

The True ALPHA and OMEGA

13-17 (ch. 1:8). The Alpha and Omega of Scripture.--[Revelation 22:13-17 quoted.] Here we have the Alpha of Genesis and the Omega of Revelation. ***The blessing is promised to all those who keep the commandments of God, and who cooperate with Him in the proclamation of the third angel's message*** (RH June 8, 1897). {7BC 990.2}

Our watchword is to be: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. We have a Bible full of the most precious truth. It contains the alpha and omega ***of knowledge***. The Scriptures, given by inspiration of God, are "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. Take the Bible as your study book. All can understand its instruction. {8T 299.2}

It is ***essential*** that we study our Bibles more diligently, that we become ***more choice*** in our conversation, for this can be an influence for good. We need to see and sense the inefficiency of human accomplishments, our own impotence, and the dignity and glory of Christ Jesus. The Lord puts us under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, if we will walk humbly, trustingly, confidingly in Him. He leads us into all truth. The Holy Spirit takes the things of God as they fell from the lips of Christ and conveys them with living power to the obedient heart. ***He the Alpha and the Omega delivers us into the mold of the gospel that we may take the perfect image of its Author.*** {9MR 367.2}

All who join the ranks of Sabbathkeepers should become diligent Bible students, that they may know the ***pillars and groundwork*** of the truth. They should study ***prophetic history, which has brought us down point by point to where we are at the present time.*** This is God's plan for our school. Young men should attend who desire to become educated for any line of work, who have capabilities, and see the necessity of learning more and still more where we stand today in prophetic history, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, even from Genesis to Revelation. Christ is the Alpha, the first link, and the Omega, the last link, of the gospel chain, which is welded in Revelation. These young men will not have fixed habits of wrong, or defects in disposition and character that will make them inflexible. {10MR 171.1}

We must plough deep if we would obtain an all-around experience. We

need to cultivate faith in the word of God. ***"Thus saith the Lord" is to be the Alpha and the Omega of our experience.*** As brethren located where you must be more or less connected you must draw closer together in your councils, in your association, in spirit, and in all your works. One man among you is not to be made the counsellor for all. {21MR 336.4}

We must have a better and deeper teaching than man can give us. There must be a deep conviction in our own souls that forms and ceremonies are as nothing without Christ. He is the Alpha and Omega. ***Truth is the only panoply for the covering of any soul.*** Our convictions need daily to be reinforced by humble, sincere prayer and reading of the word. While we each have an individuality, while we each should hold our convictions firmly, we must hold them as God's truth and in the strength which God imparts. If we do not, they will be wrung from our grasp. We need to be self-reliant; it is the duty of all to respect self; but we are to remember that we are God's property, that we are bought with a price, body, soul, and spirit. We must guard the living machinery, and keep it in the very best condition, that we may glorify God. It is to be daily oiled by his grace, to run at his touch, without friction. To trust in ourselves, to become boastful as if we had created and redeemed ourselves, is to dishonor God. Human wisdom, aside from God, will prove itself to be foolishness, and will bring confusion and perplexity. We need to have on the whole armor of God. The holy influence of a Saviour's loving protection is our sure defense. There is but One who can prove a safeguard against the schemes of Satan. {1888 1626.2}

The Counterfeit Alpha and Omega

Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.** We have ***now before us the alpha of this danger.*** The ***omega*** will be of a most startling nature. {1SM 197.4}

We need to study the words that Christ uttered in the prayer that He offered just before His trial and crucifixion. "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have

manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and ***they have kept thy word***" (John 17:1-6). {1SM 197.5}

I am instructed to speak plainly. "Meet it," is the word spoken to me. "Meet it firmly, and without delay." But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book Living Temple there ***is presented the alpha of deadly heresies***. The omega will follow, ***and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given***. {1SM 200.1}

Our physicians, upon whom important responsibilities rest, should have clear spiritual discernment. They are to stand constantly on guard. Dangers that we do not now discern will soon break upon us, and I greatly desire that they shall not be deceived. I have an intense longing to see them standing free in the Lord. I pray that they may have courage to stand firm for the truth as it is in Jesus, holding fast the beginning of their confidence unto the end.--Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 2, pp. 49, 50. {1SM 200.2}

Finally my son said to me, "Mother, you ought to read at least some parts of the book, that you may see whether they are in harmony with the light that God has given you." He sat down beside me, and together we read the preface, and most of the first chapter, and also paragraphs in other chapters. As we read, I recognized the very sentiments against which I had been bidden to speak in warning during the ***early days*** of my public labors. When I first left the State of Maine, it was to go through Vermont and Massachusetts, to bear a testimony against these sentiments. Living Temple contains the ***alpha of these theories***. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and ***I trembled for our people***. I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to ***enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God***. The statements made in Living Temple in regard to this point are incorrect. The scripture used to substantiate the doctrine there set forth, is scripture misapplied. {1SM 203.2}

I am compelled to speak in denial of the claim that the teachings of Living Temple can be sustained by statements from my writings. There may be in this book expressions and sentiments that are in harmony with my writings. And there may be ***in my writings*** many statements which, taken from their connection, and interpreted according to the mind of the writer of Living Temple, would seem to be in harmony with the teachings of this book. This may give apparent support to the assertion that the sentiments in Living

Temple are in harmony with my writings. But God forbid that this sentiment should prevail. {1SM 203.3}

Few can discern the result of entertaining the *sophistries* advocated by some at this time. But the Lord has lifted the curtain, and has shown me the result that would follow. The *spiritualistic theories* regarding the personality of God, followed to their logical conclusion, *sweep away the whole Christian economy. They estimate as nothing the light that Christ came from heaven to give John to give to His people. They teach that the scenes just before us are not of sufficient importance to be given special attention. They make of no effect the truth of heavenly origin, and rob the people of God of their past experience, giving them instead a false science.* {1SM 203.4}

In a vision of the night I was shown distinctly that these sentiments have been looked upon by some as the grand truths that are to be brought in and made prominent at the present time. I was shown a platform, braced by solid timbers,-- the truths of the word of God. *Some one* high in responsibility in the medical work (*Kellogg's Living Temple--1SM 203.2*) was directing this man and that man to loose the timbers supporting this platform. Then I heard a voice saying, "**Where are the watchmen** that ought to be standing on the walls of Zion? are they asleep? This foundation was built by the Masterworker, and will stand storm and tempest. **Will they permit this man to present doctrines that deny the *past experience* of the people of God? The time has come to take decided action.**" {1SM 204.1}

The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-Day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in *giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith*, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? **The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded.** Our religion would be changed. **The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be counted as error.** A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of *intellectual philosophy* would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The sabbath, of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on sand, storm and tempest would sweep away the structure. {1SM 204.2}

Who has authority to begin such a movement? **We have our Bibles. We**

have our experiences, attested to by the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit. We have the truth that admits of no compromise. Shall we not repudiate everything that is not in harmony with this truth? {1SM 205.1}

The Alpha of the Omega--There are times when *important movements* must be made in a crisis that the Lord permits--the development of an evil work which has long been in minds and hearts. The work of advancement in the proclamation of truth has at such times been greatly hindered [by] specious workings, which are the Alpha of the Omega, which means very much to the people who are in any way *connected* with parties who have received the warnings of the Lord, but refused to heed them. . . . {11MR 211.1}

Omega to One of the Most Subtle Delusions--We are now to be on guard, and not drawn away from the all-important message given of God for this time. Satan is not ignorant of the result of trying to define God and Jesus Christ in a *spiritualistic* [USED HERE IN REFERENCE TO A SYSTEM OF INTERPRETATION, NOT SPIRITISM POPULARLY CALLED SPIRITUALISM.] *way that sets God and Christ as a nonentity*. The moments occupied in this kind of science are, in the place of preparing the way of the Lord, *making a way for Satan to come in and confuse the minds with mysticisms of his own devising*. Although they are dressed up in angel robes they have made our God and our Christ a nonentity. Why?--because Satan sees the minds are all fitted for his working. Men have lost tract of Christ and the Lord God, and *have been obtaining an experience that is Omega to one of the most subtle delusions that will ever captivate the minds of men. We are forbidden to . . . set the imagination in a train of conjecture.*--Diary, #48, pp. 153, 163, Aug. 25 and Aug. 28, 1904. {11MR 211.2}

EXAMPLES:

Notice how E J Waggoner misuses the Bible to seduce the mind of his hearers, into false theories. This was the alpha, the omega would follow. By?

EJ Waggoner, Feb 21st, 1899, in The Daily Bulletin "The Water of Life."

"O, I delight in drinking water, as I never have before: I delight in bathing. Why, I come right to the throne of God. A man may get righteousness in bathing, when he knows where the water comes from, and recognizes the source."

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a pure river of *water of life*, clear as crystal,

proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, ***let him take the water of life freely.***

"When a man knows and recognizes that every breath he draws is a direct breathing of God into his nostrils, he lives in the presence of God, and has a Spirit-filled life. . . . Let a man breathe by faith, and he will be full of the Spirit of God."

Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and ***breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***

The Bible?

The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work. God's holy word, which has been handed down to us at such a cost of suffering and blood, is but little valued. The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning ***to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths.*** Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt. {GC 582.3}

"A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to ***spiritualize away the very truths*** which lead us to look upon it (the new earth) as our home." {GC 674.4-675.0}{4SP 489.3}{RH, October 22, 1908 par. 5}

Spurious scientific theories are coming in as a thief in the night, stealing away the landmarks and undermining the pillars of our faith. God has shown

me that the medical students are not to be educated in such theories, because God will not endorse these theories. *The most specious temptations of the enemy are coming in, and they are coming in on the highest, most elevated plane. These spiritualize the doctrines of present truth until there is no distinction between the substance and the shadow.* {MM 87.4}

You know that Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary. He will cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men to prove that he is God. *We must stand barricaded by the truths of the Bible. The canopy of truth is the only canopy under which we can stand safely.*-- SpT Series B, No. 6, pages 32, 33. {MM 87.5}

SOP?

“I knew their only object was to mangle the visions, *spiritualize away their literal meaning*, throw a Satanic influence upon me, and call it the power of God. Sister Minor addressed me, urging me to relate the visions. I respected her, but knew she was deceived in regard to that company. I refused to relate my vision to them. We told them we had no fellowship with their spirit, and in the name of the Lord would resist it. They flattered, but it had no effect. Then they tried to terrify me, commanding me. They said it was my duty to tell them the visions. I faithfully warned those whom I believed to be honest, and begged them to renounce their errors, and leave the company that was leading them astray. I left them, free from their influence and spirit. A portion of that company in a few weeks were left to run into the basest fanaticism. {LS80 230.1}

The difficulties that have arisen have been very hard to meet, and they are far from being settled yet. *One, and another, and still another are presented to me as having been led to accept the pleasing fables that mean the sanctification of sin.* Living Temple contains the alpha of a **train of heresies**. There **heresies** are similar to those that I met in my first labors in connection with the cause in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, then in Boston, Roxbury, New Bedford, and other parts of Massachusetts. Through them the evil one worked upon the minds of men and women. {11MR 247.1}

These words were spoken to me in the night season. The sentiments in

"Living Temple" regarding the personality of God have been received even *by men who have had a long experience in the truth. When such men consent to eat* of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil *we are no longer to regard the subject as a matter to be treated with the greatest delicacy.* That those whom we thought sound in the faith should have failed to discern the specious, deadly influence of this science of evil, *should alarm us as nothing else has alarmed us.'* {BCL 79.6}

The very last of his deceptions.

It was the spirit of Satan expressed in looks and words to make of *none effect the Testimonies of the Spirit of God.* "This," said the guide with me, "is the way any message of Heaven will be treated." God and angels are at work to *open before the people their wrongs* which have brought the frown of God upon the people. Men professing to be teachers, *step in between them and the light God has given,* that it shall have no weight or effect upon the hearts of the people. God calls them to repentance, while unconsecrated, unconverted men, as bodies of darkness, call their attention *from the necessity* of repentance to self-justification. These cunning speeches serve the purpose of Satan. Self-inflated, self-deceived souls are deceiving others. Eld. Smith has had poor companions and supporters. He sat in silence. God pity these men who are blinded and deceived. Meetings that should have been meetings of confession and humiliation, have been meetings of self-justification. A spirit of coldness, of irreverence, of lightness was with many. And while it is called today, if you hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation in the wilderness. {PH155 9.2}

It was evident that a spirit had been at work for years to bring about this state of things. It was no sudden work. Our brethren never did have and never will have any greater evidence that God was with me, working with me and by me for the benefit of His people, than they had at that conference. It was evident that a delusion was upon our brethren. They had lost confidence in Sister White, not because Sister White had changed but because another spirit had taken possession and control of them. Satan's purpose is, through his devices, to make of *none effect the testimonies* of the Spirit of God. *If he can lead the minds of the people of God to see things in a perverted light, they will lose confidence in the messages God sends through His servants; then he can the more readily deceive, and not be detected.* {12MR 201.1}

Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the *spurious--to lead away from the*

truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people ***in the true testimony.***-- Letter 12, 1890. {1SM 48.3}

There will be a hatred kindled ***against the testimonies*** which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions ***if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.***-- Letter 40, 1890. {1SM 48.4}

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. He will bring in ***spurious visions*** to mislead, and will ***minge the false with the true,*** and so disgust people that they will regard everything that bears the name of visions as a species of fanaticism; ***but honest souls, by contrasting false and true, will be enabled to distinguish between them....*** {2SM 78.2}{10MR 311.1}

Likewise, he works through persons who have been reprov'd for some inconsistency in their religious life, for some course of action which was dangerous to themselves and others. Instead of receiving the testimony as a blessing from God, they refuse the means God uses to set them right. Such apparently may be very zealous for God, but they put their own interpretation upon the Word and make it contradict what the Lord has revealed in the testimonies. They think they are doing God's service, but such work God has not given them to do. {10MR 311.2}

Jesus knew that He could do the scribes and Pharisees no good, unless they would empty themselves of self-importance. He chose new bottles for His new wine of doctrine, and made fishermen and unlearned believers the heralds of His truth to the world. And yet, though His doctrine seemed new to the people, ***it was in fact not a new doctrine,*** but the revelation of the significance of that which had been taught from the beginning. ***It was His design that His disciples should take the plain, unadulterated truth for the guide of their life.*** They were not to add to His words, or give a forced meaning to His utterances. ***They were not to put a mystical interpretation upon the plain teaching of the Scriptures, and draw from theological stores to build up some man-made theory. It was through putting a mystical meaning upon the plain words of***

God, that sacred and vital truths were made of little significance, while the theories of men were made prominent. It was in this way that men were led to teach for doctrines the commandments of men, and that they rejected the commandment of God, that they might keep their own tradition. (RH June 2, 1896). {RH, June 2, 1896 par. 7} {5BC 1089.1}

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples when He was with them, "I have many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." He could have made disclosures which would have absorbed the attention of the disciples and caused them to lose sight of His former instruction that He wished to be the subject of their most earnest thought. But He withheld those things which they would have been amazed to hear, and which would have afforded them opportunity to cavil, to create misunderstanding and disaffection. He would give no occasion for persons of little faith and piety to *mystify* and misrepresent the truth, and thus create factions.

Revelation is a sealed book, but it is also an opened book. It records marvelous events *that are to take place in the last days of this earth's history*. The teachings of this book are *definite*, not *mystical* and unintelligible. *In it the same line of prophecy is taken up as in Daniel. Some prophecies God has repeated, thus showing that importance must be given to them. The Lord does not repeat things that are of no great consequence.*--Manuscript 107, 1897, pp. 1,2. ("Search the Scriptures," no date.) see GC 356.0 "succession of events.