

Q + A 16-C-1-a

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Jones + Waggoner - Counterpart in Caleb + Joshua
"In Kingdom in 2 years"

Statement to O. A. Olsen Sept 1, 1892

March 7, 1957

Elder L. E. Froom
Australasian Missionary College
Cooranbong, N. S. W.
Australia

Dear Brother Froom:

Your letter, written February 25, came in a day or two ago. This is my first opportunity to deal with the matters concerning which you write. We are always happy to hear from you.

You ask about two items. One is that sometime in 1892 Sister White was supposed to have made a statement that Brethren Jones and Waggoner had their counterpart in Caleb and Joshua, and then there is reference to ridicule and stoning, et cetera, and to the effect that if the message had been accepted we would have been in the kingdom within two years. This statement is apocryphal. We have never been able to trace it to any authentic source, or to tie it to anything that Ellen White has written. Who composed it, I do not know. Of course, it is a fact that Sister White dealt with the ridicule at the Minneapolis Conference. You are familiar with that.

In some of the forms in which this purported testimony comes to us, it is stated that the people of God will have to go back into the wilderness for forty years just as did the children of Israel. Be that as it may, it has no sound foundation and it should not be used as E. G. White material.

The other item concerning which you ask is drawn from a letter written to Elder O. A. Olsen on September 1, 1892. This is quite a long document. You will want to read it carefully when you get back. It is comprised of some sixteen pages. Sister White speaks of the relationship which some men had taken to the Minneapolis meeting and the message presented there. She speaks of how they will have to go over the same ground again and without the wonderful opportunities which they had there. It is in this setting that the statement you ask about is found. The words are: "The time will come when many will be willing to do anything and everything possible in order to have a chance of hearing the call which they rejected at Minneapolis." But you should have this in its fuller setting; so we will give you a couple of pages from the manuscript which gives the statement in its context. It is altogether possible that this was used by some speaker at the General Conference of 1893. We

do not have time to check on that this morning, and we must hasten this information on to you.

"Will the people of God heed the voice of warning, and cultivate love? Will they lay aside their suspicions and jealousies? They can not do this unless they fall all broken before God. Many have made and are still making great blunders. They love their own way so well that they will not surrender to God's way. Many have been convinced that they have grieved the Spirit of God by their resistance of light, but they hated to die to self, and deferred to do the work of humbling their hearts and confessing their sins. They would not acknowledge that the reproof was sent of God, or the instruction was from heaven, until every shadow of uncertainty was removed. They did not walk out into the light. They hoped to get out of difficulty in some easier way than by confession of sin, and Satan has kept hold of them, and tempted them, and they have had but feeble strength to resist him. Evidence has been piled upon evidence, but they have been unwilling to acknowledge it. By their stubborn attitude they have revealed the soul malady that was upon them; for no evidence could satisfy them.

"Doubt, unbelief, prejudice, and stubbornness, killed all love from their souls. They demand perfect assurance, but this is not compatible with faith. Faith rests not on certainty, but upon evidence. Demonstration is not faith. If the rays of light which shone at Minneapolis were permitted to exert their convincing power upon those who took their stand against light, if all had yielded their ways, and submitted their wills to the Spirit of God at that time, they would have received the richest blessing, disappointing the enemy, and stood as faithful men, true to their convictions. They would have had a rich experience; but self said, No.

"Self was not willing to be bruised; self struggled for the mastery. And every one of these souls will be tested again on the points where they failed then. They have less clearness of judgment, less submission, less genuine love for God and for their brethren now, than before the test and trial at Minneapolis. In the books of heaven they are registered as wanting. Self and passion developed hateful characteristics. Since that time, the Lord has given abundance of evidence in messages of light and salvation. No more tender calls, no better opportunities, could be given in order that they might do that which they ought to have done at Minneapolis. The light has been withdrawing from some, and ever since they have walked in sparks of their own kindling. No one can tell how much may be at stake when neglecting to comply with the call of the Spirit of God.

"The time will come when many will be willing to do anything and everything possible in order to have a chance of hearing the call which they rejected at Minneapolis. God moved upon hearts,

but many yielded to another spirit, which was moving upon their passions from beneath. O that these poor souls would make thorough work before it is everlastingly too late. Better opportunities will never come, deeper feelings they will not have.

"In order to have better opportunities in the future, they must improve the opportunities they have already had, yield to the Spirit of God, and heed the voice from heaven, giving prompt obedience from willing hearts. God will not be trifled with. The sin committed in what took place at Minneapolis, remains on the record books of heaven, registered against the names of those who resisted light, and it will remain upon the record until full confession is made, and the transgressors stand in full humility before God."--E. G. White Letter 19d, 1892.

May the Lord bless you, Brother Froom, as you endeavor to help our people there in Australia.

With the best of wishes, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary
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