

# Alpha

“ANYTHING BUT GOD”

# **A Hard Row to Hoe**

**“I speak to every member of the church. In Christ’s name, guard your thoughts, control your feelings. Let your speech be such that heaven can approve. No longer be so sadly deceived as to think you are doing God’s work and God’s will in persecuting your brethren with your tongue, with your strong prejudice and jealousies.**

**“Why do you delight in making your wicked speeches and indulging your wicked feelings against Dr. Kellogg? Has he not sufficient burdens to carry?... Would you crush him to the earth with your suspicions prompted of Satan? Would you feel great pleasure in seeing the Health Institute go down? Is this what you desire?”**

**— Manuscript 7, 1882**

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**“Dr. Kellogg has... needed the sympathy and confidence of his brethren. There should have been a tender compassion for him in his position of trust, and they should have pursued a course that would have gained and retained his confidence. God would have it thus. But there has been, instead, a spirit of suspicion and criticism. If the doctor fails in doing his duty and being an overcomer at last, those brethren who have failed in their want of wisdom and discernment to help the man when and where he needed their help will be in a large measure responsible.”**

**— Letter 21, 1888**

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**“The Lord has given Dr. Kellogg his work. It is a fact that our ministers are very slow to become health reformers, notwithstanding all the light which the Lord has given upon this subject. This has caused Dr. Kellogg to lose confidence in them.**

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# From Cause to Effect

**“I have light from the Lord that Dr. Kellogg needs to be guarded. He is leaving a wrong impression on minds. He has made a mistake in supposing that the medical missionary work has an importance above every other work. Medical missionary work has its place; but it has been made disproportionately important.**

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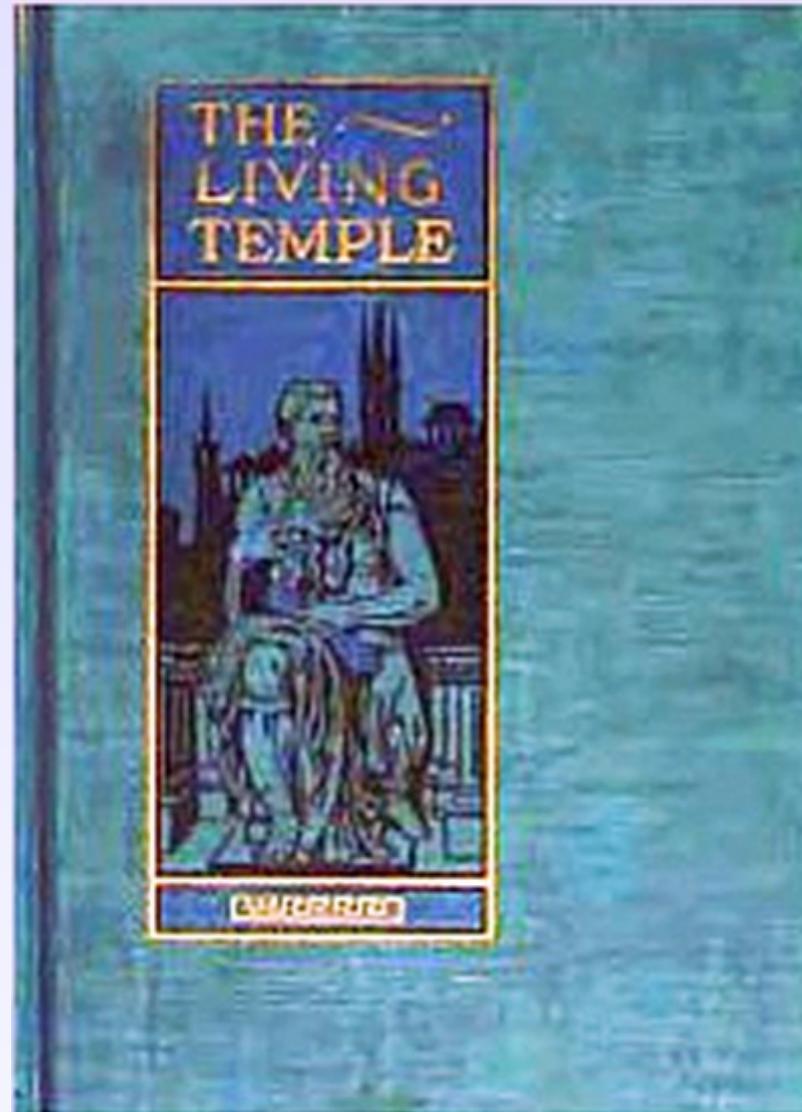
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**— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, 429–432**

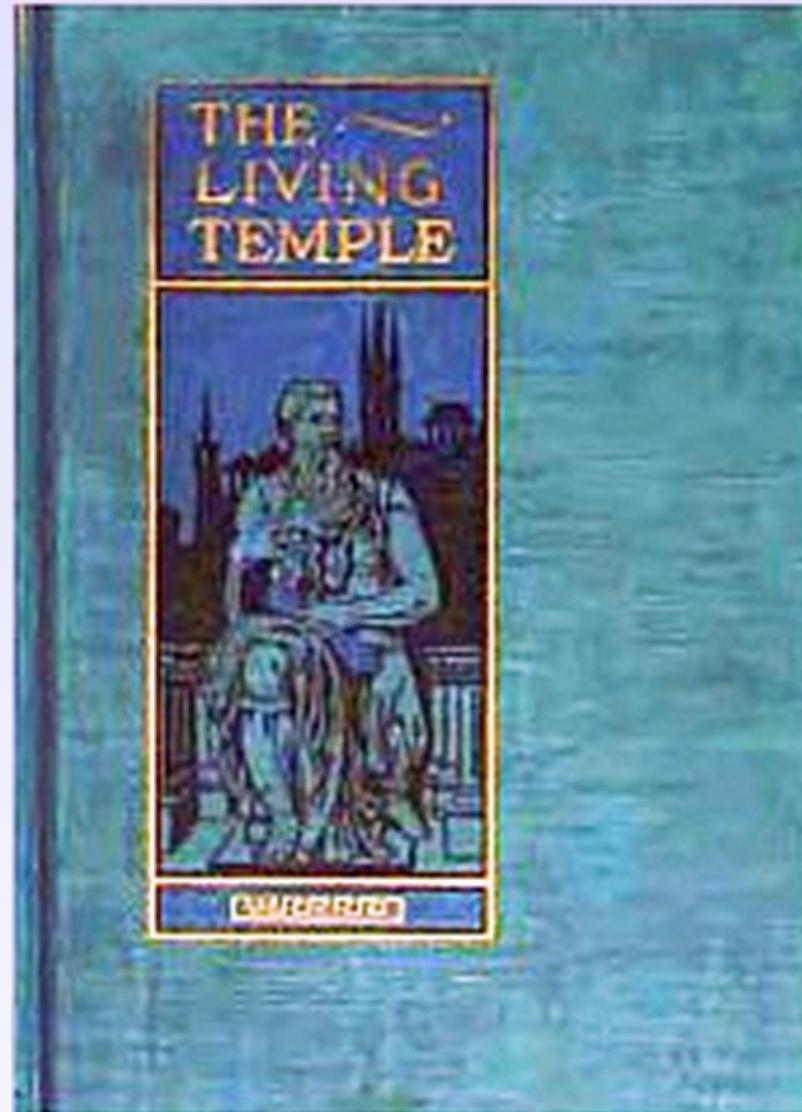
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**“God does not endorse the efforts put forth by different ones to make the work of Dr. Kellogg as hard as possible, in order to build themselves up. God gave the light on health reform, and those who rejected it, rejected God. One and another who knew better, said that it all came from Dr. Kellogg, and they made war upon him. This had a bad influence on the doctor. He put on the coat of irritation and retaliation. God did not want him to stand in a position of warfare, and he does not want you to stand there.”**

*— General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903*

# Alpha and Omega

**“Many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.”**

**— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 197**

**“*Living Temple* contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people.”**

**— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 203**

# Alpha and Omega

**“In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.”**

**— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 200**

# The Warning

**“As I am shown these special things of Satan’s science, and how he deceived the holy angels, I am afraid of the men who have entered into the study of the science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven. Oh, how I have longed to be where I should not be compelled to see the same science practiced on this earth by medical practitioners. How my heart has been agonized as I have seen souls accepting the inducements held out to them to unite with those who were warring against God.**

# The Warning

**“When they once accept the bait it seems impossible to break the spell that Satan casts over them, because the enemy works out the science of deception as he worked it out in the heavenly courts. He uses human agencies to carry on his work with other human beings. He has worked so diligently with men in our day that he has won the game again and again.”**

**— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 212**

# The Warning

**“We have reached the perils of the last days, when some, yes, many, shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Be cautious in regard to what you read and how you hear. Take not a particle of interest in spiritualistic theories. Satan is waiting to steal a march upon every one who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism. He begins to exert his power over them just as soon as they begin to investigate his theories.”**

**— Letter 123, 1904**

# The Warning

**“Suffer not yourselves to open the lids of a book that is questionable. There is a hellish fascination in the literature of Satan. It is the powerful battery by which he tears down a simple religious faith. Never feel that you are strong enough to read infidel books; for they contain a poison like that of asps. They can do you no good, and will assuredly do you harm. In reading them, you are inhaling the miasmas of hell.”**

**— *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 93**

# Echoes of Lucifer

**“Read in my books, *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy*, the story of the first great apostasy. History is being repeated and will be repeated. Read then, and understand.”**

**— Letter 98, 1906**

# Echoes of Lucifer

**“No greater deception could be presented to the minds of men than the representation you have made of God.... Souls will be lost through the sowing of the sentiments found in *Living Temple*. In presenting error you have united with the prince of darkness.”**

**— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 251**

**“When you wrote that book you were not under the inspiration of God. There was by your side the one who inspired Adam to look at God in a false light.”**

**— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 314**

# Echoes of Lucifer

**“You have been the spokesman repeating the words of accusation and condemnation of the arch-deceiver. Your science has been used to benumb the sensibilities and confuse the judgment of others. In long night-talks you have presented your mind and plans and works [and these] have become their mind and plan and works. In listening to your words, these men have imbibed the very science of the tempter. You have twisted and manipulated and misstated and misrepresented the testimonies that God has given, making them of no effect.**

# Echoes of Lucifer

**“This whole matter has been presented to me. You have worked as Lucifer worked in the heavenly courts to persuade his associates to unite with him. The enemy has used his arts upon your mind. Your boasted study of science and your assertion that you had obtained something excellent have deceived the men connected with you, and they have refused to listen to the warnings sent to keep them from listening to your false representations.”**

**— *Battle Creek Letters*, 120**

## **Echoes of Lucifer**

**“When I was in Takoma Park, living in Carroll House, many things were presented to me in vision, one of them a committee meeting held during the night hours in the Battle Creek Sanitarium. That meeting was conducted by Dr. Kellogg. Many of the physicians were present, and W.C. White, having been sent for to attend a special council, was reined up in this committee meeting. O what agony of mind I suffered as I was viewing the way in which Dr. Kellogg conducted that meeting. I may sometime describe it, but not now.**

## **Echoes of Lucifer**

**“I have told Willie that if ever plans were made for him to go into another night session with Dr. Kellogg, and I knew it, I would certainly exercise all the power God would give me to break up such an interview. Evil angels were there, and if the physicians present had had their true senses about them, they would have understood the spirit and influence of the actions of Dr. Kellogg and of the words spoken by him on that occasion.”**

**— Manuscript 168, 1905**

# **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“It would have been better for Dr. Kellogg if he had never been born, if he continues to build himself up in his own magical arts of mind in influencing other minds. What chapters of experience will be opened before the universe of heaven. The light will reveal every phase of his companionship with satanic agencies.”**

**— Manuscript 127, 1905**

# Like Your Father the Devil

**“I know the seducing power of Dr. Kellogg’s adviser, and I have no other name to give it but the seductive influence of satanic agencies. Dr. Kellogg has dealt in this influence to a greater or less degree. He has not changed, except to be more secretive. I have not one ray of hope regarding him, unless he understands that through satanic agencies he is striving for power over human minds. This has been shown me.”**

**— Manuscript 168, 1905**

## **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“Dr. Kellogg has linked up with the great deceiver. He has not realized what he was doing any more than the angels who fell realized what they were doing, but he has tempted Satan to tempt him. He has studied hypnotism and spiritualism for the purpose of bringing minds to endorse sentiments that mean a denial of the faith once delivered to the saints. He has not entered upon this work all at once, but by degrees. He has ensnared his own mind and capabilities. He would now resort to any device rather than to humble his heart before God and to acknowledge his wrong.”**

**— Manuscript 168, 1907**

# Like Your Father the Devil

**“I have seen Dr. Kellogg exerting a hypnotic influence upon persons, and at such times the archdeceiver was his helper. Those who sustain him are guilty with him. This blindness of understanding is a strange thing in our ranks....**

**“Dr. Kellogg places himself in the position of one who is abused, because he cannot carry everything with him, but he is still at work with all subtlety. I have warned our people; for they do not understand his underhand, secretive working. And he works with such ingenuity to obtain sympathy that to many his words seem genuine.**

**— Letter 258, 1906**

# Mysticism

**“We need not the mysticism that is in this book [*The Living Temple*]. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk with them, and lead them away from God.”**

**— *Review and Herald*, October 22, 1903**

**“Your ideas are so mystical that they are destructive to the real substance, and the minds of some are becoming confused in regard to the foundation of our faith. If you allow your mind to become thus diverted, you will give a wrong mold to the work that has made us what we are—**Seventh-day Adventists.**”**

**— Letter 52, 1903**

# **Mysticism**

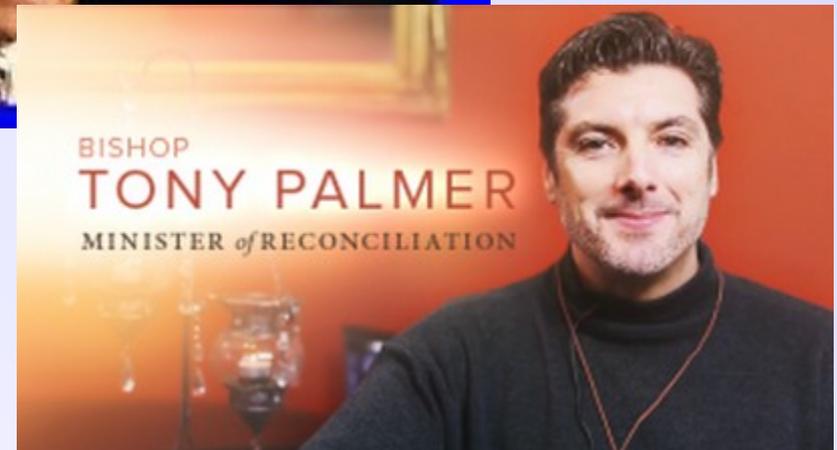
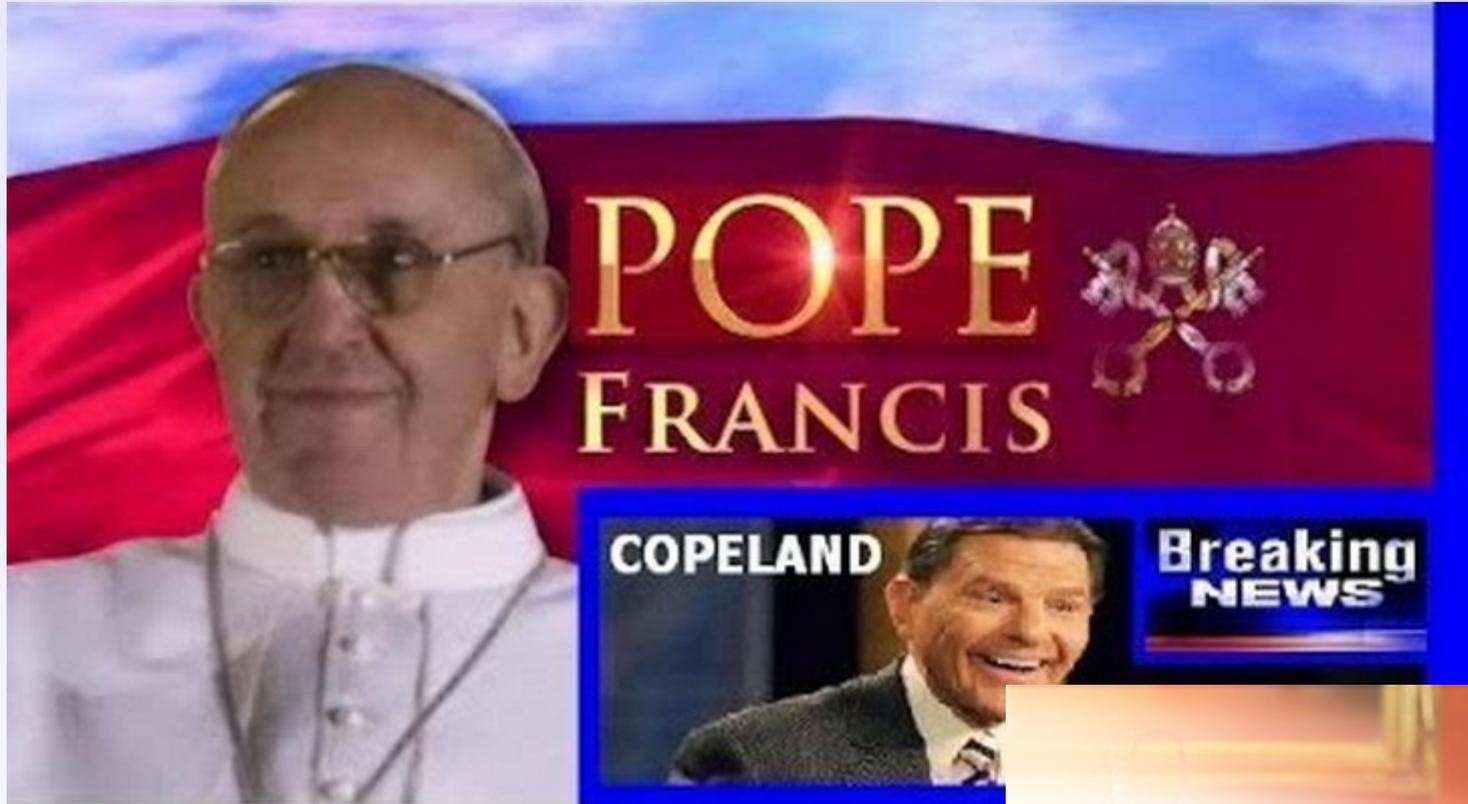
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# Mysticism

“It is utterly false that I have ever intimated I could have a vision when I pleased. There is not a shade of truth in this. I have never said I could throw myself into visions when I pleased, for this is simply impossible. I have felt for years that if I could have my choice and please God as well, I would rather die than have a vision, for every vision places me under great responsibility to bear testimonies of reproof and of warning, which has ever been against my feelings.

— *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 36

# Mysticism



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**— Letter 123, 1904**

# Mysticism

**“I tell you in the name of the Lord God of Israel that Satan is presenting his sophistries to ministers and medical workers; and if our people will listen to these sophistries, they will become impregnated with the same satanic idea of a popular religion that will cause them to develop into gods, and there will be no place in their lives for God or for Christ.”**

**— Letter 276, 1904**

# **Mysticism**

**“The light is given to me in regard to the poor understanding of those that have been in the truth, that these sophistries, and this mysticism, and doing away with the personality of God, and with the personality of Christ, will get the hall-room of the heart all ready for these miracles that Satan will come to work right in our midst. Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”**

**— Manuscript 138, 1906**

# **A Time for Silence**

**“Some thought the time had come long ago to make a determined effort to break the spell and expose the deception. For years one and still another of Dr. Kellogg’s men have stood forth, claiming that Dr. Kellogg is all right, that he teaches the message as we believe it, and that he believes the testimonies. But at the same time a work of misrepresentation was going on, and many of our people were becoming spiritually deceived.**

**“To those who urged immediate action, I said, ‘Wait until Dr. Kellogg himself and those closely allied with him take an open stand. Then be all prepared with matter ready to print.’**

# **A Time for Silence**

**“But I was shown that our brethren must make no move until Dr. Kellogg and his associates had taken a decided position to repudiate the testimonies. When this was done, we must show our people the right side and take the affirmative in the name of the Lord....**

**“We had to move, and yet we had to wait until those in error thought they could carry things against the ministers and churches. I was shown their course of action and had everything in readiness for such a movement and labored to defeat their deep-laid plot.”**

**— Letter 258, 1906**

# **A Time for Silence**

**“Friends of the Doctor were visiting our churches, acting as spies to work up a sentiment favorable to his interests. They claimed that he was in perfect harmony with the message as we believe it and that he believed the testimonies. A work of deception was being carried on. Many of our people were becoming confused.**

**“I said to those who urged immediate action, ‘Do not act hastily. It will be better to wait until Dr. Kellogg and his associates take the position that they do not believe the testimonies. When this time comes we are to be prepared with suitable matter for publication to meet the issue.’**

## **A Time for Silence**

**“This was done. Meetings were held in Battle Creek at which the testimonies were presented in a very objectionable light. The testimonies were practically repudiated. But matter was ready for publication. Our people on the right side took a strong, affirmative position in the name of the Lord, and the wide-spread deception was arrested. One of the leaders in Battle Creek said that the lid of the kettle was lifted too soon, that had they waited a little longer, they might have had nearly all the churches on their side.”**

**— Letter 306, 1906**

# A Time to Speak

**“The sentiments in *Living Temple* regarding the personality of God have been received even by men who have had a long experience in the truth. When such men consent to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we are no longer to regard the subject as a matter to be treated with the greatest delicacy. That those whom we thought sound in the faith should have failed to discern the specious, deadly influence of this science of evil, should alarm us as nothing else has alarmed us.**

# A Time to Speak

**“It is something that can not be treated as a small matter that men who have had so much light, and such clear evidence as to the genuineness of the truth we hold, should become unsettled, and led to accept spiritualistic theories regarding the personality of God.”**

**— *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, 37**

# **The Extent of the Danger**

**“As I went into our files in response to your request, I found a statement written by my father, W.C. White, about 1935-1936. I think you will be interested in this for he broadens the basis for the statements on the alpha and omega beyond that which one might conclude from just reading them as they are in the text....**

**“Here is my father’s statement:**

# **The Extent of the Danger**

**“There is one matter which causes us some perplexity. It is that which Sister white has written regarding the alpha and the omega of efforts to mislead the people of God. It is clearly to be seen that the alpha was the introduction of misleading documents and the effort to wrest the leadership of the denomination from the men chosen to bear heavy responsibility....”**

# **The Extent of the Danger**

**“It has always seemed to me that when the omega came it would bear two characteristics, somewhat similar to the alpha. The movement designated as the alpha embraced a deep laid plan on the part of the great adversary of truth to introduce false doctrine which struck at the very vitals of Christian belief. It also embraced a persistent and strongly sustained effort to wrest the leadership of this people from the General Conference Committee and place it in the hands of other men.**

# **The Extent of the Danger**

**“With these things in mind, I cannot accept any movement that I have seen up to the present time as constituting the omega. When the omega does come, I shall expect to see something similar to the work of Dr. Kellogg and his associates when they labored so earnestly to undermine the confidence of all our people in the leadership of the General Conference.”**

**— Letter, Arthur L. White to Robert H. Pierson,  
January 17, 1972**

# The Extent of the Danger

**“My heart was filled with sorrow because of the course that J.H. Kellogg is following. And A.T. Jones is following the same course and voicing the same sentiments, with a most determined spirit. When a realization of this comes over me, with such force, great sorrow fills my soul.**

**“I have before me such a revival of the first great apostasy in the heavenly courts, that I am bowed down with an agony that cannot be expressed.”**

**— Letter 248, 1906**

# The Warning

**Lucifer's Rebellion**



**Christ's Response**



**The "Good Kellogg"  
(Beginning of Loud Cry)**



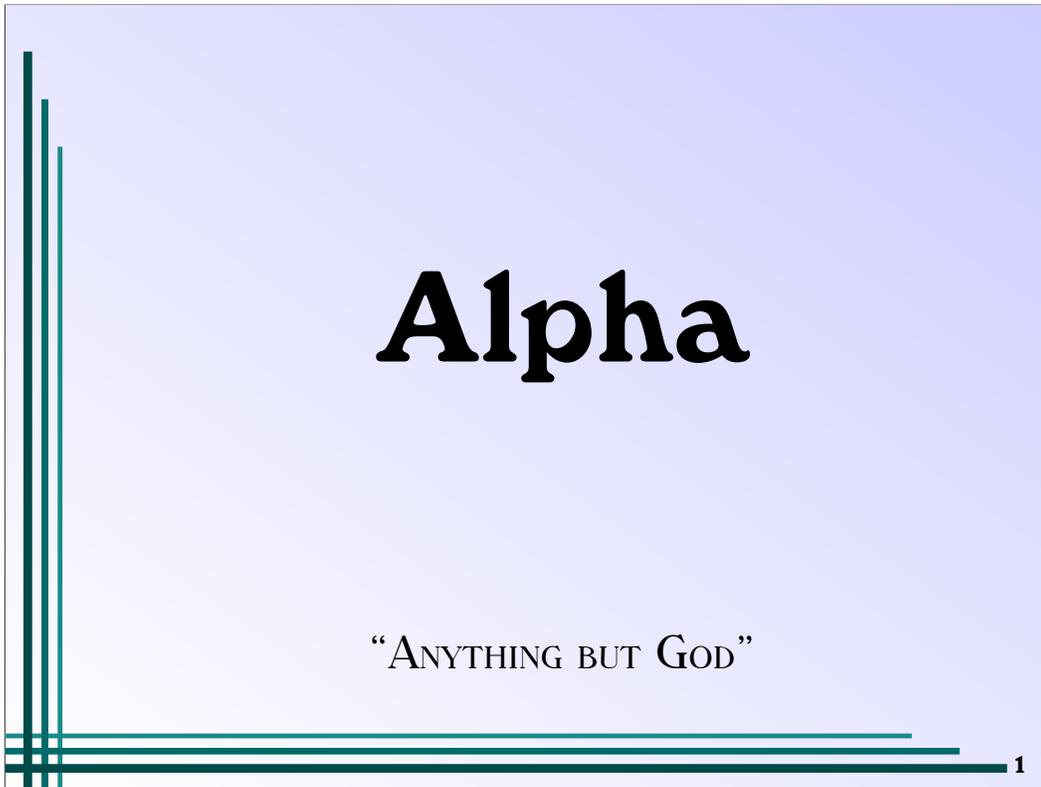
**The Loud Cry  
(Final Refutation)**

**The "Bad Kellogg"  
(Alpha Apostasy)**



**The Omega Apostasy**





Our last presentation dealt with the “Good Kellogg.” Unfortunately, that isn’t the end of the doctor’s story. We need, now, to consider the sequel, the account of the “Bad Kellogg.”

While this story is incredibly sad, it is instructive, and a part of the sacred history preserved for our benefit.

We begin with the circumstances that the devil created to attack Dr. Kellogg at his weakest point, and then used to kill him. Yes, remember, we are in a war.

## **A Hard Row to Hoe**

**“I speak to every member of the church. In Christ’s name, guard your thoughts, control your feelings. Let your speech be such that heaven can approve. No longer be so sadly deceived as to think you are doing God’s work and God’s will in persecuting your brethren with your tongue, with your strong prejudice and jealousies.**

**“Why do you delight in making your wicked speeches and indulging your wicked feelings against Dr. Kellogg? Has he not sufficient burdens to carry?... Would you crush him to the earth with your suspicions prompted of Satan? Would you feel great pleasure in seeing the Health Institute go down? Is this what you desire?”**

**— Manuscript 7, 1882**

Just note that this was written in 1882. Apparently, things hadn’t changed much six years later—

## **A Hard Row to Hoe**

**“Dr. Kellogg has... needed the sympathy and confidence of his brethren. There should have been a tender compassion for him in his position of trust, and they should have pursued a course that would have gained and retained his confidence. God would have it thus. But there has been, instead, a spirit of suspicion and criticism. If the doctor fails in doing his duty and being an overcomer at last, those brethren who have failed in their want of wisdom and discernment to help the man when and where he needed their help will be in a large measure responsible.”**

**—Letter 21, 1888**

Ten years after this—

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**“The past should be subject for keen regret. The Lord would now have the medical missionary work recognized as the helping hand of God....**

**“The Lord has given Dr. Kellogg his work. It is a fact that our ministers are very slow to become health reformers, notwithstanding all the light which the Lord has given upon this subject. This has caused Dr. Kellogg to lose confidence in them.**

This was written in 1898, sixteen years after the first quotation we looked at, but in reality “the past” that is mentioned in the first line probably includes about twenty-two years of neglect. In other words, the whole time Dr. Kellogg had worked in Battle Creek.

Some folks find it natural to resist “becoming health reformers.” It’s easy to see it as an entirely personal matter, to think “What’s it matter to them how I live?” Please note: No one lives to himself alone. The final judgment may yet reveal that Dr. Kellogg lost his soul largely because of such blindness.

But let’s go on...

## **A Hard Row to Hoe**

**“Their tardy work in health reform has created in him a spirit of criticism, and he has borne down on them in an unsparing manner, which the Lord does not sanction. He has belittled the gospel ministry, and in his regard and ideas has placed the medical missionary work above the ministry. I have seen that in the censuring of ministers, remarks have been made which have not been to the honor and glory of God.”**

**— Manuscript 175, 1898**

Another lesson: Someone else's fault is a poor reason to lose your own soul.

## **A Hard Row to Hoe**

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**—Letter 38, 1899**

The important idea here is that internal opposition is always the most deadly and confusing. If it's an outsider, an avowed enemy, who is attacking you, it's generally fairly clear what you need to do.

But when it's your own Christian brothers and sisters... what do you do? Understanding one's "duty" in such cases is much harder. And please note: Ellen White didn't say Kellogg was wrong in not connecting with these church members who were "not in sympathy with the work he knew to be of God."

## From Cause to Effect

**“I have light from the Lord that Dr. Kellogg needs to be guarded. He is leaving a wrong impression on minds. He has made a mistake in supposing that the medical missionary work has an importance above every other work. Medical missionary work has its place; but it has been made disproportionately important.**

7

Later that same year, Ellen White wrote of her concern that Dr. Kellogg was going too far.

CLICK for text:

Considering the lack of sympathy he had received from the saints, it's easy to see how he might step over the line from simply “not connecting” medical missionary work with opposing ministers, to assuming that the ministry as a whole wasn't of much account. The distinction here is that the ministers \*performance\* of their work may not have been great, but the work itself was still essential. What was needed was better performance, not less importance being attached to the work.

Unfortunately, the result of the past was making itself felt—

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— Manuscript 177, 1899

This was written in 1899, but it would be inaccurate to think that Kellogg wasn’t warned about “exalting” the medical work above the ministry before this.

## **From Cause to Effect**

**“Although there may be unworthy ones connected with the ministry, yet no one can ignore the ministry without ignoring Christ.**

**“Dr. Kellogg, something is the matter. You are represented to me as being in danger of standing apart from our people, feeling that you are a complete whole. But if you bind yourself up with yourself, you will make a confederacy that will be broken to pieces, for no confederacy can stand but that which God has framed. Those who are receiving an education hear insinuations from time to time which demerit the church and the ministry....**

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— Manuscript 6, 1900

**“When the gospel ministers and the medical missionary workers are not united, there is placed on our churches the worst evil that can be placed there.”**

— Manuscript 46, 1904

By 1900, Ellen White would write to the General Conference President:

CLICK for text:

Tired of Ellen White’s counsel to maintain ties with the ministers who still opposed him (now at twenty-four years and counting), Dr. Kellogg was beginning to drift. Like Lucifer before him, he was deciding that he was wise enough to chose his own path.

CLICK for text:

As a reminder, to understand the importance of Ellen White’s concern here, remember the statement we looked at in our last meeting:

CLICK for text:

## **From Cause to Effect**

**“The Lord has sent you warnings, but you have not heeded them....**

**“The deceptive power of the enemy has led you to leave God’s banner trailing in the dust while Dr. Kellogg has committed himself as working ‘undenominational’ in a work which has taken the money from a people who are decidedly a denominational people....**

1900

As opposition to Kellogg’s work continued year after year, it gave the devil opportunity to tempt him to impatience and pride. The Lord sent warnings and reproofs through Ellen White, but the doctor listened less and less.

CLICK for text:

Basically, since he found it so hard to work with the church, he put less effort into the evangelistic aspect of his work, and spent more time and money on helping people with their health. This made him feel good (helping people does make you feel good, you know), but it wasn’t blessing the people beyond the physical level, and it wasn’t the work God intended.

## From Cause to Effect

**“The work has been hindered, the cause of God should have a different showing, far different, and who is to blame for this hindrance? You give heed to men not of our faith. You delight to show what you have done, and by a free use of money that was not yours to handle, in a way that God has not appointed.”**

*— Manuscript Releases, vol. 4, 429-432*

Unfortunately, little changed on either side of this situation in the next couple years.

Then, in 1902 the Sanitarium burned down

CLICK for picture:

## From Cause to Effect



14

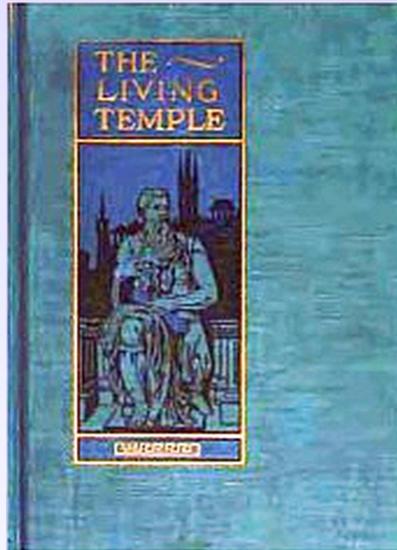
Dr. Kellogg now had opportunity to move the Sanitarium out of Battle Creek, and split it up into five or even ten smaller institutions. This is the kind of thing the Spirit of Prophecy had been promoting for all the large institutions at church headquarters. It would have given a chance to make the medical missionary work far more effective in soul winning, and spread the influence of the Lord's work over a much wider area.

Sadly, Dr. Kellogg chose to rebuild in Battle Creek.

Not only did he decide to rebuild, he determined to build bigger, better, and generally fancier. That would take money, so he proposed a plan for fund raising.

He had recently written a book...

## From Cause to Effect



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...which he was willing to donate to the fund raising project. If the Review and Herald would print the book for free, and church members would sell the book without taking a commission, all the profits could go to rebuilding the Sanitarium!

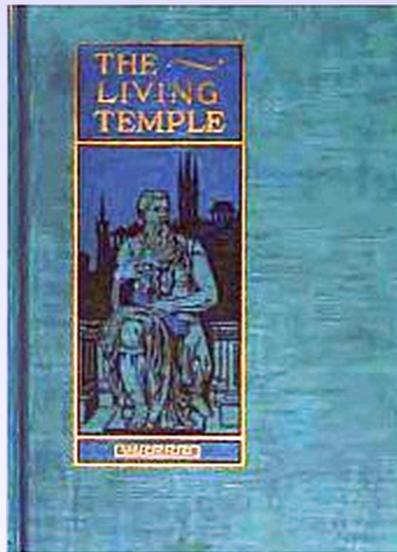
If Kellogg had been honest with the details of his building plans, and honest with the details of the book, things might have turned out differently.

But instead he misled the General Conference officers about the size and expense of the new sanitarium, and put elements of pantheism in his book.

Pantheism is the belief that God is in everything, from rocks to air to bunny rabbits, dolphins, mosquitoes, and people.

Notes continue on next page

## From Cause to Effect



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Pantheism has always been an integral part of Hinduism, but in recent decades it has been modernized, and adapted somewhat sloppily into many of the new, poorly defined, “spiritual” concepts that have been displacing more “traditional” religions.

Much of its popularity is due to the idea that everyone is God. Clearly, if I am God, I have no need to listen to anyone else telling me what I should or shouldn't do. I become the final authority. I can do whatever I want!

One of the most remarkable aspects of Kellogg's story is Ellen White's determined effort to save the man. At the General Conference session of 1903, more than a year after he had written this book, she made her strongest public effort to defend him and the work God had given him. Her goal was to restore the unity of the the evangelistic work and the medical missionary work.

## From Cause to Effect

**“God does not endorse the efforts put forth by different ones to make the work of Dr. Kellogg as hard as possible, in order to build themselves up. God gave the light on health reform, and those who rejected it, rejected God. One and another who knew better, said that it all came from Dr. Kellogg, and they made war upon him. This had a bad influence on the doctor. He put on the coat of irritation and retaliation. God did not want him to stand in a position of warfare, and he does not want you to stand there.”**

*— General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903*

Stop and think about this: She was defending a pantheist! But not defending pantheism. In fact, that subject was never publicly mentioned at the 1903 General Conference session. She would address that a few months later, of course, but first importance was the man's soul.

Unfortunately, the doctor did not respond to her efforts.

When the time did come to address pantheism, Ellen White was clear as to its dangers. One particular phrasing she used in this regard is of special interest.

## Alpha and Omega

**“Many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.”**

— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 197

**“*Living Temple* contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people.”**

— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 203

The alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and the omega is the last. This imagery was used by the Lord to give us warning of an apostasy—similar to that of the early 1900s—that we may expect in the last days.

Ellen White used the idea of the alpha and omega in her descriptions and comments about Kellogg’s book a number of times. Three, in particular, link the two terms closely together.

CLICK for two items

## Alpha and Omega

**“In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.”**

— *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 200

The first two of these statements don't give us a lot of information about the omega beyond its relationship to the alpha. It would be startling; it would be dangerous and frightening. This last statement is also pretty vague—it tells us to take warning, but doesn't say what the warning is!

Without more reading, we'd be left with little to no idea what it means, but in the larger context of Ellen White's writings on the topic there is only one "warning" that seems a likely candidate for this situation. Worded in various ways for different situations, the basic thought is "Don't go on the devil's ground; don't give him access to your mind."

## **The Warning**

**“As I am shown these special things of Satan’s science, and how he deceived the holy angels, I am afraid of the men who have entered into the study of the science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven. Oh, how I have longed to be where I should not be compelled to see the same science practiced on this earth by medical practitioners. How my heart has been agonized as I have seen souls accepting the inducements held out to them to unite with those who were warring against God.**

## **The Warning**

**“When they once accept the bait it seems impossible to break the spell that Satan casts over them, because the enemy works out the science of deception as he worked it out in the heavenly courts. He uses human agencies to carry on his work with other human beings. He has worked so diligently with men in our day that he has won the game again and again.”**

*— Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, 212*

What is the bait? How does one “accept it”?

## **The Warning**

**“We have reached the perils of the last days, when some, yes, many, shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Be cautious in regard to what you read and how you hear. Take not a particle of interest in spiritualistic theories. Satan is waiting to steal a march upon every one who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism. He begins to exert his power over them just as soon as they begin to investigate his theories.”**

**— Letter 123, 1904**

## **The Warning**

**“Suffer not yourselves to open the lids of a book that is questionable. There is a hellish fascination in the literature of Satan. It is the powerful battery by which he tears down a simple religious faith. Never feel that you are strong enough to read infidel books; for they contain a poison like that of asps. They can do you no good, and will assuredly do you harm. In reading them, you are inhaling the miasmas of hell.”**

*— Fundamentals of Christian Education, 93*

Today, of course, we might justly include every modern media format, for the devil has certainly been diligent to use them all for his corrupt purposes.

Simply staying away from garbage seems like it should be easy, but the devil has ways of dealing with that.

In the world of academia, this notion that there could be information that must be avoided is anathema! Human pride wants to master every challenge, and to think that there is a demonic power to fear is absolute heresy!

## Echoes of Lucifer

**“Read in my books, *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy*, the story of the first great apostasy. History is being repeated and will be repeated. Read then, and understand.”**

— Letter 98, 1906

As Dr. Kellogg drifted further and further from God, and his influence spread more and more, the thoughts of Ellen White turned often to the story of Lucifer. As she sought to alert others to the growing problem, she realized that Dr. Kellogg was following in the same track as Lucifer.

CLICK for text:

## Echoes of Lucifer

**“No greater deception could be presented to the minds of men than the representation you have made of God.... Souls will be lost through the sowing of the sentiments found in *Living Temple*. In presenting error you have united with the prince of darkness.”**

— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 251

**“When you wrote that book you were not under the inspiration of God. There was by your side the one who inspired Adam to look at God in a false light.”**

— *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 314

It's no wonder that Lucifer's story explained so much about Kellogg's apostasy; it turns out it was choreographed by the same mastermind.

CLICK for two items

## **Echoes of Lucifer**

**“You have been the spokesman repeating the words of accusation and condemnation of the arch-deceiver. Your science has been used to benumb the sensibilities and confuse the judgment of others. In long night-talks you have presented your mind and plans and works [and these] have become their mind and plan and works. In listening to your words, these men have imbibed the very science of the tempter. You have twisted and manipulated and misstated and misrepresented the testimonies that God has given, making them of no effect.**

## Echoes of Lucifer

**“This whole matter has been presented to me. You have worked as Lucifer worked in the heavenly courts to persuade his associates to unite with him. The enemy has used his arts upon your mind. Your boasted study of science and your assertion that you had obtained something excellent have deceived the men connected with you, and they have refused to listen to the warnings sent to keep them from listening to your false representations.”**

*— Battle Creek Letters, 120*

## Echoes of Lucifer

**“When I was in Takoma Park, living in Carroll House, many things were presented to me in vision, one of them a committee meeting held during the night hours in the Battle Creek Sanitarium. That meeting was conducted by Dr. Kellogg. Many of the physicians were present, and W.C. White, having been sent for to attend a special council, was reined up in this committee meeting. O what agony of mind I suffered as I was viewing the way in which Dr. Kellogg conducted that meeting. I may sometime describe it, but not now.**

Did you notice the reference to “long night talks.” For reasons I don’t fully understand, Ellen White repeatedly warned that they were especially dangerous.

CLICK for text:

## Echoes of Lucifer

**“I have told Willie that if ever plans were made for him to go into another night session with Dr. Kellogg, and I knew it, I would certainly exercise all the power God would give me to break up such an interview. Evil angels were there, and if the physicians present had had their true senses about them, they would have understood the spirit and influence of the actions of Dr. Kellogg and of the words spoken by him on that occasion.”**

— Manuscript 168, 1905

We might well pray that we will “have our true senses about us” should we ever find ourselves in such a situation.

The inescapable conclusion from such statements is that there are, indeed, unseen forces and influences with which we must contend. Indeed, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood.”

Interestingly, it is not “flesh and blood” that the devil seems to be after, either. Notice the references to the minds of the people involved.

## **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“It would have been better for Dr. Kellogg if he had never been born, if he continues to build himself up in his own magical arts of mind in influencing other minds. What chapters of experience will be opened before the universe of heaven. The light will reveal every phase of his companionship with satanic agencies.”**

**— Manuscript 127, 1905**

## **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“I know the seducing power of Dr. Kellogg’s adviser, and I have no other name to give it but the seductive influence of satanic agencies. Dr. Kellogg has dealt in this influence to a greater or less degree. He has not changed, except to be more secretive. I have not one ray of hope regarding him, unless he understands that through satanic agencies he is striving for power over human minds. This has been shown me.”**

**— Manuscript 168, 1905**

## **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“Dr. Kellogg has linked up with the great deceiver. He has not realized what he was doing any more than the angels who fell realized what they were doing, but he has tempted Satan to tempt him. He has studied hypnotism and spiritualism for the purpose of bringing minds to endorse sentiments that mean a denial of the faith once delivered to the saints. He has not entered upon this work all at once, but by degrees. He has ensnared his own mind and capabilities. He would now resort to any device rather than to humble his heart before God and to acknowledge his wrong.”**

**— Manuscript 168, 1907**

## **Like Your Father the Devil**

**“I have seen Dr. Kellogg exerting a hypnotic influence upon persons, and at such times the archdeceiver was his helper. Those who sustain him are guilty with him. This blindness of understanding is a strange thing in our ranks....**

**“Dr. Kellogg places himself in the position of one who is abused, because he cannot carry everything with him, but he is still at work with all subtlety. I have warned our people; for they do not understand his underhand, secretive working. And he works with such ingenuity to obtain sympathy that to many his words seem genuine.**

**— Letter 258, 1906**

Inappropriate sympathy. If you remember, we saw this with Lucifer in his original rebellion.

In English—or at least in Canada and the States—we have a phrase for this. It’s called “victim playing.” No matter what happens, some people will always portray themselves as being picked on, and always demand special treatment as a result.

This is the method that has been used so successfully by quite a number of “social reform” causes in the last twenty years.

As always, Kellogg was ahead of his time.

## Mysticism

**“We need not the mysticism that is in this book [*The Living Temple*]. Those who entertain these sophistries will soon find themselves in a position where the enemy can talk with them, and lead them away from God.”**

— *Review and Herald*, October 22, 1903

**“Your ideas are so mystical that they are destructive to the real substance, and the minds of some are becoming confused in regard to the foundation of our faith. If you allow your mind to become thus diverted, you will give a wrong mold to the work that has made us what we are—*Seventh-day Adventists*.”**

— *Letter 52*, 1903

Another element of the alpha apostasy was the matter of mysticism. In some ways, this is the major concern, so we need to look at it for a moment.

CLICK for two items:

The heart of mysticism is the practice of human-controlled contact with the supernatural. Essentially, they claim to be prophets who can at their own convenience establish direct contact with the deity they worship

It's worth noting that Ellen White vigorously denied any such practice....

## **Mysticism**

**“It is utterly false that I have ever intimated I could have a vision when I pleased. There is not a shade of truth in this. I have never said I could throw myself into visions when I pleased, for this is simply impossible.**

## Mysticism

**“It is utterly false that I have ever intimated I could have a vision when I pleased. There is not a shade of truth in this. I have never said I could throw myself into visions when I pleased, for this is simply impossible. I have felt for years that if I could have my choice and please God as well, I would rather die than have a vision, for every vision places me under great responsibility to bear testimonies of reproof and of warning, which has ever been against my feelings.**

— *Selected Messages, Book 3, 36*

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This mystical power to contact and “experience” contact with a “spiritual” intelligence is highly sought after by many today, which makes me pretty sure it’s not the same experience Ellen White was describing.

But mysticism is neither new nor confined to any one religion.

You can find mystics just about everywhere: There are mystics in Catholicism (from the “Desert Fathers” of the second and third centuries down to Pope Francis, today); In Protestantism (the Charismatic movement); in Judaism (the Kabalists); in Islam (the Sufi sect); in Hinduism (every guru); in Buddhism (every priest); in Animism (the Shamans and “Witch Doctors”); and—believe it or not—in Atheism (Hallucinogenic drug users). It’s all the same experience, and not surprisingly, mystics of all varieties tend to get along quite nicely.

## Mysticism



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Perhaps you remember the rapprochement between Pope Francis and Kenneth Copeland—orchestrated with the help of Tony Palmer just before he died. That was on the basis of their shared “Charismatic Renewal.”

And then it spread...

## Mysticism



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The pope is in white, of course, and Kenneth Copeland is to the left of the pope, with Tony Palmer on the far right. I don't know anything about the rest of these folks, but my understanding is that they are all charismatics—they're all mystics—and that's enough of a bond to override whatever "doctrinal" differences they may have.

But it goes further...

## Mysticism



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Again, I'll confess that I don't know much about these individuals, but I'd be willing to guess that most if not all of them share the pope's mystical outlook.

Actually, the one I like is the gentleman in the back left. He sort of looks like he's trying to figure out if he really wants to be a part of this whole operation or not!

But as happy as these folks all look (or confused in the one case), there is nothing positive about dabbling with mysticism.

## **Mysticism**

**“We have reached the perils of the last days, when some, yes, many, shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Be cautious in regard to what you read and how you hear. Take not a particle of interest in spiritualistic theories. Satan is waiting to steal a march upon every one who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism. He begins to exert his power over them just as soon as they begin to investigate his theories.”**

— Letter 123, 1904

Simply put, mysticism is nothing to play with. Remember the quotation we read a while back:

“The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.”

It seems like a fair question to ask what warning she’s talking about. I’ve never found an absolutely explicit statement as to what this warning is, but the one warning which is most commonly expressed is basically, “Don’t read the book!”

## **Mysticism**

**“I tell you in the name of the Lord God of Israel that Satan is presenting his sophistries to ministers and medical workers; and if our people will listen to these sophistries, they will become impregnated with the same satanic idea of a popular religion that will cause them to develop into gods, and there will be no place in their lives for God or for Christ.”**

— Letter 276, 1904

This comment tells us what would have happened on a much larger scale if the alpha apostasy had continued to develop.

That being the case, I believe it tells us what the omega apostasy will be, since it is basically the fully developed principals of the alpha.

So, what's the end point? Where is this all going?

## **Mysticism**

**“The light is given to me in regard to the poor understanding of those that have been in the truth, that these sophistries, and this mysticism, and doing away with the personality of God, and with the personality of Christ, will get the hall-room of the heart all ready for these miracles that Satan will come to work right in our midst. Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”**

**— Manuscript 138, 1906**

Miracles... hmmm. Just remember that for now.

## **A Time for Silence**

**“Some thought the time had come long ago to make a determined effort to break the spell and expose the deception. For years one and still another of Dr. Kellogg’s men have stood forth, claiming that Dr. Kellogg is all right, that he teaches the message as we believe it, and that he believes the testimonies. But at the same time a work of misrepresentation was going on, and many of our people were becoming spiritually deceived.**

**“To those who urged immediate action, I said, ‘Wait until Dr. Kellogg himself and those closely allied with him take an open stand. Then be all prepared with matter ready to print.’**

Another lesson here: Notice the parallels here between Kellogg’s apostasy and Lucifer’s apostasy, and Ellen White’s counsel and the course pursued by God in heaven:

CLICK for text:

## A Time for Silence

**“But I was shown that our brethren must make no move until Dr. Kellogg and his associates had taken a decided position to repudiate the testimonies. When this was done, we must show our people the right side and take the affirmative in the name of the Lord....**

**“We had to move, and yet we had to wait until those in error thought they could carry things against the ministers and churches. I was shown their course of action and had everything in readiness for such a movement and labored to defeat their deep-laid plot.”**

— Letter 258, 1906

Some people like to ridicule “conspiracy theories.” And I certainly admit that people can get carried away making accusations of all sorts of things they can’t really prove, so I do want to stay away from that.

But this statement is talking about a “deep-laid plot.” I don’t care how you want to package that, that means intentional conspiracy.

Here’s another example:

## **A Time for Silence**

**“Friends of the Doctor were visiting our churches, acting as spies to work up a sentiment favorable to his interests. They claimed that he was in perfect harmony with the message as we believe it and that he believed the testimonies. A work of deception was being carried on. Many of our people were becoming confused.**

**“I said to those who urged immediate action, ‘Do not act hastily. It will be better to wait until Dr. Kellogg and his associates take the position that they do not believe the testimonies. When this time comes we are to be prepared with suitable matter for publication to meet the issue.’**

## **A Time for Silence**

**“This was done. Meetings were held in Battle Creek at which the testimonies were presented in a very objectionable light. The testimonies were practically repudiated. But matter was ready for publication. Our people on the right side took a strong, affirmative position in the name of the Lord, and the wide-spread deception was arrested. One of the leaders in Battle Creek said that the lid of the kettle was lifted too soon, that had they waited a little longer, they might have had nearly all the churches on their side.”**

**— Letter 306, 1906**

Just as Ellen White had said, Kellogg was using the same kind of deception that Lucifer used in heaven. I believe there's a reason all this was allowed to play out, and a reason it was all recorded.

This parallel relationship between Lucifer's apostasy, Kellogg's apostasy, and the omega apostasy is the best means I know to understand the challenges ahead of us in the near future.

But back to this matter of silence: it's important to note that it was not to be a permanent policy.

## **A Time to Speak**

**“The sentiments in *Living Temple* regarding the personality of God have been received even by men who have had a long experience in the truth. When such men consent to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, we are no longer to regard the subject as a matter to be treated with the greatest delicacy. That those whom we thought sound in the faith should have failed to discern the specious, deadly influence of this science of evil, should alarm us as nothing else has alarmed us.**

## A Time to Speak

**“It is something that can not be treated as a small matter that men who have had so much light, and such clear evidence as to the genuineness of the truth we hold, should become unsettled, and led to accept spiritualistic theories regarding the personality of God.”**

— *Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 37*

There are many more details than we have time to consider just now. One item to consider, though, is the fact that church members at large were not told about any great danger from Dr. Kellogg until quite late in the ordeal. They seem to have been left to follow their own judgment for a long while. Something to think about...

But for us, the main thought is simple: God has warned us. He has told us about both the good and the evil of the last days. In fact, He has granted humanity's choice that we be given what He wanted to protect us from—the knowledge of good and evil.

The long-anticipated final test—the second probation of the race as a whole—is coming to His people, and He has made every effort to prepare us for it. Time will tell whether or not His people will succeed.

## **The Extent of the Danger**

**“As I went into our files in response to your request, I found a statement written by my father, W.C. White, about 1935-1936. I think you will be interested in this for he broadens the basis for the statements on the alpha and omega beyond that which one might conclude from just reading them as they are in the text....**

**“Here is my father’s statement:**

In 1972 the president of the General Conference, Elder Robert Pierson, asked the secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate—Ellen White’s grandson, Elder Arthur White—if he could provide “any further information concerning situations which called for E. G. White statements on the alpha and the omega.”

I have had a good deal of respect for Elder Pierson for many years, but I have to say that my respect increased when I read this. I was glad to find that even as a busy administrative officer of the church, Elder Pierson had the good sense to prepare as best he could for a crisis God had said would come to His people.

It was a wise request, and Elder White prepared a thoughtful response. Let’s take a look it, shall we?

CLICK for text:

## **The Extent of the Danger**

**“There is one matter which causes us some perplexity. It is that which Sister white has written regarding the alpha and the omega of efforts to mislead the people of God. It is clearly to be seen that the alpha was the introduction of misleading documents and the effort to wrest the leadership of the denomination from the men chosen to bear heavy responsibility....**

## **The Extent of the Danger**

**“It has always seemed to me that when the omega came it would bear two characteristics, somewhat similar to the alpha. The movement designated as the alpha embraced a deep laid plan on the part of the great adversary of truth to introduce false doctrine which struck at the very vitals of Christian belief. It also embraced a persistent and strongly sustained effort to wrest the leadership of this people from the General Conference Committee and place it in the hands of other men.**

## **The Extent of the Danger**

**“With these things in mind, I cannot accept any movement that I have seen up to the present time as constituting the omega. When the omega does come, I shall expect to see something similar to the work of Dr. Kellogg and his associates when they labored so earnestly to undermine the confidence of all our people in the leadership of the General Conference.”**

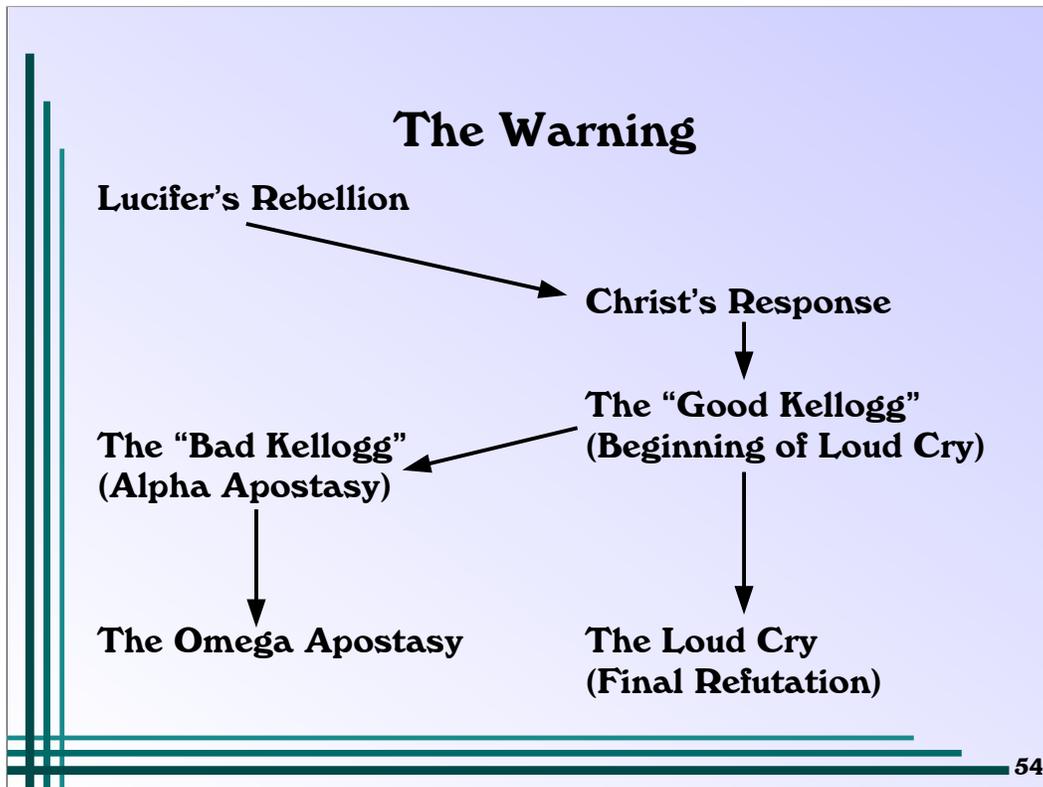
**— Letter, Arthur L. White to Robert H. Pierson,  
January 17, 1972**

## **The Extent of the Danger**

**“My heart was filled with sorrow because of the course that J.H. Kellogg is following. And A.T. Jones is following the same course and voicing the same sentiments, with a most determined spirit. When a realization of this comes over me, with such force, great sorrow fills my soul.**

**“I have before me such a revival of the first great apostasy in the heavenly courts, that I am bowed down with an agony that cannot be expressed.”**

**— Letter 248, 1906**



Through the lessons of past history, the Lord has provided a series of parallel illustrations designed to teach us what is coming.

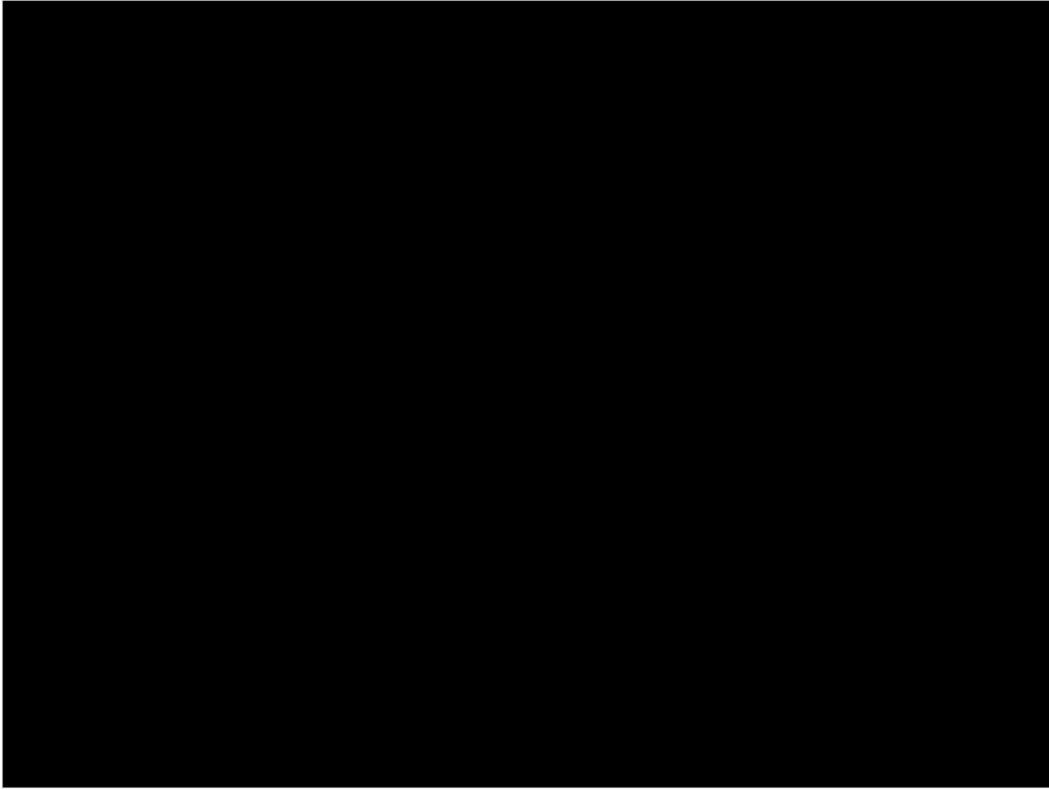
We've looked briefly at the record of the first four...

CLICK for four items

And yet two more remain.

CLICK for two items

We'll be looking at these in our final meeting.



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