

LESSON 25

The Great Controversy and the Use Ellen G. White Made of HistorySTUDY ASSIGNMENT:

Testimony of Jesus, pp. 112-119

Notes and Papers, pp. 191-204

Great Controversy, Introduction, pp. x-xii (Special Edition, pp. 12-14)

Ellen G. White and Her Critics, pp. 418-422

CHART WORK:

Insert in 1911 notation of the revision of Great Controversy

S U M M A R Y

1. To understand Mrs. White's use of history in her writings, we must understand how the light came to her in vision.
2. While her first writing of the Great Controversy story (Spiritual Gifts, Vol. I; Early Writings, pp. 145-295) was done without reference to history, Mrs. White subsequently read extensively various histories of the Reformation.
3. In later, fuller accounts of historical areas, Mrs. White at times quoted historical narrative from accepted authors.
4. Her reasons for doing so she set forth clearly in 1868 in her "Introduction" to The Great Controversy. This is a vital statement.
5. Mrs. White's purpose in presenting history was primarily to construct a background on which she presents the story of the conflict between Christ and Satan. It was not her purpose to write a super-history. The amount of historical data quoted from other authors is moderate. (See Ellen G. White and Her Critics, pp. 420-421.)
6. When it became necessary to reset Great Controversy in what became the 1911 edition, some slight changes were made in the book, the work being done in Mrs. White's office, under Mrs. White's direction and with her specific approval.
7. A study of the involvements in this revision leads to a better understanding of the care she took in keeping her message before the public.