

Statement No. 2
Spirit of Prophecy: A Path to Unity
Statement Sponsor
John Witcombe

Statement: The Spirit of Prophecy may provide our church the only path to unity on Daniel 11.

The founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, coming from various denominations, were just as divided on their understanding of doctrinal issues as our church is today divided on our understanding of Daniel 11. Reporting on one of the 22 Sabbath Conferences that were held between 1848 and 1850, where our doctrinal positions were hammered out, Ellen White wrote:

“Our first general meeting in western New York, beginning August 18, was held at Volney, in Brother David Arnold's barn. About thirty-five were present,--all the friends that could be collected in that part of the State. **But of this number there were hardly two agreed. Some were holding serious errors, and each strenuously urged his own views, declaring that they were according to the Scriptures.” {*Life Sketches*, p. 110}**

“Hardly two agreed”. Sound familiar? If it was not for God’s **intervention** back then, I doubt that there would have ever been unity. But God promised in His Word that He would intervene. By what means? Listen to what Ellen White stated:

“I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. **God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the ‘last days’**; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and **to correct those who err from Bible truth.**” {*Early Writings*, p. 78}

Here is Ellen White's report on how this promised intervention worked for the brethren back in 1848:

“Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, ‘We can do nothing more,’ the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me . . .” {*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 206}

Ellen White also stated:

“They knew that when not in vision I could not understand these matters, and **they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given me**. The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. *Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony.*” {*This Day With God*, p. 317}

All of the writings of Ellen White, including her diaries and personal letters can be useful in helping to correct those of us who err from Bible truth:

“I am now looking over **my diaries and copies of letters written** for several years back, commencing before I went to Europe, before you [Mabel] were born. I have the most

precious matter to reproduce and place before the people in testimony form. While I am able to do this work, the people must have these things to revive past history, that they may see that **there is one straight chain of truth, without one heretical sentence, in that which I have written.**”--Letter 329a, 1905, pp. 1, 2. (To Mabel White, November 16, 1905.) {8MR 18.1}

Did God speak through Ellen White regarding Daniel 11 for the purpose of helping us understand its correct interpretation? If He did then it is possible that all of us brethren could come into harmony, provided that we allow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, working through the ministry of Ellen White, to correct our interpretation of the Bible.