

Was Ellen White a Futurist

Firstly I would like to say that I am no authority and certainly no scholar. The word of God is our authority and the only sure safe depository of truth. I am just a seeker of truth.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. I may even raise a lot of questions without necessarily having all the answers and that is a good thing because you will go and search for the answers yourself.

How much do you think you know? We often think we know quite a lot. The total sum of human knowledge doubles approx. every 12 months. It is hard to keep pace with the way things are rapidly changing.

I Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

According to God all the sum of human knowledge is nothing. It is foolishness to him.

1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

If we think we know everything, then when we come to God's word and read it and we say yes! I know what that means! Then he can't teach us anything. We have to be humble learners at the feet of Jesus so that he can show us what he wants us to know.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

5T 706.2 Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God's word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion.

The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what.....

RH, July 26, 1892 We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Christ prayed.

Did you get that? Only God and heaven alone are infallible. So if you are not God and you are not in heaven; which pretty much applies to everyone on this planet. Then you are not infallible. Our views can be wrong.

CW 36.--How shall we search the Scriptures? Shall we drive our stakes of doctrine one after another, and then try to make all Scripture meet our established opinions? or shall we take our ideas and views to the Scriptures, and measure our theories on every side by the Scriptures of truth? Many who read and even teach the Bible, do not comprehend the precious truth they are teaching or studying.

Men entertain errors, when the truth is clearly marked out; and if they would but bring their doctrines to the word of God, and not read the word of God in the light of their doctrines, to prove their ideas right, they would not walk in darkness and blindness, or cherish error. Many give the words of Scripture a meaning that suits their own opinions, and they mislead themselves and deceive others by their misinterpretations of God's word.

As we take up the study of God's word, we should do so with humble hearts. All selfishness, all love of originality, should be laid aside. Long-cherished opinions must not be regarded as infallible. It was the unwillingness of the Jews to give up their long-established traditions that proved their ruin. They were determined not to see any flaw in their own opinions or in their expositions of the Scriptures; but however long men may have entertained certain views, if they are not clearly sustained by the written word, they should be discarded. Those who sincerely desire truth will not be reluctant to lay open their positions for investigation and criticism, and will not be annoyed if their opinions and ideas are crossed.

TM 113.2} Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.

This statement comes from Letter 157 1902 So in 1902 she said that we do not study the Bible enough and we don't understand the word as we should. Repeating Paul's sentiments that we know nothing yet as he ought to know.

TM 114.3 When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience.

- Does that bother you when Ellen White says we don't understand Daniel & Revelation as fully as we should?
- It should. It bothers me.
- Do you want a revival?
- Where is this revival going to come from?

It is going to come from studying and understanding Daniel and Revelation.

But we understand the prophecies of D&R don't we? In 1902 Mrs White said that we do not properly understand the books of Daniel and Revelation. Most of what we understand about Revelation comes from the pioneers: in particular Uriah Smith. Therefore what they understood about the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation was not enough.

When we properly understand the book of revelation we will have a revival.

How shall we view the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation?

**Have the majority
of prophecies
already been
fulfilled prior to
1844?**

**Do any of them
have more
than one
application?**

**Is it a denial of the
Spirit of Prophecy to
apply something to
the future that has
been applied to the
past?**

These are questions that have been around for a long time. If Ellen White said in 1902 that we don't understand Daniel and Revelation fully and that we need to understand them to have a great revival, this means that the standard pioneer understanding of Daniel and Revelation does not provide us with the complete picture. So let's take a look at a few prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that have been attributed to the past by the Pioneers and see what we can find out. If Ellen White applies a prophecy to the past and then gives the same prophecy a future application, this is not a denial of Spirit of Prophecy, but rather further light revealed to her about the prophecy.

So let's take a look.

The 1290 & 1335 days of Daniel 12 is that future or past?

According to the 1843 pioneer chart, the Millerites had the 1290 and 1335 days beginning in 508 and ending in 1843 and this was the pioneers understanding and it is still the common understanding held today.



Mrs White does not say much specifically about the 1290 and 1335 days. She only makes one statement which is a little ambiguous.

Brother Hewit from Dead River was there. He came with a message to the effect that the destruction of the wicked and the sleep of the dead was an abomination within a shut door that a woman, Jezebel, a prophetess had brought in and he believed that I was that woman Jezebel. We told him of some of his errors in the past, that the 1335 days were ended and numerous errors of his. It had but little effect. His darkness was felt upon the meeting and it dragged. {6MR 251.2} Letter 28, 1850,

There are a few things to consider with this statement. Some people try to use this statement to prove that the 1335 days were not ended. But this statement was written in 1850 less than 10 years after the 1843 chart was published. James White believed that the 1335 days were ended and Mrs White was declaring the same thing. I believe that Mrs White was in agreement with the common held belief of the day: that the 1335 days finished in 1843 and were in the past.

The 1290 and 1335 days are found in Daniel 12 Let us now jump forward over 50 years and see what ELLEN White has to say.

Letter 161 1903 Let us read and study the 12th chapter of Daniel. It is A WARNING that we **shall** all need to understand before the time of the end.

We are admonished to study the 12th chapter of Daniel. In 1903 she said there was a warning in this chapter that we need to understand before the time of the end. Do you think it is important for us to understand what the warning is? It is our own peril if we do not. Did the pioneers understand what that warning was when she wrote this in 1903? The standard position on the 1290 and 1335 has this prophecy all finished in 1843. Was this the warning that we need to understand before the time of the end?

Notice also that she said we shall need to understand this before the TIME OF THE END. Didn't the TIME OF THE END start in 1798? Yet here in 1903 she is saying that the TIME OF THE END was still at some future time.

RH, September 25, 1883 In the Scriptures are presented truths that relate especially to our own time. **To the period just prior to the appearing of the Son of man**, the prophecies of Scripture point, and here their **warnings and threatenings pre-eminently apply**. The **prophetic periods of Daniel**, extending to the very eve of the **great consummation, throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire**. The book of Revelation is also replete with warning and instruction for the last generation. The beloved John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, portrays the fearful and thrilling scenes connected with the close of earth's history, and presents the duties and dangers of God's people. **None need remain in ignorance, none need be unprepared for the coming of the day of God.**

Notice this says that there are prophetic periods in Daniel that extend right down to the very eve of the second coming, and it is to this period that their warnings pre-eminently apply.

PRE-EMINENT, a. [L. proe, before, and eminens, emineo. See Menace.]
1. Superior in excellence; distinguished for something commendable or honorable. In goodness and in power preeminent.
2. Surpassing others in evil or bad qualities; as pre-eminent in crime or guilt.

Pre-eminently
PRE-EM'INENTLY, adv. In a preeminent degree; with superiority or distinction above others; as pre-eminently wise or good.

For something to be pre-eminent it means that it is superior and distinguished as commendable, and it surpasses above others. The warnings in the scripture relating to the period just before the second coming are therefore of serious importance.

The prophetic periods of Daniel, extending to the very eve of the great consummation, throw a flood of light upon events then to transpire

What prophetic periods of Daniel extend to the very eve of the second coming, throwing a flood of light upon the events that are then to transpire? A prophetic period is simply a prophecy that has mention of a time period. So let us see if we can know which prophetic periods she is talking about. Where do we find the prophetic periods of Daniel?

Does the prophetic period in Daniel 4 extend to the eve of the second coming? In Daniel 4 Nebuchadnezzar became like a beast for 7 times or 7 years.

**Daniel 4:25 -
seven
times?**

No !

What about the prophetic period of 3 ½ times or 1260 years in Daniel 7?

**Daniel 7:25 -
Time times
and ½ time?**

No !

Daniel 8's prophetic period of the 2300 days. Does that extend to the very eve of the great consummation?

**Daniel 8:14 -
Unto 2300
days?**

No !

In Daniel 9 we have the prophetic period of 70 weeks. Does that reach right down to the very eve of the second coming?

**Daniel 9:
24-27 - 70
weeks?**

No !

That only leaves Daniel 10 -12.

**Daniel 10 – There are no prophetic periods.
Daniel 11 – there are no prophetic periods.
That leaves only
Daniel 12**

How ever we may have applied Daniel 12 in the past. This statement can only mean one thing. The prophetic periods of Daniel 12 reach right down to the very end of time.

This means that the primary fulfilment of the 1290 and 1335 days cannot be in 1843; as these periods of Daniel extend to the very eve of the great consummation or second coming.

Let's take a look at another prophecy.

Revelation 11 does it apply to the past or does its fulfillment apply to some point in the future?

Revelation 11 talks about the two witnesses prophesying in sackcloth for 1260 days. Mrs White has this to say.

GC 268 "When they shall have finished [are finishing] their testimony." The period when the two witnesses were to prophesy clothed in sackcloth ended in 1798.

GC88 269.3 According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of Satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh, and the licentiousness of Sodom.

This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France. During the Revolution of 1793, "the world for the first time heard an assembly of men, renounce unanimously the belief and worship of the Deity."

So according to these statements Revelation 11 has been fulfilled in the past.

**So is Revelation 11
already fulfilled in the
past?**

**According to the above
statements Absolutely.**

So if Revelation 11 was fulfilled in the past, what do we do with the following statement?

{21MR 91.4} Let all who would understand the meaning of these things **read the eleventh chapter of Revelation. Read every verse, and learn the things that are yet to take place in the cities. Read also the scenes portrayed in the eighteenth chapter of the same book.**

Ellen White had been in San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake when she wrote this statement. She admonishes us to read every verse and learn what is yet to take place.

How do we reconcile these two statements. One clearly saying it was fulfilled in the past and the other clearly saying it is still to be fulfilled in the future. Is one right and the other wrong? are they both wrong? Surely they both can't be right! Do you throw one out or completely ignore and hold onto the other? These are serious questions. If you hold to one and completely ignore the other you are saying that there are parts of the Spirit of Prophecy that are unreliable and therefore the whole becomes unravelled. Or you could twist one to suit which would make it a private interpretation.

So what are you going to do? Throw out the spirit of prophecy? No! There are many Adventists who want to hold on to the statements that fit their historic understanding and either deny the existence of, or twist any statement which says there is a future interpretation. If you do this you are destroying the credibility of the Spirit of Prophecy. Both statements have to be taken into account. Revelation 11 had a historic application to the French revolution. But the primary complete fulfilment is still to be fulfilled.

I believe that when she wrote the Great Controversy she was reiterating the commonly held prophetic understanding of the pioneers at the time. In 1906 she tells us that there is still another fulfilment yet to come.

Let's have a look at another prophecy.

Another one. Revelation 13. Is it in the past or in the future?

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth as *the mouth of a lion*: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and **power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**

This is the part that most people put in the past because it says that this beast would continue for 42 months and everybody knows that this is referring to the 1260 years of Papal rule ending in 1798 right? So what do we do with the following statement?

19MR 282 In the last days Satan will appear as an angel of light, with great power and heavenly glory, and claim to be the Lord of the whole earth. He will declare that the Sabbath has been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week; and as lord of the first day of the week he will present this spurious sabbath as a test of loyalty to him. Then will take place the final fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy. [Rev. 13:4-18, quoted.]

NOTE *** According to this statement Satan personates Christ before the final fulfillment of Revelation 13 takes place. Revelation 13 is about the beast and the image of the beast persecuting God's people once it gains total power from the dragon. This chapter contains information regarding the mark of the beast and happens before the close of probation. Therefore this statement places the counterfeit second coming of Christ (Satan) before the close of probation. This is a significant statement

7BC 979 The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. [Rev. 13:4-8, 10 quoted.] This entire chapter is a revelation of what will surely take place [Rev. 13:11, 15-17 quoted] (MS 88, 1897).

19MR 182 "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints" [Rev. 13:10]. This entire chapter is a revelation of what will surely take place. [Rev. 13:11, 15-17, quoted.]

Did you get what she says here? Twice she says that the entire chapter of Revelation 13 is all in the future. That means ALL of the chapter is in the future. This includes the 42 months. All of it is still to come to pass.

**The seals are they future or are they past?
5th seal is about the martyrs that has to relate to the dark ages right?**

Lets take a look at the 5th seal.

What does it say.

Rev 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Rev 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Notice the following statement from the Spirit of Prophecy.

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, Holy and true, doest Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them [They were pronounced pure and holy]; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled" [Revelation 6:9-11]. Here were scenes presented to John that were not in reality but that which would be in a period of time in the future. [Revelation 8:1-4, quoted.] {20MR 197.5}

Notice she says that it is not reality but will be in a period of time in the future. You could say that it refers to a future time from John's perspective and you would of course be right. But what period in the future was she referring to? It tells you in the text itself. It cannot apply to any time prior to the judgment which began in 1844 because they were given white robes and they were pronounced pure and holy; this cannot happen before they come up in judgment. So at the minimum this cannot apply to any time prior to 1844.

Note –the words in brackets [They were pronounced pure and holy] was put there by Mrs White.

Can we know for sure exactly when this prophecy applies?

**5th seal
applies at the
time of the
Sunday law.**

TSA 52 Testimonies to south Africa .Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. The Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin. The protest of Bible truth will be no longer tolerated by those who have not made the law of God their rule of action. Then will the voice be heard from the graves of martyrs, represented by the souls which John saw slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ which they held; (Revelation 5:9) then the prayer will ascend from every true child of God, "It is time for thee, Lord, to work, for they have made void thy law." [2]

Clearly here she says that the voice of the martyrs will be heard under the 5th seal when the Law of God is made void during the Sunday law. But it will be before it is made universal all around the world.

6BC 1081 When the defiance of God's law is almost universal, when His people are pressed in affliction by their fellow men, God will interpose. Then will the voice be heard from the graves of martyrs, represented by the souls that John saw slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ, which they held-- then the prayer will ascend from every true child of God: "It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law."

So just before the Sunday law becomes universal the 5th seal applies because it is at that time that the number of the martyrs are made up. If the 5th seal applies to a future time during the Sunday Law crisis. Then it also implies that the other seals would need to be examined in light of these things.

Revelation 5 is it future?

9T 267 The fifth chapter of Revelation needs to be closely studied. It is of great importance to those who shall act a part in the work of God for these last days. There are some who are deceived. They do not realize what is coming on the earth. Those who have permitted their minds to become beclouded in regard to what constitutes sin are fearfully deceived. Unless they make a decided change they will be found wanting when God pronounces judgment upon the children of men. They have transgressed the law and broken the everlasting covenant, and they will receive according to their works. Then she quotes Rev 6:12-17

Revelation 5 brings into view the 7 seals it says here that this chapter is related to the work that God's people are going to do in the last days. It also has some connection with deception regarding an understanding of what sin is.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

DO WE REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS?

Of course! It is Sunday worship!

6T 17 The light we have received upon the third angel's message is the true light. **The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. *Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll;* but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world.**

What could she possibly mean by this? Isn't the Mark of the Beast Sunday worship? We all know this, right? But we can't just sit back and say it's related to Sunday; and if I keep the Sabbath and don't worship on Sunday I will be all right. There is obviously more to it than that, and we are unaware of the implications of what that means. We have always said that it cannot relate to a microchip but what if the microchip has something to do with the implementation of its practical enforcement. What if having a microchip implant was the only way that you could buy food etc? What if getting the chip means declaring allegiance to the beast? Would you have an implant to feed your family? Or keep a roof over your head? I don't know – not all is understood at this point in time. I don't have all the answers. The scroll has not unrolled enough to be understood properly yet. But when

it does it will become blatantly obvious to those who are wise and looking. All I know is that Ellen White said that she didn't understand everything in regard to it in her day. Which means that we need to keep our eyes open to possibilities.

What does all this mean? Why did Ellen White say a prophecy was fulfilled in the past and in another place say that it was in the future. Does this make her a false prophet like so many Ellen White 'bashers' would have you believe? There is no shortage of Ellen White 'bashers' on the internet, if you want to find them. How do we harmonize such statements?

I believe that there are times when she refers to a prophecy in the past, that she is stating the commonly held pioneer belief at the time. At some latter point if she puts this same prophecy in the future this does not cause a conflict. We need to remember that only God is omniscient. Only he knows all things and everything. She can only reveal what God has shown to her. If God had not revealed to her a particular point of prophecy she would have understood it the same as the pioneers did. This does not make her a false prophet. It just means that she was human and didn't know any more than what God revealed to her at anyone time. Eg there was a time when someone was advocating that people should not eat pork and she told them off for trying to tell people they shouldn't eat pork. Yet later on, she herself changed her view and advocated the avoidance of pork. Does this make her a false prophet? Of course not. She changed her view because she had received light on the subject, correcting her previous view on the matter. The same would also be true regarding her understanding of prophecy.

Please be careful not to destroy the Spirit of Prophecy by making one statement contradict another because it doesn't fit with your interpretation of things.

There is a whole study dedicated to the seeming contradictions regarding historical vs future applications of the trumpets. It is under the title Josiah Litch's predictions: What happened on August 11th 1840?

Please check it out on this website.