

QVA 4 D-8

August 6, 1959

R.R. #3
Portland, Tennessee

My dear Brother

Enclosed is a copy of the Ellen G. White Manuscript 174, written by Sister White in Australia in 1899.

One cannot read this material without sensing the urgency of circulating the Ellen G. White books, and also Elder Smith's splendid volume, Daniel and the Revelation.

I am also including another document that deals with a purported statement made by Mrs. White concerning Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith. I think as you read both of the enclosed manuscripts, you will see that Mrs. White's enthusiastic encouragement given to the matter of circulating Daniel and the Revelation is not necessarily a blanket endorsement of all of Elder Smith's interpretations of these two great prophetic books. Keep in mind, Brother Swain, that when Elder Smith wrote, some of the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation had not been fulfilled. Indeed, today they are not fulfilled.

When prophecy is fulfilled, we have present truth to rejoice in. But when prophecy is unfulfilled, it is not present truth. It is future truth. But some people, as James White once remarked in an editorial in the Review, have more faith in future truth than in present truth.

Jesus himself said, "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass ye might believe." John 14:29. It is "when it is come to pass" that we find strength for believing.

Uriah Smith's interpretation of the king of the North and the Euphrates power, Revelation 16, linked as this seems to be with the Armageddon, was not the original viewpoint held by the pioneers of this church down into the 1860's. It was Elder Smith who introduced these ideas. It was not the pioneers of this message. Smith, himself, believed that the king of the North and the power mentioned in Revelation 16 as the Euphrates, was the Papacy until he changed his views. This fact is not generally known but it is true, as manuscripts in our own files indicate. The thing to keep

in mind here, Brother Swain, is that fulfilled prophecy will teach us many things. We must be careful not to take positive positions on unfulfilled prophecy unless the Scripture is overwhelmingly convincing in its application to a certain country or a certain alliance, etc., as being the certain and undebatable object of the forecast.

What I have said should not discourage you. James White never swerved from his belief that the King of the North was the Papacy. Uriah Smith did swerve from his belief substituting Turkey for the Papacy. Incidentally, it may interest you to know that the book, Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation is really the outgrowth of a series of articles begun by James White in the Review some time before Smith undertook the completion of this series and the writing of the book.

May I say in closing, Brother Swain, that the church today stands on the old pillars. The fact that every wind of doctrine is blowing does not mean that the true doctrines are blowing. They are not blowing. They are like rock. They cannot be moved by wind.

Interpretations of prophecies now unfulfilled can hardly be ranked with the Sabbath and the law of God, righteousness by faith, conditional state of man in death, three angel's messages, the sanctuary and its cleansing, and the judgment, all of which are pillars of our faith. These pillars remain unmoved and unchanged.

Be of good courage, my dear brother. I am reminded of a story that I read in one of our magazines about the falling of the stars on the night of November 11, 1833. Lincoln, at that time was a guest in the home of a Presbyterian elder. When the elder rose from bed at the spectacle of the falling stars, he cried out, "It is the end of the world!" Lincoln gazed with those keen eyes of his through the descending meteors and fixing his vision upon the constellations, fixed and unmoving in their orbits, he said, "No, this is not the end of the world. The old familiar stars are still in their places." These are not the exact words but that is the idea.

Let us do all that we can to circulate Daniel and the Revelation. This is the best book on those two immortal prophetic books of the Scripture ever written. I still hold to Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith with a deep loyalty.

Faithfully your brother,

D. A. Delafield, Associate Secretary
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

DAD:ls