

Sabbath ~ October 22, 2016

Lecture 5: Ellen G. White as God's Prophet .

It does not matter that Ellen never claimed to be a prophet, many claim to be, but claiming means nothing. She just was. Very much is the proof of this pudding.

1.) Subject: William Ellis Foy .

1.1.) He had two visions, one on the 18th of January, the other on February 4, 1842. These are available on the WE CD, 2008 edition. I do not have enough information on those visions to confirm them; however, his Christian experience as we have it, does support his claims. The problem I have with his visions may be because someone tampered with them in the printing process. Perhaps more will yet be found about this. Until that happens I will keep his visions at this current position.

I find one error in each vision as published on the WECD. The first one is that he saw an "innumerable" company of those that have never died. We know this is false. Second, is that he saw unfaithful mothers come to the separating "bar" and they had to watch their young (babies, &c.) children be accepted into Heaven while they themselves lost Heaven. We know that children come under the seal of the parents; therefore, unfaithful parents will not be sealed for Heaven and neither will their children. This appears to be in complete harmony with God's dealing with the heathen nations about the Jews in Canaan, meaning that, sometimes all were slain.

According to J. N. Loughborough, William had one more vision (the 17MR claims four visions total) “near the close of the twenty-three hundred days” which he did not understand and he stopped speaking in public. Later in 1845 he heard Ellen relating her vision on similar matter and “he jumped right up and down, and oh, he praised the Lord, praised the Lord. It was just what he had seen, just what he had seen” (17MR 96.2). Loughborough continues, “Soon after this Mr. Foy sickened and died.” {1905 JNL, GSAM 146.2}

(17MR 96.2) is actually Ms 131, 1906, pp. 1, 4-6.

2.) **Subject: Hazen Foss .**

2.1.) I’m reading now from Loughborough’s book, *The Great Second Advent Movement*. “About this time there lived in Poland, Maine, a young man by the name of Hazen Foss, who firmly believed the Lord would come on the tenth day of the seventh month. He was a man of fine appearance, pleasing address, and quite well educated. A few weeks before the "midnight cry" ended, the Lord came near and gave him a vision, in which he was shown the journey of the advent people to the city of God, with their dangers. Some messages of warning were given to him, which he was to deliver, and he had also a view of the trials and persecution that would consequently follow if he was faithful in relating what had been shown him. He, like Mr. Foy, was shown three steps by which the people of God were to come fully upon the pathway to the holy city. Being a firm believer in the Lord's coming "in a few more days" (as they then sang), the part of the vision relating to the three steps onto the pathway was to him unexplainable; and being naturally of a proud spirit, he shrunk from the cross, and refused to relate it. The vision was repeated the second time, and in addition

he was told that if he still refused to relate what had been shown him, the burden would be taken from him, and be given to one of the weakest of the Lord's children, one who would faithfully relate what God would reveal. He again refused. Then a third vision was given, and he was told that he was released, and the burden was laid upon one of the weakest of the weak, who would do the Lord's bidding. {1905 JNL, GSAM 182.1} This startled the young man, and he decided to relate what had been shown him, and accordingly gave out his appointment. The people crowded together to see and hear. He carefully related his experience, how he had refused to relate what the Lord had shown him, and what would result from his refusal. "Now," said he, "I will relate the vision." But alas! it was too late: he stood before the people as dumb as a statue, and finally said in the deepest agony, "I cannot remember a word of the vision." He wrung his hands in anguish, saying, "God has fulfilled his word. He has taken the vision from me," and in great distress of mind said, "I am a lost man." From that time he lost his hope in Christ, and went into a state of despair. He never attended an Adventist meeting again, and had no personal interest in religion. His demeanor in many respects, to say the least, has been that of one deprived of the gentle influence of the Spirit of the Master, of one "left to his own ways, to be filled with his own doings." In this condition of mind he died in 1893. {1905 JNL, GSAM 182.2}

3.) Subject: Ellen G. White .

3.1.) James White wrote his wonderful book *Life Incidents* which was published in 1868. It was written to give the correct presentation of the third angel's message. In this book he details some information about Ellen.

3.2.) We read: Her condition in vision may be described as follows: 1. She is utterly unconscious of everything transpiring around her, as has been proved by the most rigid tests, but views herself as removed from this world, and in the presence of heavenly beings. 2. She does not breathe. During the entire period of her continuance in vision, which has at different times ranged from fifteen minutes to three hours, there is no breath, as has been repeatedly proved by pressing upon the chest, and by closing the mouth and nostrils. 3. Immediately on entering vision, her muscles become rigid, and joints fixed, so far as any external force can influence them. At the same time her movements and gestures, which are frequent, are free and graceful, and cannot be hindered nor controlled by the strongest person. 4. On coming out of vision, whether in the day-time or a well-lighted room at night, all is total darkness. Her power to distinguish even the most brilliant objects, held within a few inches of the eyes, returns but gradually, sometimes not being fully established for three hours. This has continued for the past twenty years; yet her eyesight is not in the least impaired, few persons having better than she now possesses. {1868 JW, LIFIN 272.4} She has probably had, during the past twenty-three years, between one and two hundred visions. These have been given under almost every variety of circumstance, yet maintaining a wonderful similarity; the most apparent change being, that of late years they have grown less frequent, but more comprehensive. She has been taken off in vision most frequently when bowed in prayer. Several times, while earnestly addressing the congregation, unexpectedly to herself and to all around her, she has been instantly prostrated in vision. This was the case June 12, 1868, in the presence of not less than two hundred Sabbath-keepers, in

the house of worship, in Battle Creek, Mich. On receiving baptism at my hands, at an early period of her experience, as I raised her up out of the water, immediately she was in vision. Several times, when prostrated by sickness, she has been relieved in answer to the prayer of faith, and taken off in vision. At such times her restoration to usual health has been wonderful. At another time, when walking with friends, in conversation upon the glories of the kingdom of God, as she was passing through the gate before her father's house, the Spirit of God came upon her, and she was instantly taken off in vision. And what may be important to those who think the visions the result of mesmerism, she has a number of times been taken off in vision, when in prayer alone in the grove or in the closet. {1868 JW, LIFIN 272.5}

It may be well to speak as to the effect of the visions upon her constitution and strength. When she had her first vision, she was an emaciated invalid, given up by her friends and physicians to die of consumption. She then weighed but eighty pounds. Her nervous condition was such that she could not write, and was dependent on one sitting near her at the table to even pour her drink from the cup to the saucer. And notwithstanding her anxieties and mental agonies, in consequence of her duty to bring her views before the public, her labors in public speaking, and in church matters generally, her wearisome travels, and home labors and cares, her health and physical and mental strength have improved from the day she had her first vision. {1868 JW, LIFIN 273.1}

- 3.3.) We have covered the topic of inspiration in our first lecture, now we want to point out more exactly 1.) the effect of that change of the definition of inspiration, 2.) the position of the counterfeit SOP relative to the SDA church, 3.) the probable outcome or results of 1 & 2.

- 3.3.1.) Item No.1, changing the definition of inspiration. At first there was trouble in the ranks, mostly among the older folks who knew what the authentic Spirit of Prophecy actually said. But they were ignored and in the process of time died off. Then the term inspiration became a good topic of discussion. It gave license to those in charge to interpret the writings, make changes at will to focus on a problem, among other needs.
- 3.3.2.) Item No.2, is the position of the counterfeit SOP in the SDA church today. In my experience in the church, which ended ~ten years ago, it was used by leadership as a rod and staff, guiding, correcting, and clubbing people into line; that is when it was used. Mostly it was not used. At a board meeting something might be read from a devotional. People make a big deal about Steps to Christ, Desire of Ages, and the Great Controversy. These are often promoted and scattered over the land.
- 3.3.3.) Now we come to Item No.3, the probable outcome or results of 1 & 2. It is my settled opinion that this has become the delusion that God has chosen for them, Isaiah 66:4. No.23,p.12, tells us that Laodiceians universally believe themselves to be rich in spiritual discernment. Terrible delusion!

4.) Subject: Conclusion

4.1.) God reads the hearts of all men and the truly honest in heart will be seeking after the truth and God will draw them to that truth. They will not be satisfied with the trivial, social works of the church. They KNOW that there is a real experience in spiritual things out there some where and they are determined to find it. And they will find it.

5.) Subject: Bonus Item on Inspiration.

5.1.) **Those who are reproved by the Spirit of God should not rise up against the humble instrument. It is God, and not an erring mortal, that has spoken to save them from ruin. Those who despise the warning will be left in blindness to become self-deceived.** p. 9, Para. 2, [23OT].

Those who heed the testimony of warning, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them, in order to have the needed graces, will be opening the door of their hearts that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them. This class you will ever find in perfect harmony with the testimony of the Spirit of God. p. 10, Para. 1, [23OT].

And that is...

~ **The End** ~

of our Presentation for Today,
God Bless your Study

