

Statement No. 7
Spirit of Prophecy: A Path to Unity
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Statement: The Spirit of Prophecy may provide our church the only path to unity on Daniel 11.

The past nine years have taught me that unity of message on Daniel 11 will not be achieved by diligent group study, scholarship, symposiums, fasting, or earnest prayer—pleading for the Holy Spirit to bring us into unity. We could do all these things and more and nine years from now, we will be in the same spot that we are in today.

God will continue to patiently wait for us to do exactly what our pioneers were humble enough to do and that was to allow the Holy Spirit, working through an uneducated lady, to bring them into unity. True, Ellen White is not personally with us as she was with our pioneers, but God knew of the confusion we would be in down here in 2019 and He saw to it that His messenger wrote down the very information we would need to resolve our inability to speak with one voice on this important prophecy.

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”. This is where we are today. If it was not for God’s **intervention** back then, I doubt that there ever would have 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}

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.