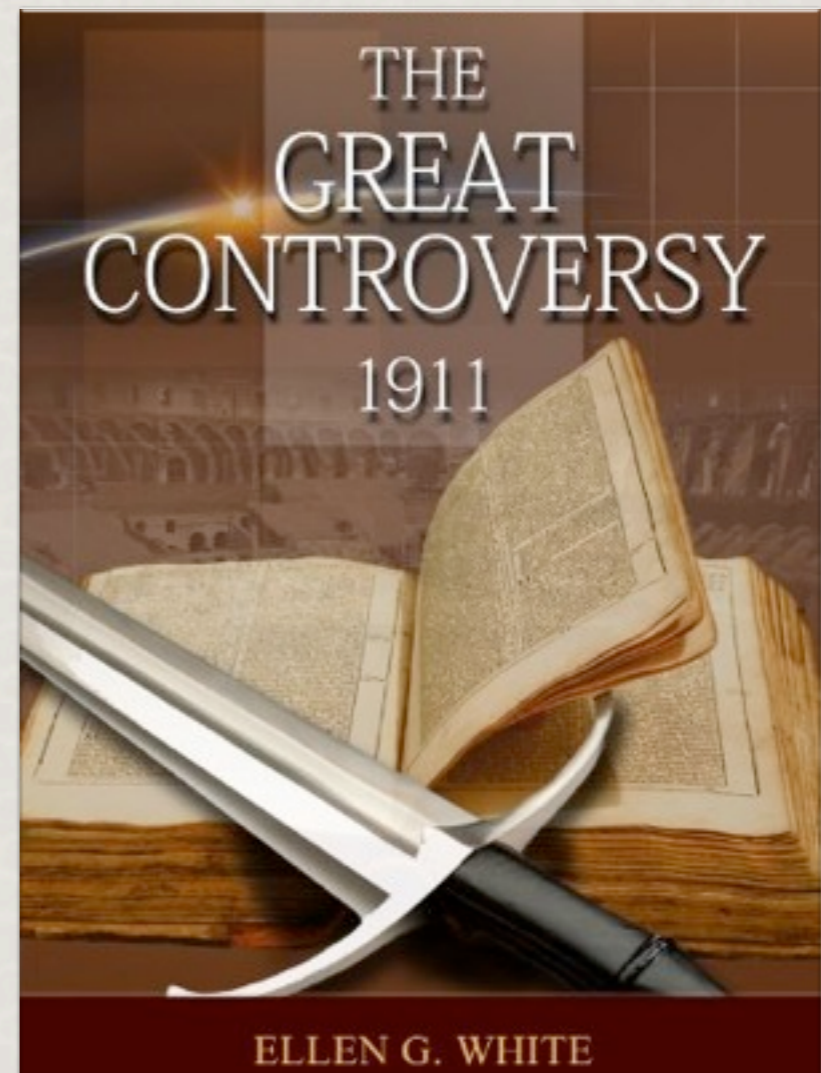
Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ The very last deception of Satan will be to make of **none effect** the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).
2SM 78



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Satan will work **ingeniously**, in different ways and through different agencies, to **unsettle** the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.
2SM 78



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy



Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is **satanic**. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason:

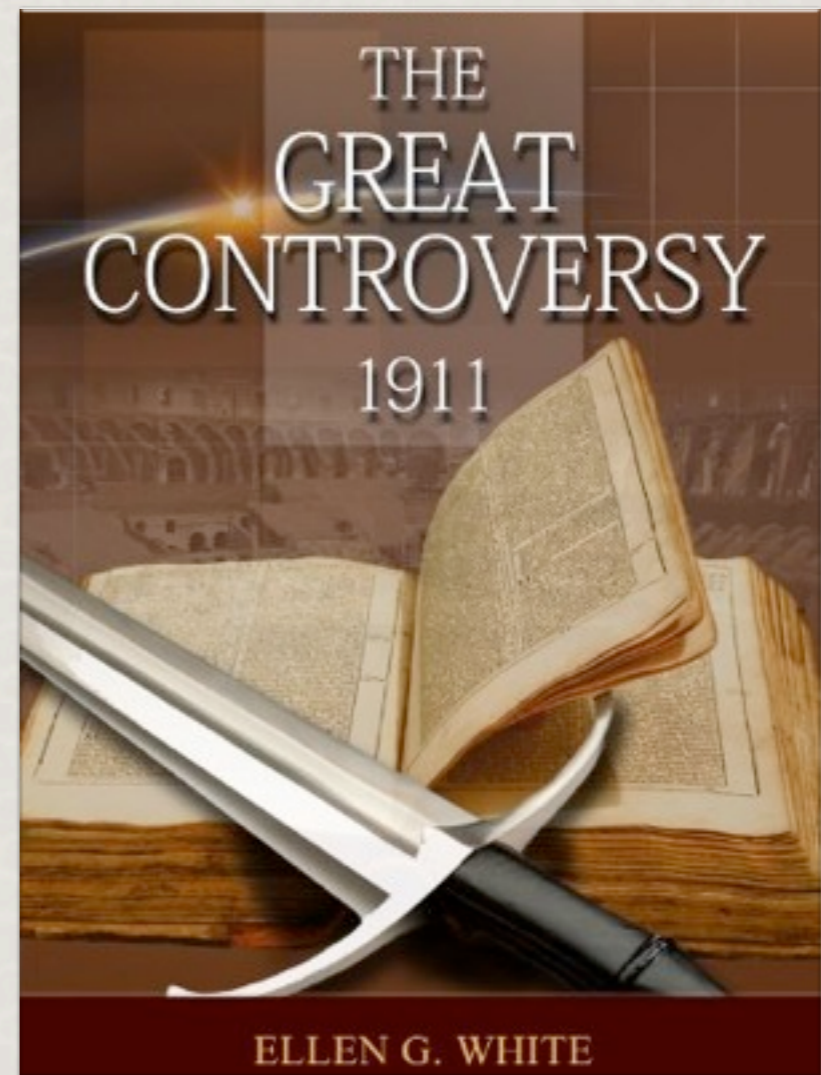


Satan vs. the Spirit of Prophecy

- ✦ Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.—Letter 40, 1890; 1SM 48

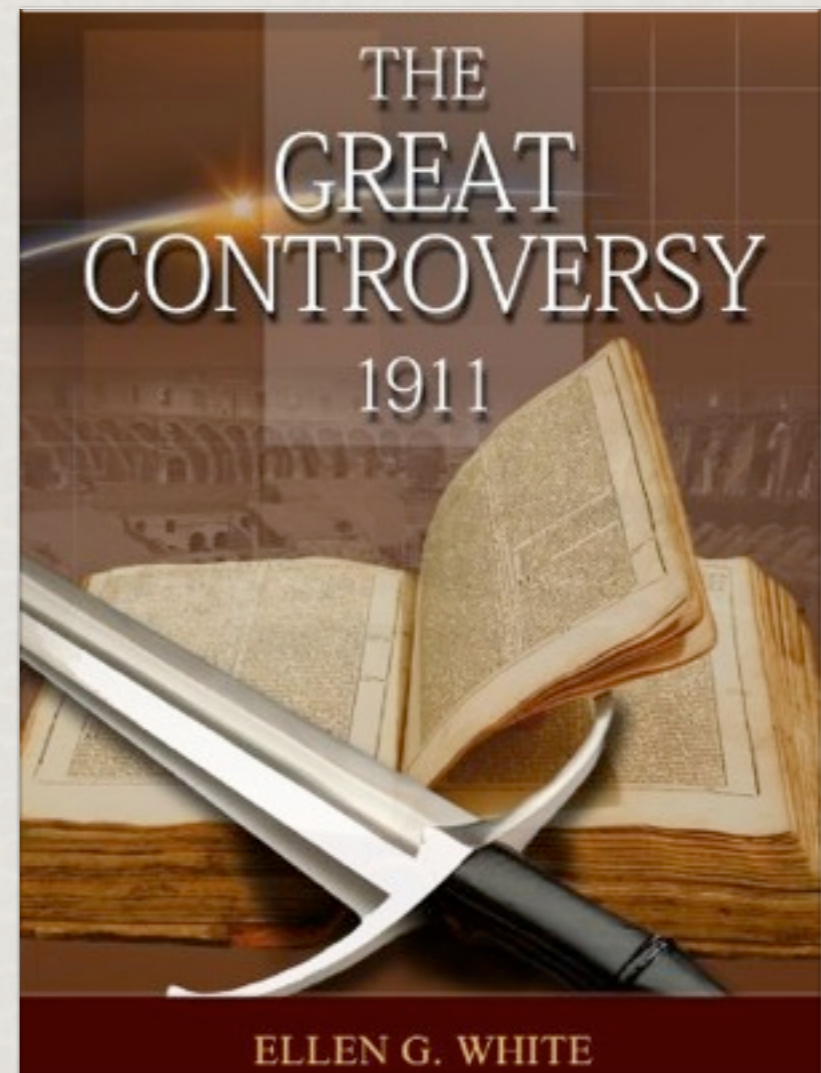


Sola Scriptura in *The Great Controversy*



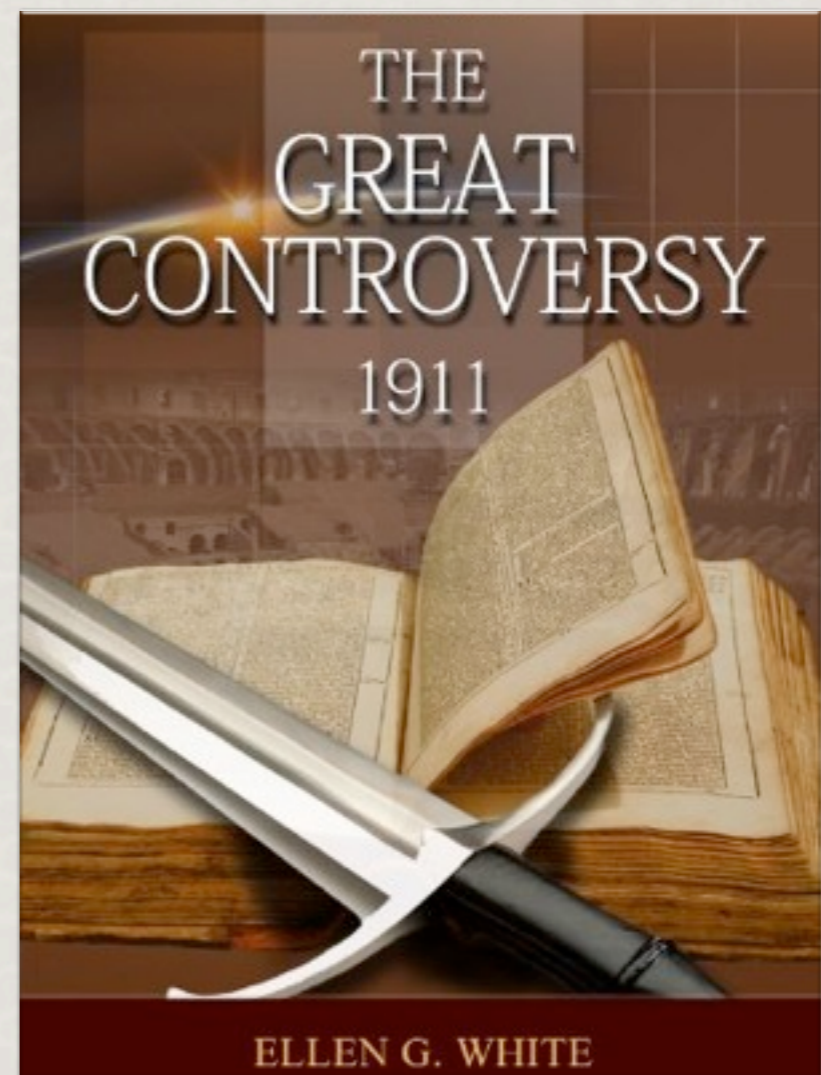
Sola Scriptura in *The Great Controversy*

- ✦ 1. Faithfulness to Word of God in Spite of Apostasy



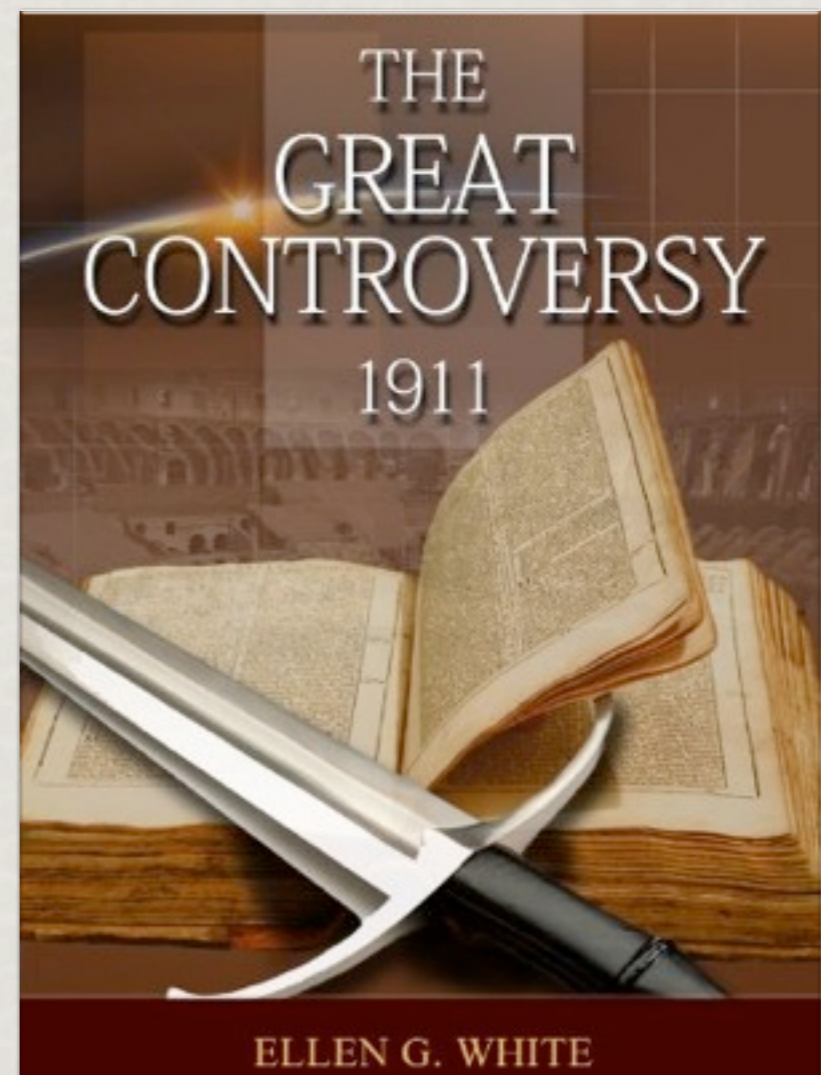
Sola Scriptura in *The Great Controversy*

- ✦ 1. Faithfulness to Word of God in Spite of Apostasy
- ✦ 2. Rediscovery of Word of God

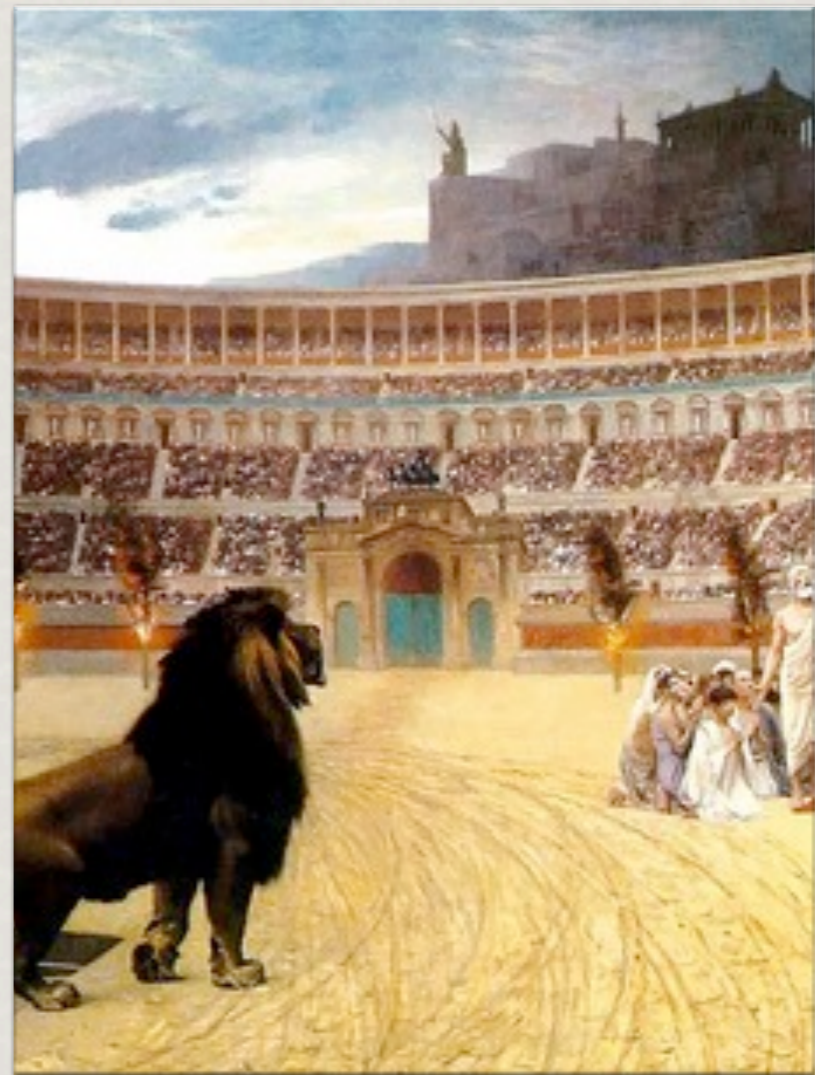


Sola Scriptura in *The Great Controversy*

- ✦ 1. Faithfulness to Word of God in Spite of Apostasy
- ✦ 2. Rediscovery of Word of God
- ✦ 3. Apostasy Re-emerges/Remnant Faithful

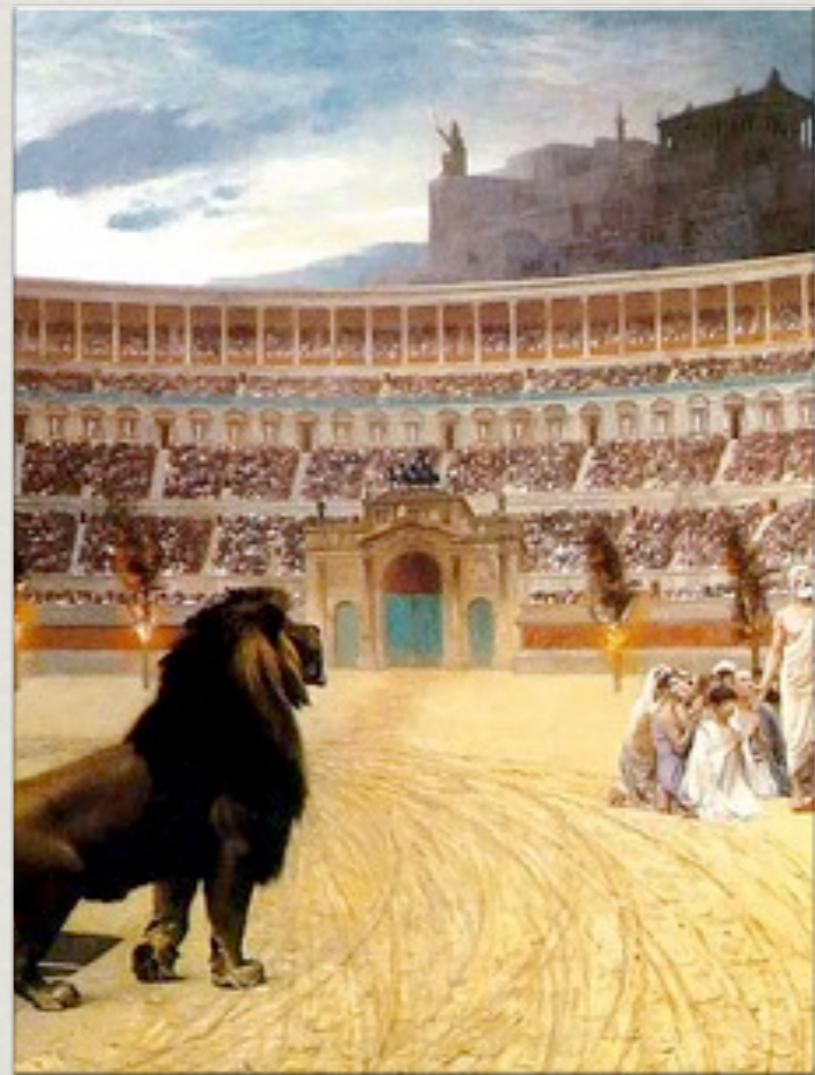


Early Christian Church



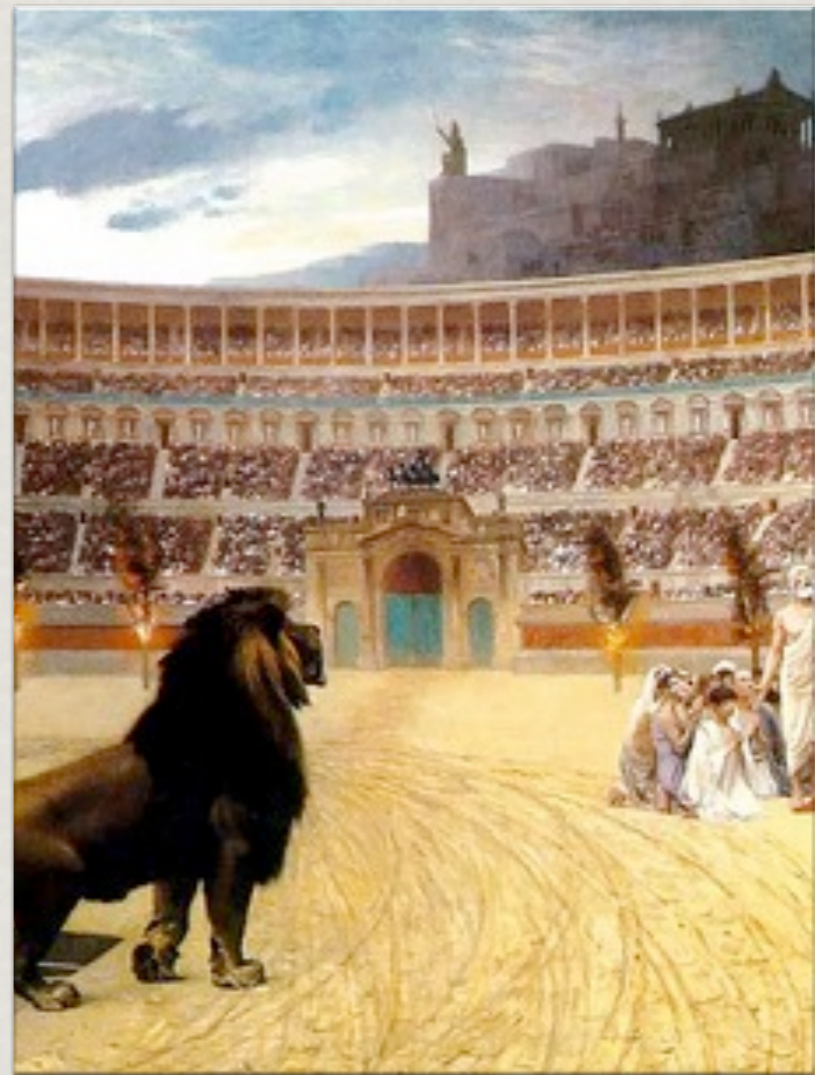
Early Christian Church

- ✦ **Faithfulness to Word of God in Midst of Apostasy**



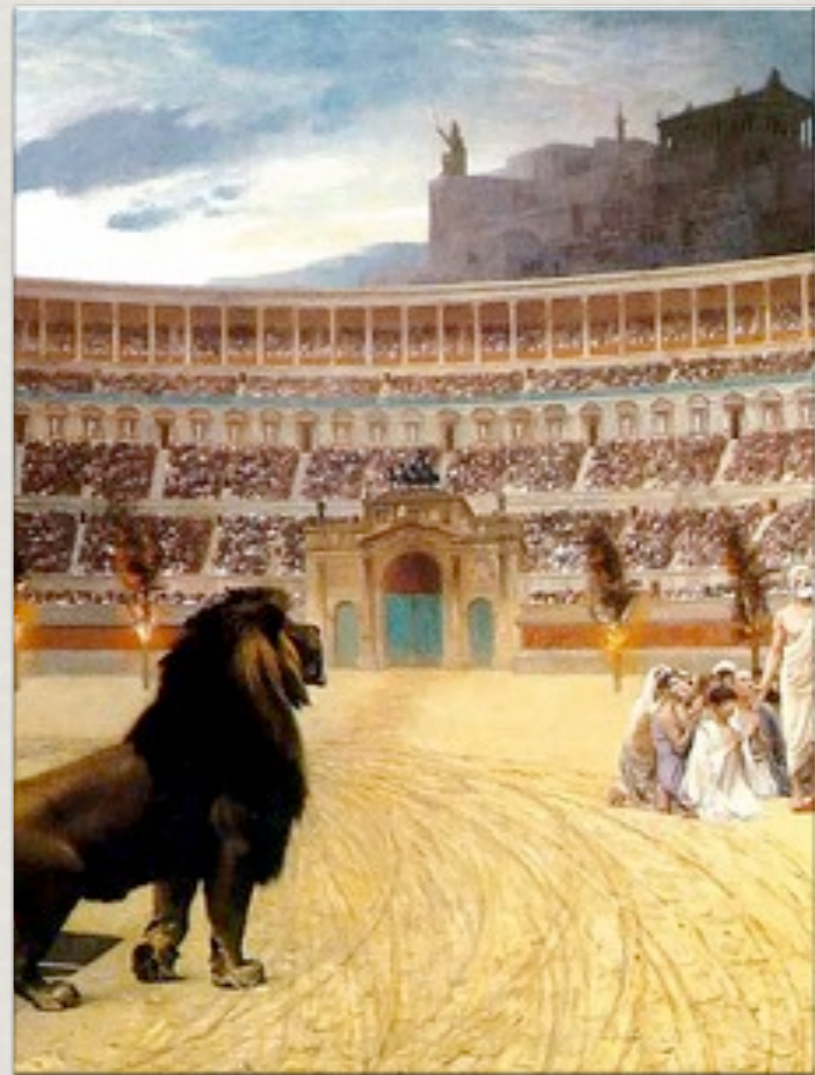
Early Christian Church

- ✦ **Faithfulness to Word of God in Midst of Apostasy**
- ✦ **2 Timothy 3:12**



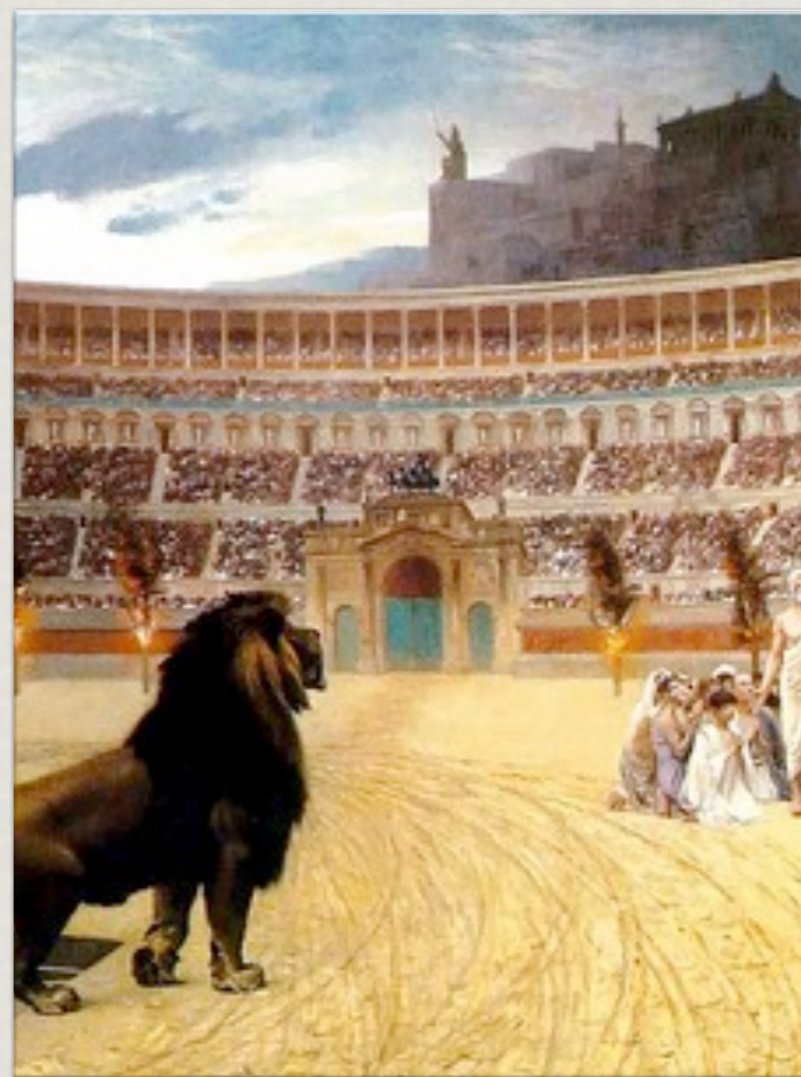
Early Christian Church

- ✦ **Faithfulness to Word of God in Midst of Apostasy**
- ✦ **2 Timothy 3:12**
- ✦ *First Century Christian Church*

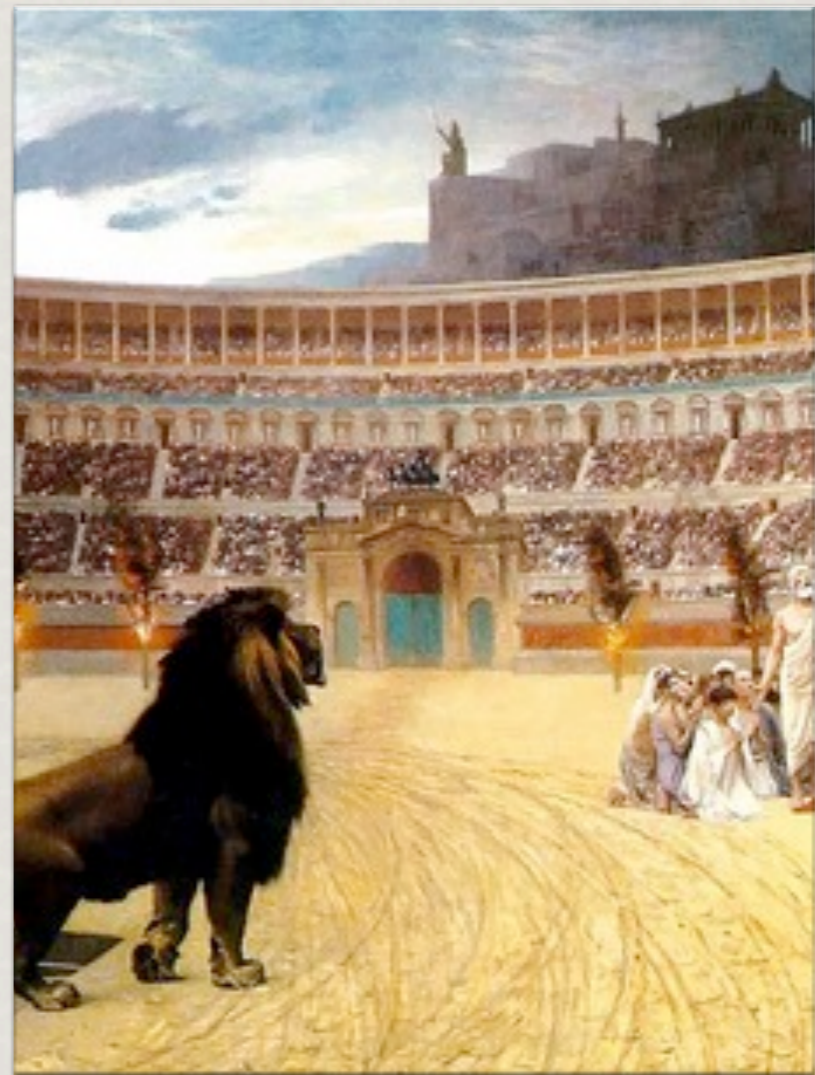


Early Christian Church

- ✦ **Faithfulness to Word of God in Midst of Apostasy**
- ✦ **2 Timothy 3:12**
- ✦ *First Century Christian Church*
- ✦ *Church in the Wilderness
i.e. Waldenses etc.*

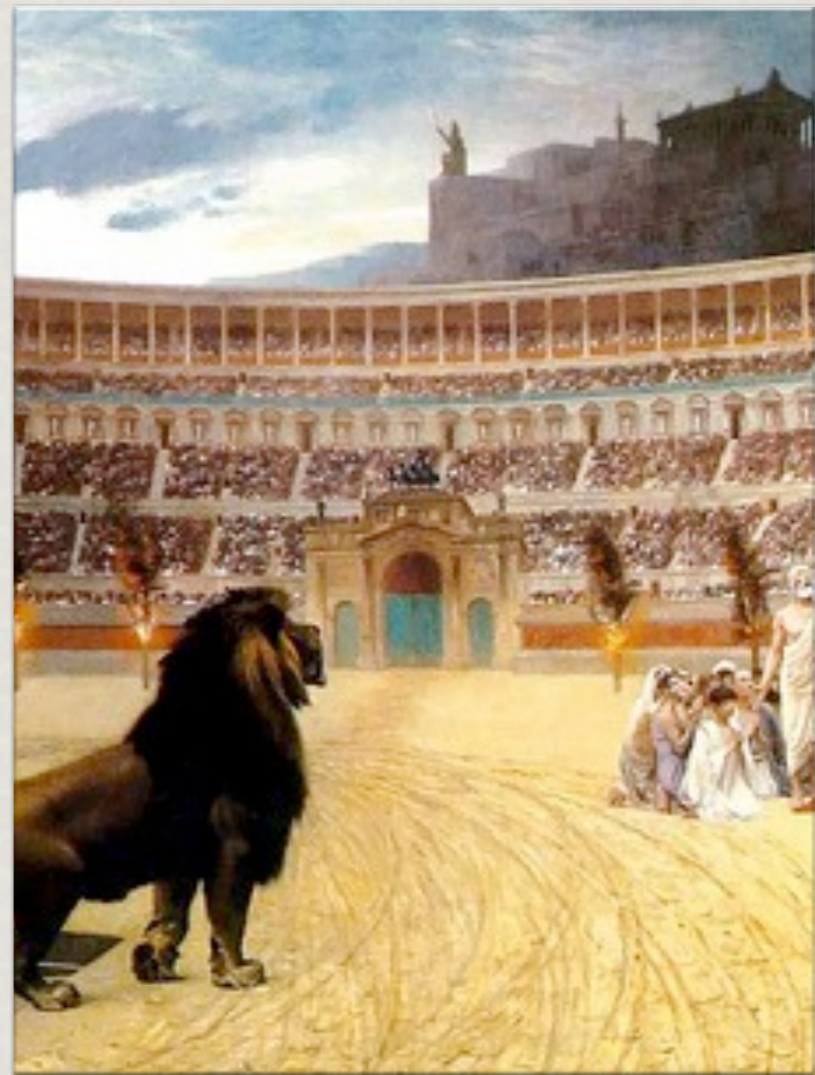


Early Christian Church



Early Christian Church

- ✦ “And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.”
Revelation 12:11



Persecution Will Return

- ✦ There is another and more important question that should engage the attention of the churches of today. The apostle Paul declares that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12. Why is it, then, that persecution seems in a great degree to slumber? The only reason is that the church has conformed to the world’s standard and therefore awakens no opposition. The religion which is current in our day is not of the pure and holy character that marked the Christian faith in the days of Christ and His apostles. GC 48.3

Persecution Will Return

- ✦ It is only because of the spirit of compromise with sin, because the great truths of the word of God are so indifferently regarded, because there is so little vital godliness in the church, that Christianity is apparently so popular with the world. Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled. GC 48.3

Protestant Reformation



Protestant Reformation

- ✦ **Word of God Re-emerges**



Protestant Reformation

- ✦ **Word of God Re-emerges**
- ✦ *Protestant Reformation*



Protestant Reformation

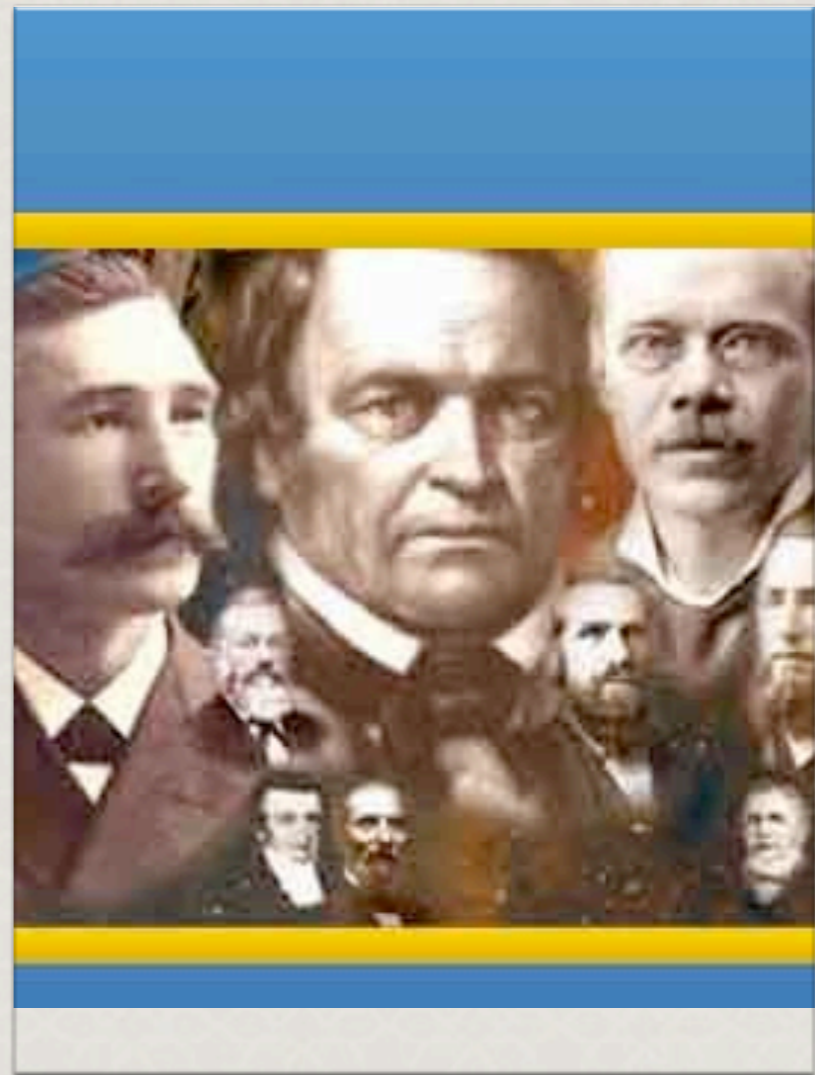
- ✦ **Word of God Re-emerges**
- ✦ *Protestant Reformation*
- ✦ *Reformers such as John Wycliffe, Huss and Jerome, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin and many others*



Word of God Re-emerges

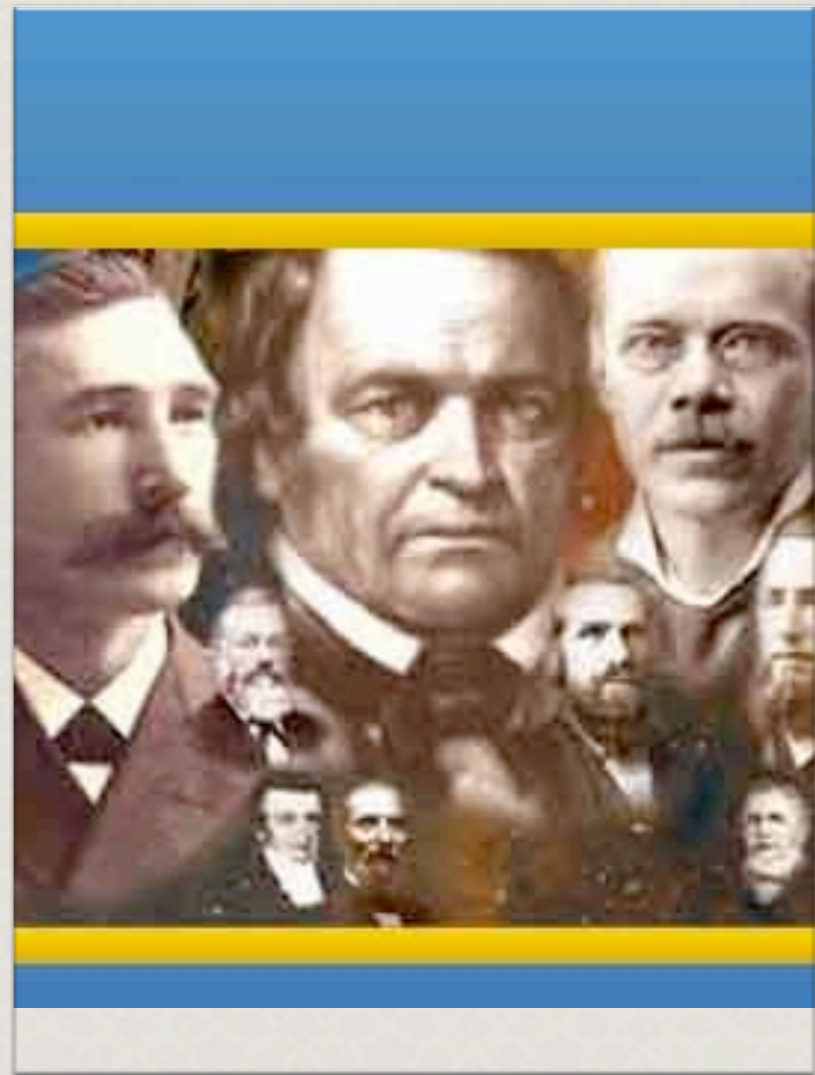
- ✦ Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of a purer faith, stood Martin Luther. Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, **and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures,** Luther was the man for his time; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world.
GC 120.1

Second Advent Movement



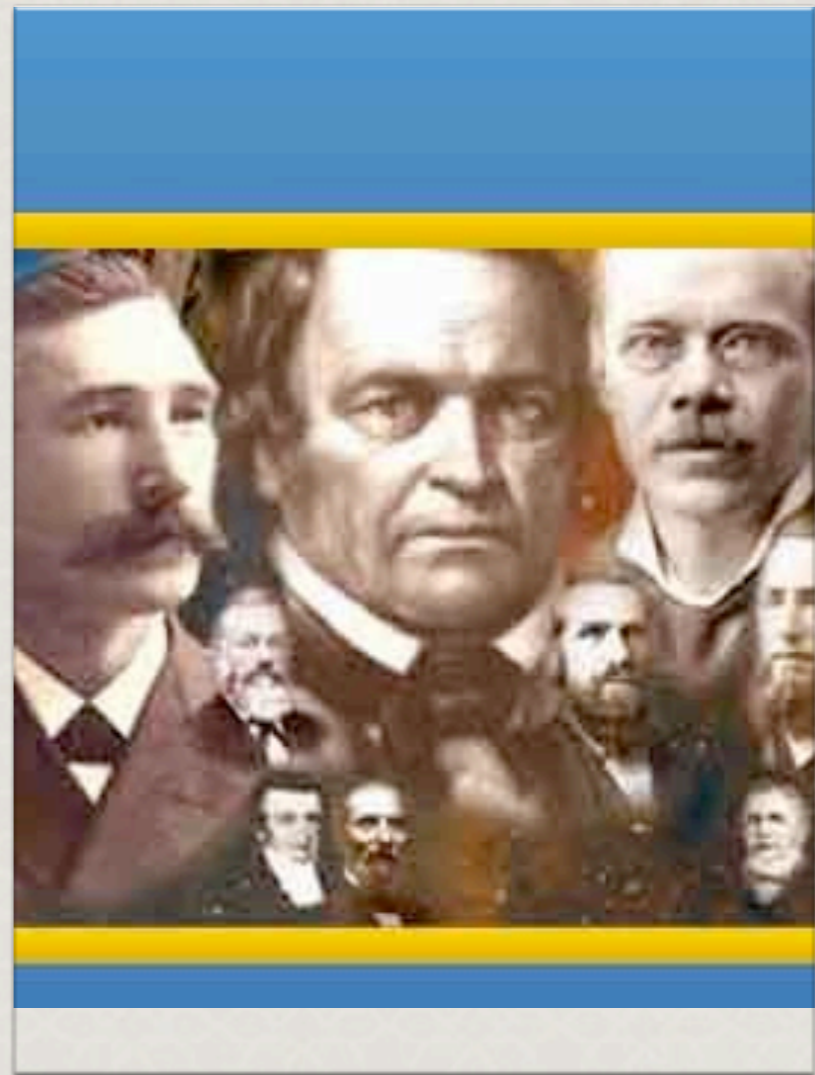
Second Advent Movement

- ✦ Remnant Faithful as Apostasy Re-emerges



Second Advent Movement

- ✦ Remnant Faithful as Apostasy Re-emerges
- ✦ Final Controversy Will be Over Fidelity to the Word of God



Millerite Movement



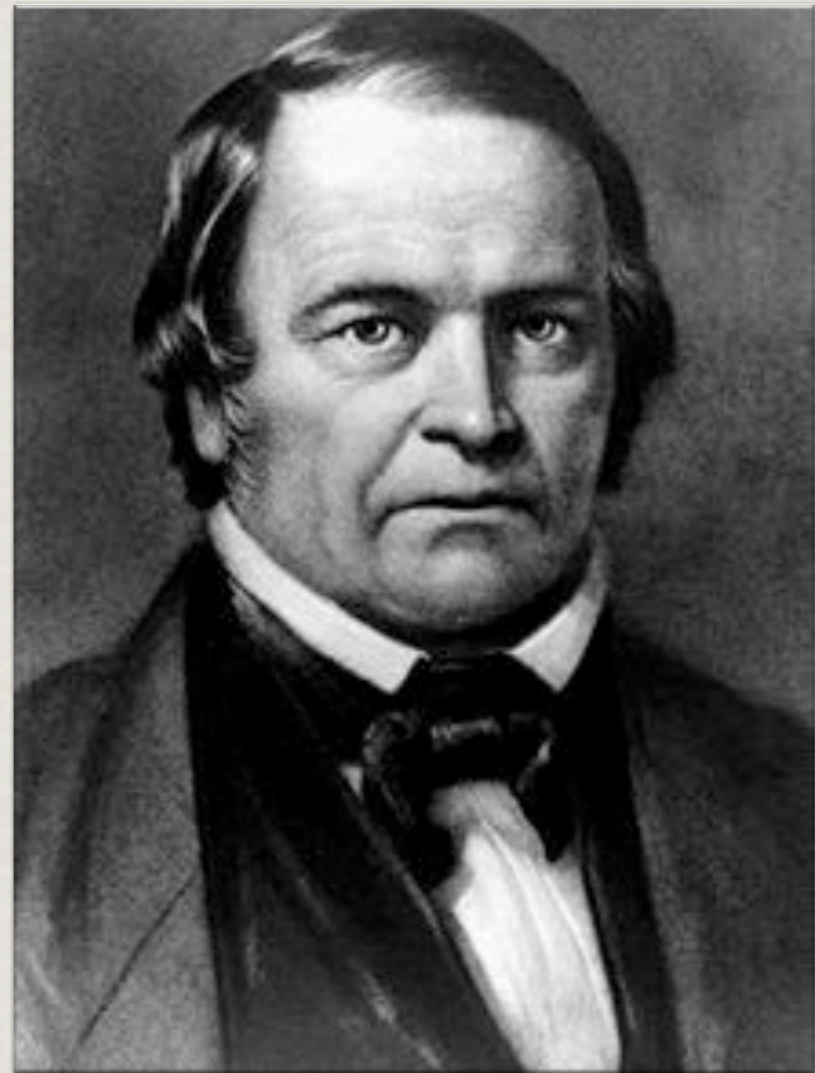
Millerite Movement

- ✦ Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection and the wiles of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844. GC 401



Millerite Movement

- ✦ Even now, after the lapse of many years, all who shared in that movement and who have stood firm upon the platform of truth still feel the holy influence of that blessed work and bear witness that it was of God. —GC 401



Earth's Final Movement

Earth's Final Movement

- ✦ Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. — GC 464

Earth's Final Movement

- ✦ The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. . . Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. — GC 611, 612

Standing in the Crisis

- ✦ Great Controversy, p. 623