



Omega

“NOTHING NEW HERE”

Nothing New Here

“The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of His deep designs. The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.”

— *Great Controversy*, 528

Nothing New Here

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

— *Life Sketches*, 196

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“Satan deceives and corrupts the world and makes men believe that they are sinless and holy while sinning against God, but in so doing he is only carrying on his original work. He has introduced no new arguments, he has created no new empire of darkness from which to draw supplies for the furtherance of his deceptions. And sin that was sin in the beginning is sin today; and sin, the apostle declares, is the transgression of God’s law.

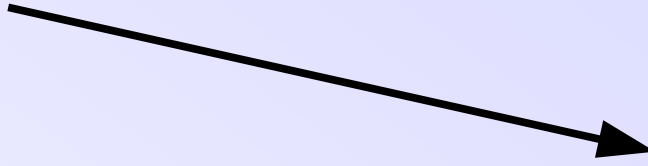
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— *Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1890

Nothing New Here

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

The Final Work

“Christ’s method alone will give true success.”

— *Ministry of Healing*, 143

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“God is love. This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”

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“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”

— Letter 58, 1906

The Final Work

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.”

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“What the world needs today is the light of Christ’s example reflected from the lives of Christlike men and women.”

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“Christ, the great Medical Missionary, is our example. ... He healed the sick and preached the gospel. In his service, healing and teaching were linked closely together. Today they are not to be separated.”

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“The Holy Spirit never has, and never will in the future, divorce the medical missionary work from the gospel ministry. They can not be divorced. Bound up with Jesus Christ, the ministry of the word and the healing of the sick are one.”

— *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, 64

The Final Work

“The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel.”

— Review and Herald, March 4, 1902

The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is proud.
4. God is selfish.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

The Final Work

“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”

— Review and Herald, August 13, 1895

“The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”

— Christ’s Object Lessons, 296

The Final Work

- ◆ **God's final work uses the same method that Christ used during His life on earth—the revelation of the character of God.**
- ◆ **God's final work requires that human beings take on the role Jesus played during His life on earth.**
- ◆ **The revelation of God's character cannot be accomplished through words alone. Acts of mercy and healing are also necessary.**
- ◆ **In short, God's final work is self-sacrificing medical missionary work.**

The Final Work

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—Letter 121, 1900

Alpha to Omega

- ◆ **Most obvious problem was pantheism, the belief that God is not a specific “person,” but some sort of all-pervading non-entity.**
- ◆ **All men—saints and sinners alike—became at least partially “divine” (because God was everywhere), and the heavenly sanctuary became “wherever God is,” hence the name, *Living Temple*.**
- ◆ **But beyond the philosophical elements, there were also clear indications of direct supernatural involvement:**

Alpha to Omega

“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.”

— Letter 253, 1903

“It is not John Kellogg that you are dealing with; it is a being who once figured in the courts of heaven as an exalted angel. The poor Doctor is not in his right mind.”

— Letter 172, 1903

“It is Satan’s theories that are now coming to the front from the lips of Dr. Kellogg.

— Letter 405, 1904

Alpha to Omega

“Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that ‘men are unfallen demigods;’ that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin.”

— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 688

The Evil Twin

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.... In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’”

— *Great Controversy*, 624

The Evil Twin

“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 enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.... Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.”

— *Great Controversy*, 464

The Evil Twin

“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”

— *Great Controversy*, 593

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“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth.”

— *Great Controversy*, 528

The Evil Twin

“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

The Evil Twin

“Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ. His instruction is not palatable to them.”

— Letter 275, 1903

The Evil Twin

“The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday.”

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The Evil Twin

“Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary.”

— *General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903

The Tactics of Rebellion

- ◆ **Exploit position and trust as long as possible**
- ◆ **Hide intentions from others**
- ◆ **Imply or insinuate without clear assertions**
- ◆ **Distort others' perceptions**
- ◆ **Maintain plausible deniability**
- ◆ **Shift responsibility to others**
- ◆ **Lie**
- ◆ **Abandon discredited positions without accepting responsibility for having advocated them**
- ◆ **Cite supporters as evidence of correctness**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**

The Master Plan

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result?”

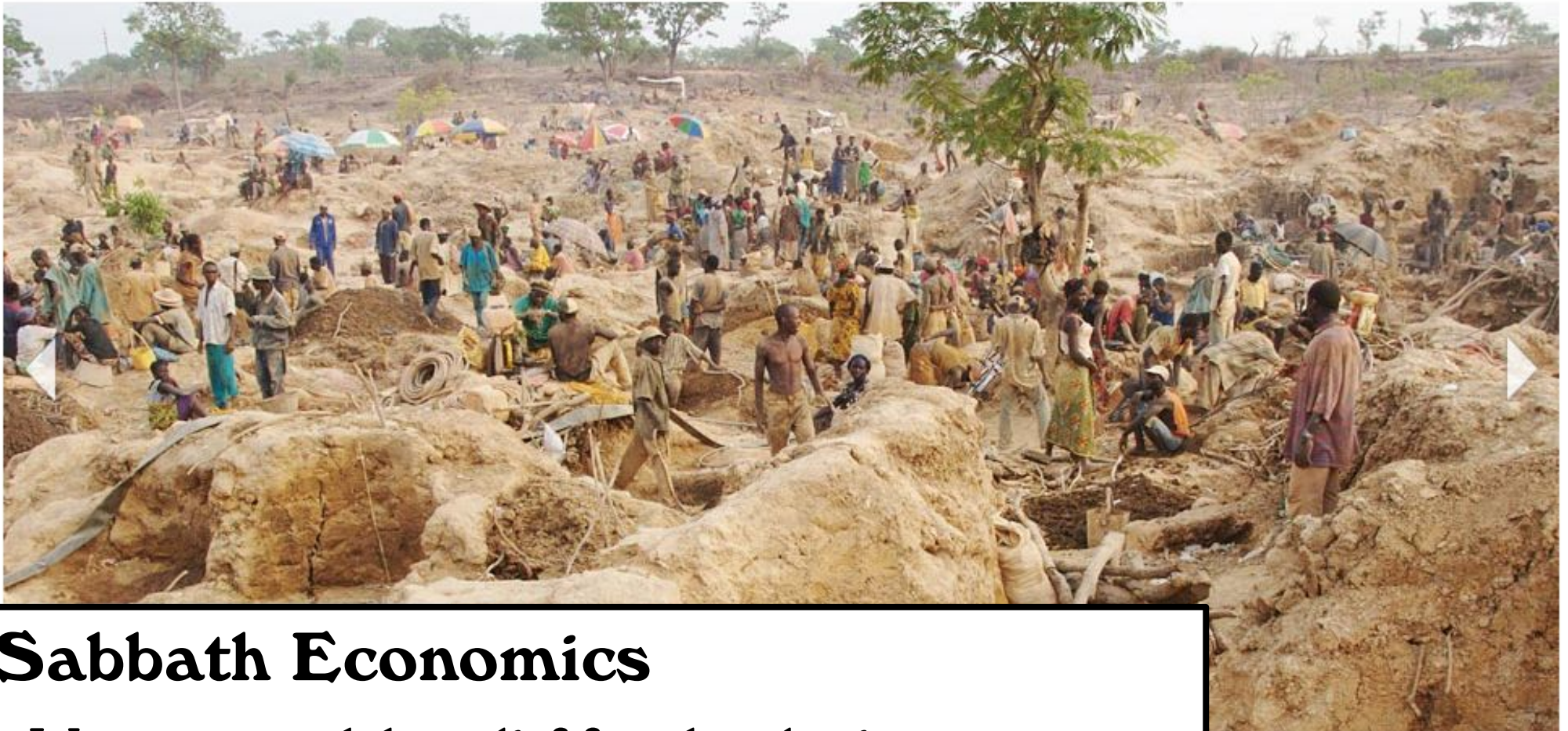
The Master Plan

“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.

The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204–205*



Sabbath Economics

We support debt relief for developing nations and a preferential option for the poor

gold mines in Guinea © Kimberly Kim, 2005

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Storm and Tempest

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”

— Review and Herald, October 19, 1897

Storm and Tempest

“If you are a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word. I would advise young men and women to give heed to this matter. Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.”

— Letter 34, 1892

Storm and Tempest

“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”

— Letter 34, 1892

Storm and Tempest

“The foundation of Christianity is Christ our righteousness.”

— Manuscript 89, 1907

“Selfishness lies at the foundation of all sin.”

— Manuscript 153, 1899

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Storm and Tempest

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”

— *Desire of Ages*, 121

“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558

“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”

— Letter 6, 1894

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Storm and Tempest

“By a careless sneer, a turn of the head, or words of scorn and derision, a wrongdoer may set in motion an influence freighted with evil. An evil insinuation, once started, will spread rapidly, carried from mind to mind. It was by the expression of such thoughts that Satan placed in the minds of the angels that rebellion spread among them.”

—Letter 113, 1903

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“Not all, but many of those who claim to be children of God have become so self-centered, so selfish, so full of idolatry of self, that they are jealous, mistrustful of everyone whom they have an idea will, as they suppose, outshine them; therefore there is strife and bitterness, evil thinking and evil speaking, emulation and hatred.... This is the reason that the Lord cannot endure the sentiments that are being brought into the life and character of the responsible men in the Review and Herald Office.”

— Manuscript 240, 1902

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What to Do Now?

“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”

— Letter 165, 1901

What to Do Now?

“Because so little effort has been made to engage young men and women in the missionary work which must be done to bring the gospel invitation to all, there is but one worker where there should be a hundred. The indifference which is manifested for suffering humanity is charged against churches and families and individuals.”

— Review and Herald, March 1, 1898

What to Do Now?

“Unless there are those who will devise means of turning to account the time, strength, and brains of the church members, there will be a great work left undone that ought to be done. Haphazard work will not answer. We want men in the church who have ability to develop in the line of organizing and giving practical work to young men and women in the line of relieving the wants of humanity, and working for the salvation of the souls of men, women, youth, and children.”

— Welfare Ministry, 105



Omega

“NOTHING NEW HERE”

1

At the end of earth's history, God's people will face Satan's final attack, his most deceptive effort ever. Fortunately, we still have the promise that God will not allow him to tempt us beyond what we are able to resist.

But as we saw in our first meeting, God's purpose is to allow Satan to make a full demonstration of his principles. How can that be done if God puts a limit on the devil's work?

Well, there is good news and bad news in this. The bad news is that the Lord is about to turn the devil loose with no restrictions. The good news is that the Lord is working to prepare His people so that even the most vicious deceptions of Satan will not be beyond their power to resist.

Nothing New Here

“The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of His deep designs. The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.”

— Great Controversy, 528

How are we ever going to resist one who is so much more intelligent and powerful than we are? By learning the lessons of history!

Remember?

Nothing New Here

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

— Life Sketches, 196

This is why it's important to know that there's nothing new in the devil's work at the end of time.

Nothing New Here

“Satan deceives and corrupts the world and makes men believe that they are sinless and holy while sinning against God, but in so doing he is only carrying on his original work. He has introduced no new arguments, he has created no new empire of darkness from which to draw supplies for the furtherance of his deceptions. And sin that was sin in the beginning is sin today; and sin, the apostle declares, is the transgression of God’s law.

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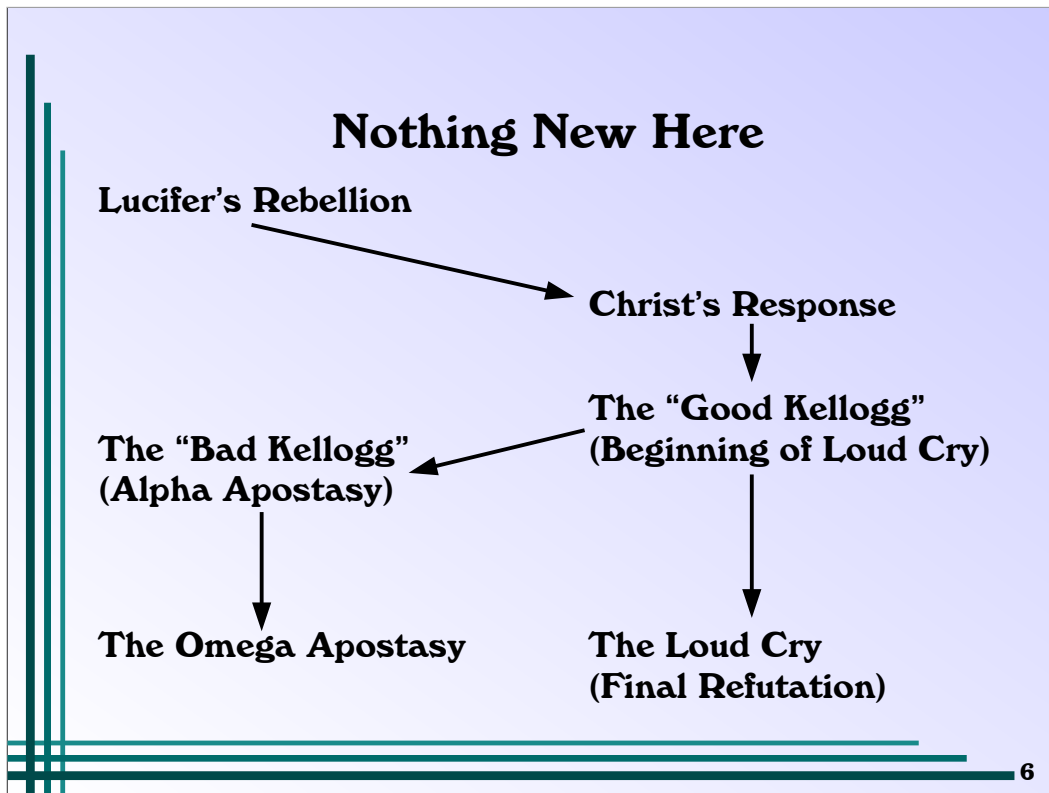
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— *Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1890

As encouraging as it is to know that we have nothing to fear as long as we don’t forget God’s teaching in our past history, I worry about those who have never learned the history in the first place.

Are they really any better off than those who have forgotten it?

This is why I believe the parallels we’ve looked at are so important to God’s people today.



I believe the Lord has given us the record of all this...

CLICK for text:

...in order to illustrate this:

CLICK for text:

The important thing to remember is that the closing events are simply the full and final display of the principles and methods that have gone before—on both sides, good and evil.

Just as Satan will have nothing new, so we must be careful to not bring in any new methods and principles of our own as we try to finish the work that Jesus began and then entrusted into our hands. Remember?

The Final Work

“Christ’s method alone will give true success.”

— *Ministry of Healing*, 143

“The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father.”

— *Signs of the Times*, June 27, 1895

“God is love. This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”

— *Signs of the Times*, April 11, 1895

“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”

— *Letter 58*, 1906

7

Notice the second word—“method.” It’s singular. This is not talking about all the little distinctions we might find in Christ’s work, like once He used clay, and another time He touched the man, and other times He just spoke words of forgiveness and healing.

That’s not what this is talking about. This is the one big method, the one that stands out above all others. We saw it in our second meeting:

CLICK for three items

But now there’s a difference. Jesus isn’t here anymore. Now it’s our task to reveal the character of God.

The Final Work

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.”

— Ministry of Healing, 143

“What the world needs today is the light of Christ’s example reflected from the lives of Christlike men and women.”

— Testimonies, vol. 9, 135

“Hearts will be captivated—not by the glory of the man, but by the inward adorning of an abiding Christ. It is the revelation of Christ in the man that captivates the hearts of men and women. They behold the beautiful character of Christ, revealed by good works.”

— Letter 40, 1899

CLICK for two items:

So the “good Kellogg” back in 1893 with his sermons on “Good Works” actually had it right!

But it’s even more than that!

The Final Work

“God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”

— Manuscript 130, 1902

The “glory of the character of Christ, can never be expressed in words. Human language is inadequate to reveal it. It must be made manifest in the life. It is to be manifest in the individual Christian, in the family, in the church, in the ministry of the word, and in every institution established by God’s people.”

— *(Australasian) Union Conference Record*, June 1, 1900

Identical... that’s a very strong word!

But when we take up this work that’s identical to the work of Christ, we’re going to run into the identical problem He ran into.

CLICK for second text:

We need to wake up and realize that—if something is impossible for Jesus—it’s going to be impossible for us!

And that’s why, in our work of revealing the character of God, we need to use the same methods (plural this time) that Jesus used.

The Final Work

“Christ, the great Medical Missionary, is our example. ... He healed the sick and preached the gospel. In his service, healing and teaching were linked closely together. Today they are not to be separated.”

— General Conference Bulletin, June 3, 1909

“The Holy Spirit never has, and never will in the future, divorce the medical missionary work from the gospel ministry. They can not be divorced. Bound up with Jesus Christ, the ministry of the word and the healing of the sick are one.”

— Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 64

CLICK for second text:

The Final Work

“The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel.”

— *Review and Herald*, March 4, 1902

One quick question to think about here:

If this united work is **the** true interpretation of the gospel, what does that make all other interpretations?

But this idea of us doing the same work Jesus did raises some questions. The most important of these questions is just, “Why?”

Why do we need to do the work that Jesus already did? After all, isn't the job done?

Well, no. It's not done. Remember this?

The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is proud.
4. God is selfish.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

12

These are Satan's accusations against God and His government. We saw them in the presentation about Lucifer, and again in the one on Christ. That's when we started crossing accusations off the list—when we saw that Jesus had proven Satan wrong on most of them.

Most. But not all. There are still three there. Why? And what is God going to do about them?

We don't have time to look at all the details of these three accusations, but I can tell you that they are fascinating, especially number seven. And there is something special about these three; each one is intricately connected with the fate of sinful human beings. In fact, the task of proving them false was something that Jesus could not accomplish by Himself. To do so requires evidence from another source....

The Final Work

“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”

— Review and Herald, August 13, 1895

“The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”

— Christ’s Object Lessons, 296

CLICK for two items:

So let’s do a little summary on God’s work at the end of time:

The Final Work

- ◆ **God's final work uses the same method that Christ used during His life on earth—the revelation of the character of God.**
- ◆ **God's final work requires that human beings take on the role Jesus played during His life on earth.**
- ◆ **The revelation of God's character cannot be accomplished through words alone. Acts of mercy and healing are also necessary.**
- ◆ **In short, God's final work is self-sacrificing medical missionary work.**

CLICK for four items:

All of which helps us understand this statement:

The Final Work

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice—meaning with increasing power—as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true....

The true what?

The Final Work

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice—meaning with increasing power—as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true **medical missionary work**, a work that has the great **Physician** to dictate and preside in all it comprehends.”

— Letter 121, 1900

We’ll have more on this, but before we do, we really need to get a basic idea of the devil’s final attack that will be underway at the same time all this is going on.

Alpha to Omega

- ◆ **Most obvious problem was pantheism, the belief that God is not a specific “person,” but some sort of all-pervading non-entity.**
- ◆ **All men—saints and sinners alike—became at least partially “divine” (because God was everywhere), and the heavenly sanctuary became “wherever God is,” hence the name, *Living Temple*.**
- ◆ **But beyond the philosophical elements, there were also clear indications of direct supernatural involvement:**

Since there isn't all that much direct information about the omega, the best starting point to understanding it is to go back and learn all we can about the alpha.

Unfortunately, the picture of the alpha which emerges is not good. Pretty ominous, in fact.

CLICK for three items:

Alpha to Omega

“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.”

— Letter 253, 1903

“It is not John Kellogg that you are dealing with; it is a being who once figured in the courts of heaven as an exalted angel. The poor Doctor is not in his right mind.”

— Letter 172, 1903

“It is Satan's theories that are now coming to the front from the lips of Dr. Kellogg.

— Letter 405, 1904

CLICK for two items:

Alpha to Omega

“Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that ‘men are unfallen demigods;’ that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin.”

— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 688

Now, it seems to me that Adventists have a bit of a blind spot when it comes to spiritualism. We often think of it only in terms of seances and the supposed spirits of the dead.

That’s a part of it, to be sure, but there’s more. Ellen White wrote much about the “spirits of the dead” aspect, of course, but when she turns her attention to the more philosophical side of the topic, the “no death” issue is almost lost sight of in all the bad stuff that comes from it.

CLICK for text:

This is the spiritualism that Dr. Kellogg was involved with, and it’s plenty popular in our day as well. This is one part of the Omega.

The Evil Twin

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ... In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’”

— *Great Controversy*, 624

Perhaps the most basic thing to remember about Satan’s end time deceptions is that they are all counterfeits. Of course, the first thing that comes to mind here is probably this:

CLICK for text:

But Satan doesn’t just counterfeit Christ. That’s important, to be sure, but the counterfeiting starts long before he shows up pretending to be Jesus.

The Evil Twin

“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 enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.... Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.”

— *Great Controversy*, 464

21

This isn't a new thought, of course. It's been in *Great Controversy* all along, and probably most of us are familiar with it already. But there's more to this picture than we usually notice.

What do you suppose “primitive godliness” looks like? Yeah, it's medical missionary work.

So what would a counterfeit look like? Yeah, it'll look like medical missionary work.

How do I know that? I kept reading.

The Evil Twin

“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”

— *Great Controversy*, 593

This idea of the devil’s counterfeit just keeps showing up. It’s not a new thought, but what worries me is that we have been so focused on counterfeit doctrine—Sunday instead of Sabbath, conscious dead instead of sleeping dead—that we might easily overlook the devil’s counterfeit of the real work Christ’s people will be doing.

CLICK for text:

It’s certainly true that “statements”—what we might call “doctrine”—will be involved, but the emphasis is on “marvelous works” and “miracles.” Why?

The Evil Twin

“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived,...

“Willing to be deceived....”

What will they be deceived about? Well, the Sabbath comes to mind as an obvious example, and no doubt it will be involved in all this. But that's not what's specified here. Notice how Ellen White describes the people who will be deceived:

CLICK for highlighting:

The Evil Twin

“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth.”

— *Great Controversy*, 528

Where do self-denial and self-sacrifice show up the most?

Medical missionary work!

And that’s exactly why miracles seem so cool! Not only do they show supernatural power, but they take the hard work out of helping people!

And, incidentally, do you remember from our last meeting what God says will prepare us to accept Satan’s miracles?

The Evil Twin

“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

And, of course, there is this statement...

The Evil Twin

“Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ. His instruction is not palatable to them.”

— Letter 275, 1903

What does it mean to “become one with Christ”?

What “instruction” do people find unpalatable?

Now let’s go back to Satan impersonating Jesus...

The Evil Twin

“The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday.”

— Great Controversy, 624

The Evil Twin

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— *Great Controversy*, 624

In other words, Satan is doing exactly what he has to do to look like Jesus....

The Evil Twin

“Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary.”

— *General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903

Now, despite the devil’s efforts to make his work look like God’s work, there will be differences. Some of these won’t easily be visible—because Satan is a liar and he doesn’t want people to understand what’s really going on.

So as a reminder, let’s look again at the list of techniques Lucifer used in heaven. The bad Kellogg used them in the alpha, and it’s safe to say they will all be used again in the omega.

The Tactics of Rebellion

- ◆ **Exploit position and trust as long as possible**
- ◆ **Hide intentions from others**
- ◆ **Imply or insinuate without clear assertions**
- ◆ **Distort others' perceptions**
- ◆ **Maintain plausible deniability**
- ◆ **Shift responsibility to others**
- ◆ **Lie**
- ◆ **Abandon discredited positions without accepting responsibility for having advocated them**
- ◆ **Cite supporters as evidence of correctness**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**

CLICK for nine items

What we don't know for sure—yet—is who will be using these tactics. Unfortunately, we are told that there will be surprising apostasies in the end times. We shouldn't be overly suspicious, but neither should be so naive as to allow someone to lead us away from Christ and His methods.

The Master Plan

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result?”

Let's look closely at Ellen White's statement about the "reformation" that Kellogg wanted to bring about. And remember, what the alpha would have grown into is probably our best picture of what the omega will be.

CLICK for text:

The Master Plan

“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.

Let's look closely at Ellen White's statement about the "reformation" that Kellogg wanted to bring about. And remember, what the alpha would have grown into is probably our best picture of what the omega will be.

The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204-205*

I believe the beginning stages of this statement are playing out in Adventism right now. Way too many church members are heading down a pointless, social gospel road, and the mindset is deadly. They want to be “sort of virtuous” but they stay a long way from being “overly religious.”

One example:



gold mines in Guinea © Kimberly Kim, 2005

Sabbath Economics

We support debt relief for developing nations and a preferential option for the poor

TIONS

CLICK for text box:

OK, let's go back to Ellen White's description of the alpha and notice some details.

The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. **Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.**”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204-205*

This is the story of the wise man and the foolish man. One built on the rock, the other on the sand, “and the rain came a’tumblin’ down.”

Two houses. But one storm. The same storm.

Christ never said anything about the houses being different from each other. For all we know, they looked identical. But there was a difference. The foundation.

The wise man’s house was not shielded from the storm. It endured the storm because it was built on the rock.

The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204–205*

But what is that storm and tempest? And when is this all going to happen?

We call it the “little time of trouble.” And though I’m no prophet, it’s easy to believe that it could be coming soon. The financial, political, medical, and social systems of our world are close to failing. Who knows what might make it all collapse?

And this is the point: When that collapse comes, there will be two teams of “medical missionaries.” One team will be doing a work “identical” to the work of Christ, while the other team will be doing a work that **looks** identical to the work of Christ.

Both groups will be “helping people.” Why? Because, given world conditions at that time, that’s the only thing that is going to have any impact on the world.

Storm and Tempest

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”

— Review and Herald, October 19, 1897

God has warned us of this time of trouble, and told us what to do to get ready for it. And since Satan’s work is a counterfeit, you can be sure his people will be doing something that looks the same.

So what did God tell us to do to get ready for all this?

Storm and Tempest

“If you are a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word. I would advise young men and women to give heed to this matter. Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.”

— Letter 34, 1892

God has warned us of this time of trouble, and told us what to do to get ready for it. And since Satan’s work is a counterfeit, you can be sure his people will be doing something that looks the same.

So what did God tell us to do to get ready for all this?

Storm and Tempest

“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”

—Letter 34, 1892

39

God’s people will be ministering to the people—both for their physical health and their spiritual health. They’ll be doing the same thing Jesus did when He was here.

And Satan’s followers? Much the same... in appearance, anyway.

Until the storm and tempest sweeps away their structure!

But how could this storm sweep away the devil’s house but not the Lord’s house? Is the Lord working a miracle to protect His people? No. Both houses face the same storm. So what’s the difference?

The foundation!

Storm and Tempest

“The foundation of Christianity is Christ our righteousness.”

— Manuscript 89, 1907

“Selfishness lies at the foundation of all sin.”

— Manuscript 153, 1899

The foundation is the difference.

And when food, or money, or clothing, or whatever starts to run low, the selfish heart is going to stop giving. Like Lucifer in the beginning, sin has turned all who have chosen it into liars and murderers. Not trusting God’s love and wisdom to care for them, they have taken upon themselves the responsibility of caring for themselves.

And supplies are low. The selfish heart refuses to give or serve anymore. The structure of counterfeit service is swept away.

But Christians, those who have built on the foundation of Christ, what about them? They are in the middle of the same storm. How could it be any different?

Notes continue on next page

Storm and Tempest

“The foundation of Christianity is Christ our righteousness.”

— Manuscript 89, 1907

“Selfishness lies at the foundation of all sin.”

— Manuscript 153, 1899

It's different because “Christ our righteousness” is the experience of faith, and they've learned the lesson from the story of Christ feeding the 5,000: When Jesus asks you to bless the people, He will supply what's needed.

By faith, God's people continue to serve as their Master did before them. Having nothing of His own (even the foxes and the birds were better off), He constantly ministered to those around Him.

And that's the difference between those who have faith, and those who do not. Which, of course, takes us right back to the issue that started the whole controversy, when Lucifer decided he couldn't trust God to take care of him.

What Lucifer decided not to do, God's people have finally learned how to do! It'll be a happy day in heaven when they see some progress on the “every earthly support” issue—

Storm and Tempest

“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”

— *Desire of Ages*, 121

“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558

“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”

— Letter 6, 1894

This “storm and tempest” helps make the final demonstration of the characters of both those who have chosen to serve Satan and those who have chosen to serve Christ.

But if it just takes a sufficiently messed up world to bring on the end of the great controversy, why is it taking so long?

Actually, a messed up world is the least of the delays. The problem with letting go of the four winds too soon, is that God might end up with only one demonstration—the bad one.

Before we move on, let’s take a look at what we might reasonably expect to face in the time of the omega. How can we know? By looking at the methods Satan has used in the last two such cases, and remembering that he has nothing new now.



Storm and Tempest

- ◆ **Separation of healing from soul-winning**
- ◆ **Mistaken science**

43

No surprise here. The devil has always tried to prevent the combined ministry that is the only means of properly representing the character of God. And, as in Kellogg's day, one of the primary means is...

CLICK for text: MISTAKEN

Science is good, of course, until it comes into conflict with Inspiration. In other words, whenever there is a conflict between the scientific views of the day and what God says, we have the opportunity to see which we believe.

Of course, there are multiple dangers here. Some people have let misunderstandings of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy create false conflicts that didn't really exist. The moral of the story is that there is no substitute for getting things right. Fortunately, God has promised to lead His people into all truth.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy

People making fun of stuff they don't like is not hard to imagine. If you haven't encountered it, I presume you've been in a coma since birth. But ubiquity does not equate to inconsequence! Mockery, even subtle mockery, is deadly!

Quote on next page

Storm and Tempest

“By a careless sneer, a turn of the head, or words of scorn and derision, a wrongdoer may set in motion an influence freighted with evil. An evil insinuation, once started, will spread rapidly, carried from mind to mind. It was by the expression of such thoughts that Satan placed in the minds of the angels that rebellion spread among them.”

— Letter 113, 1903

So even if the derision is kind of funny... ****especially**** if the derision is kind of funny... remember who first used the method.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy
- ◆ Selfish church officials

Selfishness isn't always glaring, not always immediately apparent. It is, however, "at the foundation of all sin."

You may wonder about specifying "church officials." After all, the omega is patterned after the alpha, and the problem in the alpha was the medical guys, wasn't it?

Maybe. Depending on how tightly you constrain your definition. But the truth of the history is that the issue of selfishness began in the publishing office, then spread to the General Conference, and then blossomed out in the Sanitarium. Remember, there were two fires in 1902. About fifty days before the second of those, Ellen White wrote:

Storm and Tempest

“Not all, but many of those who claim to be children of God have become so self-centered, so selfish, so full of idolatry of self, that they are jealous, mistrustful of everyone whom they have an idea will, as they suppose, outshine them; therefore there is strife and bitterness, evil thinking and evil speaking, emulation and hatred.... This is the reason that the Lord cannot endure the sentiments that are being brought into the life and character of the responsible men in the Review and Herald Office.”

— Manuscript 240, 1902

Selfishness turns out to be a pretty big issue.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy
- ◆ Selfish church officials
- ◆ Inappropriate spending
- ◆ Misdirection of workers
- ◆ Shifting strategies

48

Well, no surprise that selfishness should affect spending. And remember, it isn't always spending on oneself in an obvious sort of way. Kellogg was generous in his private life, but incredibly selfish in his professional life. Money may not be going to "me," so much as to "my legacy."

CLICK for text: MISDIRECTION

Closely related to the spending of money, is the spending of others' labor on the projects of my own choosing.

CLICK for text: SHIFTING

This just happens, on pretty much every level, when determined people meet up with problems. In some senses, it can be good, along the lines of perseverance. But when it's for a bad cause, it takes on an element of deception.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy
- ◆ Selfish church officials
- ◆ Inappropriate spending
- ◆ Misdirection of workers
- ◆ Shifting strategies
- ◆ Contracts and lawyers
- ◆ Dishonest officials

49

A couple hundred years ago there was a famous military theorist by the name of Carl von Clausewitz. Apparently he's the source of the saying that "War is the continuation of politics by other means."

Well, a step or two short of that, we might say something like "litigation is the continuation of strategy by other means."

Of course, the Bible puts it a different way. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul says, "it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another."

The next item on the list is really just an effort to indicate a progression, a worsening of spiritual condition for anyone who follows this path. A while back they were "selfish church officials," but the tendency is for them to move on to...

CLICK for text: DISHONEST

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy
- ◆ Selfish church officials
- ◆ Inappropriate spending
- ◆ Misdirection of workers
- ◆ Shifting strategies
- ◆ Contracts and lawyers
- ◆ Dishonest officials
- ◆ Plots and conspiracies

50

Right now we're focused on the bad side of this time frame, so I just list "dishonest officials," but bear in mind there will also be well-intentioned, frustrated, and even desperate officials, those who are "sighing and crying," but—like the loyal angels of heaven at the time of Lucifer's rebellion—"tried to quell it, but it seemed like an impossibility; and it extended more and more, and the enemy gained more and more victories until the battle came."

If that was allowed in heaven, there's a good chance we'll see a parallel in the last days.

Well, dishonesty leads to...

CLICK for text: PLOTS

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ Separation of healing from soul-winning
- ◆ Mistaken science
- ◆ Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy
- ◆ Selfish church officials
- ◆ Inappropriate spending
- ◆ Misdirection of workers
- ◆ Shifting strategies
- ◆ Contracts and lawyers
- ◆ Dishonest officials
- ◆ Plots and conspiracies
- ◆ Clueless lay members
- ◆ Appeal to reputation
- ◆ Appeal to sympathy

51

This is different from mistakes, or even individuals mingling their own selfish interests with the Lord's work. This is now secretive and intentionally harmful.

The point of being secretive, obviously, is to keep people in the dark. Sadly, many people have lived in that condition for years, so, no surprise, there will be...

CLICK for text: CLUELESS

Of course, some people will be calling out the plots and conspiracies. Some of that will be good... and much of it will be serving the devil, because the ****only**** effective response to evil is the way Jesus responded—by revealing the character of God.

Whether or not the protest is proper, you can count on the response: CLICK for text: APPEAL... APPEAL

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ **Separation of healing from soul-winning**
- ◆ **Mistaken science**
- ◆ **Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy**
- ◆ **Selfish church officials**
- ◆ **Inappropriate spending**
- ◆ **Misdirection of workers**
- ◆ **Shifting strategies**
- ◆ **Contracts and lawyers**
- ◆ **Dishonest officials**
- ◆ **Plots and conspiracies**
- ◆ **Clueless lay members**
- ◆ **Appeal to reputation**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**
- ◆ **Hypnosis**
- ◆ **Mysticism**

52

Please don't read too much rigidity into the exact order and placement of all these items. It's likely that the sequence will vary from place to place and from one person's experience to another's. Perhaps more than most, these next two are hard to specify in that regard, but we're told they'll be there, so let's get them on the list:

CLICK for text: HYPNOSIS... MYSTICISM

I put these near the end, partly because they are among the more seriously significant, but don't think that means they are all off in the future somewhere. There have been concerns about Neuro-Linguistic Programming within the church for more than thirty years now. I first ran into it in 1985. And there is no denying that elements of mysticism are being promoted in certain Adventist circles.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ **Separation of healing from soul-winning**
- ◆ **Mistaken science**
- ◆ **Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy**
- ◆ **Selfish church officials**
- ◆ **Inappropriate spending**
- ◆ **Misdirection of workers**
- ◆ **Shifting strategies**
- ◆ **Contracts and lawyers**
- ◆ **Dishonest officials**
- ◆ **Plots and conspiracies**
- ◆ **Clueless lay members**
- ◆ **Appeal to reputation**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**
- ◆ **Hypnosis**
- ◆ **Mysticism**
- ◆ **Minimal identification of apostasy**

This is perhaps the most challenging of all these entries—at least to my mind. As we saw with the angels in heaven, and with the eleven disciples, and with church leaders in Kellogg’s day, they weren’t told all that might have been said about the apostate within their midst. I think it would be foolish to assume it will be any different in the end of time.

All this means, really, is that our test will be on what we, ourselves, really know about the difference between the government of heaven and the principles of Satan’s rebellion.

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ **Separation of healing from soul-winning**
- ◆ **Mistaken science**
- ◆ **Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy**
- ◆ **Selfish church officials**
- ◆ **Inappropriate spending**
- ◆ **Misdirection of workers**
- ◆ **Shifting strategies**
- ◆ **Contracts and lawyers**
- ◆ **Dishonest officials**
- ◆ **Plots and conspiracies**
- ◆ **Clueless lay members**
- ◆ **Appeal to reputation**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**
- ◆ **Hypnosis**
- ◆ **Mysticism**
- ◆ **Minimal identification of apostasy**
- ◆ **Blatant rejection of Spirit of Prophecy**

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The climax of rebellion always comes with the rejection of God's authority. In Lucifer's case, it was his public assertion that he would could not bear to have Christ reign over him.

With Judas it was finally seen in his betrayal of Christ. And as we've seen, in Kellogg's day it was the direct attack on the credibility of the Spirit of Prophecy.

In regard to final events, we've been told that "The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God." That's a terrible thing, but it is the source—at last—of full and final clarity. Sadly, those who have drifted the wrong way will still be blind to even this.

Notes continue on next page

Storm and Tempest

- ◆ **Separation of healing from soul-winning**
- ◆ **Mistaken science**
- ◆ **Derision of standards, doctrines, and the Spirit of Prophecy**
- ◆ **Selfish church officials**
- ◆ **Inappropriate spending**
- ◆ **Misdirection of workers**
- ◆ **Shifting strategies**
- ◆ **Contracts and lawyers**
- ◆ **Dishonest officials**
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OK, so that should be enough to provide an adequate stress test to see if our houses will stand the storm.

It seems pretty clear that I've got some growing and ripening to do before the final harvest. That shouldn't be a surprise. If the grain were ripe, the harvest would be underway.

I'm going to guess that some of you have some growing to do as well. You may have cause for repentance, but never let the devil push that over into discouragement. God is still in the business of saving all who will let Him.

Have you ever heard of a "Remedial English" class in college. Sometimes they call it "Bonehead English." It's for folks who aren't quite up to speed....

What to Do Now?

“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”

— Letter 165, 1901

That's pretty much where we are now... not up to speed on the most basic of issues. Things like self-denial and self-sacrifice. They haven't been developed fully because we haven't had enough faith to let go of "every earthly support" and trust God's love and wisdom to take care of us.

That being the case, we clearly need a "Bonehead Christianity" class. Fortunately, God's big on remedial education. Maybe we should try to get into the class.

CLICK for text:

What to Do Now?

“Because so little effort has been made to engage young men and women in the missionary work which must be done to bring the gospel invitation to all, there is but one worker where there should be a hundred. The indifference which is manifested for suffering humanity is charged against churches and families and individuals.”

— *Review and Herald*, March 1, 1898

We may, or may not, be really close to the time of this storm and tempest. But it's not fully here, and that means we can still work for God before all perdition breaks loose. So... what to do now?

Here's a great idea....

CLICK for text:

What to Do Now?

“Unless there are those who will devise means of turning to account the time, strength, and brains of the church members, there will be a great work left undone that ought to be done. Haphazard work will not answer. We want men in the church who have ability to develop in the line of organizing and giving practical work to young men and women in the line of relieving the wants of humanity, and working for the salvation of the souls of men, women, youth, and children.”

— *Welfare Ministry*, 105

This isn't to say that no one but "young men and women" can be medical missionaries, but there is a special strength of influence in their energy, enthusiasm, and general youth. So if you know of any training programs that are turning out people like that, I'd recommend supporting them!