

MR No. 785 - Revision of Denominational Books

[NOTE: W. W. PRESCOTT, FORMER PRESIDENT OF BATTLE CREEK COLLEGE, WHO HAD FROM 1903 TO 1909 SERVED AS EDITOR OF THE REVIEW AND HERALD, AND WAS IN 1910 CARRYING LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES, AND A.G. DANIELLS, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, HAVING ESPOUSED THE SO-CALLED "NEW VIEW" OF THE IDENTITY OF THE "DAILY" OF DANIEL 8:13 (SEE SDA ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE, "DAILY"), WERE DRAWN INTO HEATED DISCUSSIONS WITH ADVOCATES OF THE "OLD VIEW" EXPOUNDED BY URIAH SMITH IN HIS MUCH-USED AND FRUITFUL BOOK THOUGHTS ON DANIEL AND THE REVELATION. THIS LED TO TWO PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING DEVELOPMENTS AS ELLEN WHITE SAW IT. FIRST WAS THAT WITH FORCES ENGAGED IN DIVISIVE CONTROVERSY, EVANGELISM, AND PARTICULARLY CITY EVANGELISM, WAS SERIOUSLY NEGLECTED. SECOND, THERE WAS TALK OF THE POSSIBLE REVISION OF BOOKS IN WHICH THE OLD VIEW WAS ADVOCATED, PARTICULARLY THE WIDELY SOLD THOUGHTS ON DANIEL AND THE REVELATION. {10MR 49.1}

ELLEN WHITE GAVE NO SUPPORT TO EITHER SIDE IN THE CONTROVERSY WHICH SHE DECLARED WAS NOT "A SUBJECT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE" AND CERTAINLY "NOT TO BE MADE A TEST." FURTHER, IT WAS ONE ON WHICH SHE HAD NO LIGHT. (ISM P. 164.) AS TO THE PROPOSED REVISION OF BOOKS, SHE WROTE ON JULY 31 1910, DEALING WITH THE QUESTION NEARLY TWO WEEKS BEFORE PENNING THE TESTIMONY TO ELDER DANIELLS QUOTED IN THIS RELEASE. SHE DECLARED THAT: {10MR 49.2}

In some of our important books that have been in print for years, and which have brought many to a knowledge of the truth, there may be found matters of minor importance that call for careful study and correction. Let such matters be considered by those regularly appointed to have the oversight of our publications. Let not these brethren, nor our canvassers, nor our ministers magnify these matters in such a way as to lessen the influence of these good soul-saving books. *Should we take up the work of discrediting our literature, we would place weapons in the hands of those who have departed from the faith and confuse the minds of those who have newly embraced the message.* The less that is done unnecessarily to change our publications, the better it will be.--Ms 11, 1910 (PUBLISHED IN ISM P. 165). {10MR 49.3}

EVENTS QUICKLY FOLLOWED WHICH LED ELDER DANIELLS **TO HEED** ELLEN WHITE'S COUNSEL AND LED HIM TO ENGAGE FOR A TIME IN CITY EVANGELISM AND **CHANGED HIS VIEWPOINT**. TWO YEARS LATER, WHEN ELLEN WHITE APPOINTED FIVE TRUSTEES TO TAKE CHARGE OF HER WRITINGS ON HER DEATH, DANIELLS WAS ONE NAMED BY HER TO CARRY THAT RESPONSIBILITY.--ALW.] {10MR 49.4}

Representations have passed before me which indicate that you[A. G. Daniells] and Elder [W. W.] Prescott and others united with you have been inclined *to search out things to be criticized or condemned in our printed publications. Were encouragement given you, changes and revisions would be made in accordance with the ideas that you have in mind.* But you must never forget that Satan, disguised as an angel of light, *is always ready to encourage anything that would lead to a loss of confidence in our denominational literature. He would be pleased to keep many minds employed in picking flaws in publications that God has blessed.* {10MR 49.5}

The enemy of all truth well knows that if minds can be kept occupied in searching for and giving wide publicity to imperfections in books that have been printed and widely circulated, great weakness will be brought to our work. Time would pass rapidly, and the great work needed in our cities would remain undone. Besides, there would be created in the minds of many an uncertainty as to the value of our publications that have done a good work and many minds would become absorbed in a further search for possible errors in our literature. {10MR 49.6}

The result would be the creation of a feeling of uncertainty in the minds of many as to the value of our denominational literature in general. . . . {10MR 49.7}

Satan and all his hosts are on the battlefield. *The enemy of our souls has acted the part of a busy agent in presenting the thought that many of our books now in print are in need of general revision. He would be glad to have our brethren receive the impression that many changes must be made. He would delight to insinuate questioning and doubt into the minds of many of our people. {10MR 49.8}*

I have been instructed that the Lord is not the author of the proposal to make many changes in books already published. If information regarding this sort of work, even as regards the few instances where revisions are needed, should become widespread, seeds of doubt would spring up in many minds. Satan would be busy at work implanting seeds of distrust and unbelief, and it would require much labor to remedy the evil that would be wrought.--Letter 70, 1910, pp. 2,4. (To A. G. Daniells, August 11, 1910.)

These two points should be observed.

(1) No Support for either side?

EARLY WRITINGS THE GATHERING TIME.

Page 74.1,2.

September 23, the Lord showed me that He had stretched out His hand the second time to recover the remnant of His people, [SEE PAGE 86.] and that efforts must be redoubled in this gathering time. In the scattering, Israel was smitten and torn, but now in the gathering time God will heal and bind up His people. In the scattering, efforts made to spread the truth had but little effect, accomplished but little or nothing; but *in the gathering*, when God has set His hand to gather His people, efforts to *spread the truth* will have their designed effect. All should be united and zealous in the work. All should be united and zealous in the work. I saw that it was wrong for any to refer to the *scattering* for examples to govern us now in the *gathering*; for if God should do no more for us now than He did then, Israel would never be gathered. I have seen that the 1843 chart was directed *by the hand of the Lord*, and that *it should not be altered*; that *the figures were as He wanted them*; that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none could see it, until His hand was removed.

Then I saw in relation to the "daily" (Dan. 8:12) that the word "sacrifice" was supplied by man's wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that *the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry*. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the "daily"; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test.

TESTIMONIES TO MINISTERS

The Study of the Books of Daniel and the Revelation

Pages 114-115.

RESULT OF TRUE STUDY

One thing will certainly be understood from the study of Revelation—that the connection between God and His people is close and decided.

A wonderful connection is seen between the universe of heaven and this world. *The things revealed to Daniel were afterward complemented by the revelation* made to John on the Isle of Patmos. These two books should be carefully studied. Twice Daniel inquired, How long shall it be to the end of time?

"And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And He said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. And from the time that the *daily* sacrifice shall be taken away, and the *abomination* that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a *thousand two hundred and ninety days*. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the *thousand three hundred and five and thirty days*. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy *lot* at the end of the days."

It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who unsealed the book and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days.

Daniel *stood in his lot* to bear his testimony which was sealed until *the time of the end*, when the first angel's message should be proclaimed to our world. *These matters are of infinite importance in these last days*; but while "many shall be purified, and made white, and tried," "the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand." How true this is! Sin is the transgression of the law of God; and those who will not accept the light in regard to the law of God will not understand the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel's messages. *The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth's history.*

Will our brethren bear in mind that we are living amid the perils of the last days? Read

Revelation in connection with Daniel. *Teach these things.*

7 Bible Commentary page 971.4

Then *Daniel's prophecies* have their proper place in the *first, second, and third* angels' messages to be given to the world. The unsealing of the little book was the message in relation to time.

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY
AN ERA OF SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. 1911
Page 50.1, 54.3, 438.2-9.1.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the "man of sin" foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan's power,—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will. {GC88 50.1}

In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. *Paganism had given place to the papacy.* The dragon had given to the beast "his power, and his seat, and great authority."

(2) Not a Subject of Vital Importance?

Then I saw in relation to the "daily" (Dan. 8:12) that the word "sacrifice" was supplied by man's wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the "daily"; but *in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed.* Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test. {EW 74.2} {using the daily to predict the second advent}

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An Examination of Ellen White's 1SM Statement Regarding The DAILY and The Use of Her Writings.

I have words to speak to my brethren east and west, north and south. I request that *my writings shall not be used as the leading argument* to settle questions over which there is now so much controversy. I entreat of Elders H, I, J, and others of our leading brethren, that they make no reference to *my writings* to sustain their views of "the daily." {1SM 164.1} {PH020 5.2. *July 31, 1910.*}

It has been presented to me that this is *not a subject of vital importance*. I am instructed that our brethren are making a mistake in magnifying the importance of the difference in the views that are held. *I cannot consent that any of my writings* shall be taken as *settling this matter*. The true meaning of "the daily" is not to be made a test question. {1SM 164.2}

I now ask that my ministering brethren shall *not make use of my writings* in their arguments regarding this question ["the daily"]; for *I have had no instruction on the point under discussion*, and I see no need for the controversy. Regarding this matter under present conditions, silence is eloquence. {1SM 164.3}

The enemy of our work is pleased when a subject of *minor importance* can be used to divert the minds of our brethren from the great questions that should be the burden of our message. As *this is not a test question*, I entreat of my brethren that they shall not allow the enemy to triumph by having it treated as such. {PH020 6.1}

The work that the Lord has given us at this time, is to present to the people the true light in regard to the testing questions of obedience and salvation,—the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. {PH020 6.2}

In some of our important books that have been in print for years, and which have brought many to a knowledge of the truth, there may be found matters of minor importance that call for careful study and correction. Let such matters be considered by those regularly appointed to have the oversight of our publications. Let not these brethren, nor our canvassers, nor our ministers magnify these matters in such a way as to lessen the influence of these good, soul-saving books. Should we take up the work of discrediting our literature, we would place weapons in the hands of those who

have departed from the faith, and confuse the minds of those who have newly embraced the message. The less that is done unnecessarily to change our publications, the better it will be. {PH020 6.3} July 31, 1910.

I have words to speak to . . . all who have been active in urging their views in regard to the meaning of "the daily" of Daniel 8. This is not to be made a test question, and the agitation that has resulted from its being treated as such has been very unfortunate. Confusion has resulted, and the minds of some of our brethren have been diverted from the thoughtful consideration that should have been given to the work that the Lord has directed should be done at this time in our cities. This has been pleasing to the great enemy of our work. {1SM 167.1}

The light given me is that nothing should be done to increase the agitation upon this question. Let it not be brought into our discourses, and dwelt upon as a matter of great importance. We have a great work before us, and we have not an hour to lose from the essential work to be done. Let us confine our public efforts to the presentation of the important lines of truth on which we are united, and on which we have clear light. {1SM 167.2}

1). What were the different views of the Daily?

a. The Old view was paganism, two desolating powers. The New view being Christ's daily or continual Sacrifice in the Holy place.

2). Does EGW state what the correct view was?

a. She did have clear light on the matter, See Early Writings pg. 74.2 below. Testimonies to Ministers pg. 115.1-3. 7 BC 971.4.

b. Being how the word "sacrifice is supplied" and does not belong to the texts, " ***then neither does the thought*** of a sacrifice belong to the text! To maintain this then is a forced application and wrests the scripture from its true meaning!!!

c. Did she receive more instruction on the use of Her writings? "***This*** (manuscripts and testimonies. 8T206.3) ***is now to come before the people, because it has been given to correct specious errors and to specify what is truth.*** The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."--Letter 127, **1910**. {3SM 32.2}

d. Therefore it was the new view which she had "no instruction on the point under discussion," and it was Daniel's and others who, with the new view were presenting "a subject of minor importance," "not a subject of vital importance," "not to be made a test question, not be brought into our discourses."! Why? ***There are many other places in the SCRIPTURES that illustrate the ministry of Christ!!!*** Was He crucified more than once according to the type-Daily, continually? NO!

Heb. 7:27 (Christ) Who needeth ***not daily***, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for ***this he did once***, when he offered up himself.

9:28 So Christ was ***once*** offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ***once for all***.

3). The council here given if it applies to both views would be applied:

a. Neither view can use EGW for guidance or clarity and NEITHER CAN WE, for: "my

writings shall not be used as the leading argument to *settle questions*," "I cannot consent that any of my writings shall be taken as *settling this matter*," "I now ask that my ministering brethren shall *not make use of* my writings in their arguments regarding this question."

b. If Daniel's view were correct the gospel then (Christ's Daily ministry) we are to "Let it not be brought into our discourses," as it would be a "matter minor importance" and is "not a subject of vital importance."

c. That in "some of our important books" "matters of minor importance" that call "for careful study and correction." Yet as the matter is of minor importance, THEN WHY MAKE CORRECTIONS, in light of the council in the above on the DAILY, for these very books have "brought many to a knowledge of the truth."

She said:--

Then I saw in relation to the "daily" (Daniel 8:12) that the word "sacrifice" was supplied by man's wisdom, and *does not belong to the text*, and that *the Lord gave the correct view* of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the "daily"; but in the confusion *since* 1844, other views have been embraced, and *darkness and confusion* have followed. *Time has not been a test* since 1844, and it will never again be a test. {EW 74.2}

I have much written in the diary [WHILE MRS. WHITE KEPT FROM TIME TO TIME A DAILY DIARY OF HER EXPERIENCE, YET THIS IS NOT WHAT SHE REFERRED TO PRIMARILY IN USING THE TERM "DIARY." HER WRITING WAS OFTEN DONE IN RULED BLANK BOOKS, MORE THAN A SCORE OF WHICH ARE NOW IN THE WHITE ESTATE VAULT, AND MANY OF THE MANUSCRIPTS THAT APPEAR IN THE FILE ARE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN FIRST IN THESE BOOKS. SOME MANUSCRIPTS ON FILE BEAR THE GENERAL HEADING "DIARY," USED IN THIS PARTICULAR SENSE. IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS TERM IS USED BY HER IN THE TESTIMONIES IN REFERRING TO HER WRITINGS IN MANUSCRIPT FORM. (SEE TESTIMONIES, VOL. 8, P. 206, WHERE SHE SAYS, "IN MY DIARY I FIND THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN ONE YEAR AGO," AND IT IS PLAIN FROM WHAT FOLLOWS THAT SHE IS REFERRING TO TESTIMONY MATTER.)] I have kept in all my journeys that should come before the people if essential, even if I did not write another line. I want that which is deemed worthy to appear, for the Lord has given me much light that I want the people to have; for there is instruction that the Lord has given me for His people. It is light that they should have, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. This is now to come before the people, *because it has been given to correct specious errors and to specify what is truth*. The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."--*Letter 127, 1910*. {3SM 32.2}

It is a great and grand thing to have an eye single to the glory of God. Self must not come into our serving. We need now to present the truth in its important bearings. We are to walk every step understandingly. Blessed light from the Word of God is to come to the people. *No new and strange thing is to be introduced now*, unless it is proved by much diligent investigation and most earnest prayer. Blessed light from the Word of God is ours to receive and in assurance give to people.--*Letter 127, 1910*. (Written to W. C. White from Sanitarium, California, *November 22, 1910*.)

If the preconceived opinions or particular ideas of some are crossed in being reproved by testimonies, *they have a burden at once to make plain their position to discriminate between the testimonies*, defining what is Sister White's human judgment, and what is the word of the Lord. *Everything that sustains their cherished ideas is divine*, and *the testimonies to correct their errors are human*--Sister White's opinions. *They make of none effect the counsel of God by their*

tradition.--Manuscript 16, 1889. {3SM 68.2}