



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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Is This Another Boner Or Is It Something Else?

A few days ago I began the task of redoing the articles that I have written. Very few changes have been made, mostly are grammatical and punctuation. You can proof and proof and even with the help of software that will point out typos, you can still put out work with unintended errors. It's hard to look at the typing I do today and remember that I used to earn a living as a medical transcriptionist at a medical school working for the IRB. I typed all day long using an electric typewriter and didn't make anywhere near the mistakes that I make today.

A few days ago I discovered something that gave me some encouragement with my typing. I purchased a new keyboard from Quill. They asked me to write a review for them, which I did, and when I checked to see if it had been posted I read what others had written about the keyboard. There were complaints that the keys didn't respond fast enough to keep up with their typing speed. Uh... yeah. I can totally relate to that. I thought it was me but apparently others are experiencing the same thing I am so maybe these typos aren't my fault and I might still have some of what I used to have.

I digress.

In one of the articles that I had written some time back, I came across a comment by Ellen that didn't match what I've come to know about God's character. And I noticed it when I wrote the article because I commented on it at the time.

Here's the passage I found that disturbed me:

The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord; “Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth ... to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.” Isaiah 30:29, 30. – Darkness Before The Dawn, p. 45

This idea that the righteous will be pleading for divine protection can be found in several places throughout Ellen's writings. I'm only sharing the one because I want to keep this short.

My question is why are God's people begging for for divine protection and in some places she states that God's people are pleading for deliverance?

In the time of trouble we all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with a sword. They raised the sword to kill us, but it broke, and fell as powerless as a straw. Then we all cried day and night for deliverance, and the cry came up before God. – Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen White, page 95

What does the Bible say about God's people?

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Messiah.
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them before our God day and night,
has been hurled down.
They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;

they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.
– Revelation 12: 10-11 NIV

Ellen says God's people are begging for protection and deliverance and the Bible says they didn't love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Do we have a discrepancy here?

To be able to go to heaven we must be rid of our self-focus. Our thoughts, our love, must be constantly toward God and acting in ways to lovingly help others. We must love others so much that we are willing to die for them.

So if God's people aren't interested in themselves but rather are focused on helping and loving others, why Does Ellen say they are focused on pleading for their own safety and rescue?

When I asked Elkanah this question he said that teaching had to be false. God's people will not be focused on themselves, they'll be looking for ways to minister to others.

He also offered a different way of viewing this. Able was killed by his brother Cain. God told Cain that Abel's blood cried out to him from the ground.

The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. – Genesis 4:10 NIV

There was another incident where the souls of the righteous slain called out to God.

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. – Revelation 5:9-11 NIV

(I just saw something interesting in this passage and I'll get to it later.)

And in the earlier passages Ellen talked about the righteous crying out for deliverance. Elkanah suggested that this is all metaphorical. Abel's blood and

the blood of the dead didn't literally cry out to God. It couldn't. As far as we know blood doesn't literally speak and the blood that was mentioned was dead.

They didn't literally cry out to God for deliverance or in Abel's case revenge yet God heard the unspoken cry. Ellen may have been claiming that God heard the unspoken cry for deliverance from the righteous.

It sounded OK when he told me, but as I write it down it bothers me. Even though the cry was unspoken, it was still a cry of self-focus.

I'm not a fan of Ellen G. White but in the past I was. I loved what she wrote and spent many hours reading her writings. But when I took the blinders off and began to read without the lens that I had been taught I began to doubt that her ministry was officially sanctioned by God.

If that bothers you, I'm sorry. But take heart. I'm not intending to bash Ellen with this particular document. In fact, I'm going to give you some information that will let her off the hook with this one.

Pull out your book, *The Great Controversy*, and if you don't have one you can read it online at egwwritings.org. Go to the chapter titled "The Time of Trouble" and start reading at or before the time of Jacob's trouble. You can read the whole chapter if you like but the area of Jacob's trouble is where she spends a lot of time talking about the righteous crying out for deliverance.

Personally, Elkanah and I both have issues with the concept of what she calls the time of Jacob's trouble. But I'm not going into that here. What I want you to notice is the context of what she's writing. The people who are crying out for deliverance are not begging to be removed from this planet, they are begging to have their characters healed. That's a major difference.

These people who will be crying out to God for deliverance fear that they are unable to love perfectly. If their love is imperfect then they cannot be the blessing to others that God intends for them to be.

This explanation I can accept. It shows these people to be acting within the realms of God's character and not within the realms of self.

And now I'll say something that you may not like. Jesus said plainly not to have anything to do with those who practice sorcery. The act of predicting the future is fortune-telling and it is a form of witchcraft. We need to stay away from it. This book, *The Great Controversy*, was found to have been plagiarized and the

original writers were not considered to be prophets. While there are things in this book that look good and we always want to know what the future holds, we need to recognize that life on this earth as we know it are in the throes of ending. If you study the Bible without your earlier brainwashing you can find that Jesus could return at any moment.

As Seventh-day Adventists we were taught that Ellen never made a mistake and this book, *The Great Controversy*, has sold millions of copies. On a surface reading what you will find written in there appears to be good and we are waiting for the things written in there to transpire exactly as they are written. Entire ministries are based on the prophecies in this book. And in a twisted way those things are happening and they are happening now, but not in the way that we were told to expect them to happen. People are going to be stunned to find Jesus here when he comes.

So this is a word of caution. Be careful what you read and that includes anything I have written. Make sure that you understand it to the best of your ability. Make sure that what you're believing shows God to be acting in ways that are loving and doing whatever he can to try to rescue us, not harm us.

Before I close this I said I'd mention something I saw when I posted a text. Here it is again:

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been. – Revelation 5:9-11 NIV

Notice the timing in that passage. This is talking about people who are dead. Ecclesiastes 9:5 states the living know they shall die but the dead don't know anything. Again, the people in this passage are dead. Dead people don't know anything. This passage is metaphorical.

But notice the timing. These dead people are NOT called saints or the righteous. They are simply identified as those who were slain because of their love for God and the message they bore. AFTER they died, and that means while they are in the grave and unable to think (Ecclesiastes 9:5 ...the dead don't know anything)

(my paraphrase) they are given a white robe.

What is this white robe? I suspect that it is the fine linen that they will be given to wear. This fine linen represents their righteousness. Or in other words, it represents that they have received a perfected, Christlike character.

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

– Revelation 19:6-8 NIV

[*The Great Multitude in White Robes*] After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. – Revelation 7:9

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' ”
– Revelation 7:13-17 NIV

With that I'm going to end. I actually was able to finish one.

Have a happy Sabbath and a wonderful weekend.

Hannah

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