

Larry Wilson vs. God's Word

Part One of Three

Larry Wilson lives in Ohio, and has an organization called *Wake Up America Seminars, Inc.* He travels around and holds lectures wherever he is invited. He also writes books. Here are some of the titles:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ—contains Wilson's time prophecies and theories about Daniel and Revelation.

18 End-Time Bible Prophecies—another book of Larry's views of Daniel and Revelation.

Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled!—This book has Wilson's version of how final events will begin in, or just after, the year 1994.

Larry Wilson also publishes a monthly donor letter, entitled *Day Star Newsletter*.

The discussion, below, will not be about his time prophecies or his positions on Daniel and Revelation. Instead, we will here solely deal with Larry's remarkable teaching about the truthfulness of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

Wilson gives a fairly broad in-depth presentation on this subject in chapter three of his book, *Questions on Revelation*, pages 47 to 69, and part of chapter 4, pages 87-94. Chapter three is entitled, *Prophets Can Make Mistakes*. We will overview his remarks in that chapter, and consider the section in chapter four.

At the outset, I will tell you that this is one of the most devilish chapters I have ever read in my life. As we go through it, you will understand why. Many souls will be lost because they listened to Larry Wilson or read his books. His attack on the Bible writers and Ellen White are worse than blighting; they are soul-destroying.

Larry Wilson bases his entire edifice of error on three premises, which he carefully explains in this chapter, and then builds on.

Once you understand those three premises, you will be able to see why the foundation of whatever structure he builds is so devastating to the soul. Here are Larry Wilson's three premises:

1 - Each Inspired prophet only received a few tiny glimpses of truth, which he then wrote down. Included here is also Ellen White, who only received a few glimpses.

2 - Each Inspired prophet mingled error into that which he wrote, so we who read the "sacred Scrip-

tures" will have a difficult time separating the truth from the error.

3 - But those who are "in the 144,000" will have ALL truth revealed to them in these last days. They are able to do two things: (1) separate the truth from the error in the tiny earlier glimpses, (2) relate to other massive amounts of truth never revealed in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

Well, there it is, and it takes your breath away! We have here the breathings of Satan. This is a set of dovetailed errors, capable of destroying confidence in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and opening the door to all kinds of error.

Now we will begin an analysis of Larry Wilson's attack on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. But, as we do so, keep in mind that it is those devilish premises which enable Larry to wander so far from the safety of God's Word. He is able to do this, because he does not consider that there is safety in those books.

All quotations below, not from the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy, are from Wilson's book, *Questions on Revelation*, pages 47 to 69:

— WILSON STATES HIS PREMISES —

1 - Prophets do not know much, but the 144,000 will know everything.

"Prophets, in this study, are defined as people that God speaks to through a process known as inspiration. Prophets usually receive information from God in a dream or a vision and after the dream or vision is concluded, the prophet then tells what he saw or heard in his own words."—Page 47.

Wilson's idea is that Scripture is not God's Word, but man's erring ideas about what that Word may have been. (In contrast, we believe that God not only gave the truths to His prophets, but He also guided them in correctly writing out the messages.)

"Here is a parable explaining inspiration as I have come to understand it: Suppose you, an ordinary person, are blindfolded and taken by the hand onto the stage of a totally dark auditorium filled with hundreds of silent people. The blindfold is then removed, but you can't see or hear anything because of the darkness and the silence. Your guide shines a narrow beam of light to your left and you see three people in the light. Then, he shines the spotlight toward the back of the auditorium and you see two people. Lastly, he shines the spotlight toward the right of the auditorium and you see one person. The blindfold is then replaced, and as you exit the

room, your guide says that you should tell others everything you experienced and saw. When you begin to tell others of your experience, you will become known as a prophet because you speak about the things revealed by God.”—Page 47.

Notice that Wilson’s position is that each prophet has only received a tiny glimpse of truth. How derogatory can a man get of the Word of God! According to Wilson, all the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy is nothing more than a few small revelations of truth.

(In contrast with all the prophets of the past, Larry will tell us that those who are “in the 144,000” will have ALL truth—a thousandfold more than all the prophets in all time since the fall of Adam.—But such a concept is foreign to Scripture.)

“Here’s the meaning of the parable. God chooses very common people to become His servants.”—Page 47.

Repeatedly, Larry mentions that the prophets are only “common people like you and me.” This is part of his overall pattern of degrading the prophets to the status of average people, and elevating “the 144,000”—those with this special last-day godlike wisdom to omniscient beings.

According to Larry, the prophets of God, down through the past centuries, only received a tiny inkling of all the 144,000 know.

“The point here is that God reveals wonderful things to common people. He shines a spotlight on some aspect of truth. Then the vision ends and the same common person begins to tell what he saw and heard.”—Page 48.

It is false teaching to say that the prophets were “common people.” They were not something picked at random off the street! God selected the most dedicated men and women in their generations to be His chosen messengers. We may not consider Jonah to have been very dedicated, but that was the best the Lord could get at that time in history.

“But, every prophet’s view of truth is limited. (In the parable, the prophet only saw six people, but remember, the auditorium was full of people.) A hundred years pass and God does the same thing again, except this time, He shines the spotlight in places not seen before.”—Page 48.

“At the very end of time, God will fully reveal the contents of the room. The 144,000 will be taken into the room and God will flip on the ceiling lights so that they might behold the WHOLE truth about the contents of the room.”—Page 48.

You will notice here that Wilson is daring enough to use an extended metaphor (a parable) of his own manufacture—as the only proof that his concept is right!

1 - All the inspired prophets who have ever lived have only received very small patches of truth.

2 - At the end of time, the faithful will suddenly

be endowed with a blaze of light—total light.

—But these two points are not supported by Scripture! Neither concept is supported by the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

Larry Wilson believes what he teaches: that neither the Bible nor the Spirit of Prophecy is worth much, and there will be those in the last days who will have everything revealed to them. Therefore he feels free to invent theology out of whole cloth. That theory gives him the right to invent truth.

Please understand, Larry does not say he is part of the 144,000,—but he surely must believe it, since (1) he speaks and writes as if he has the omniscient knowledge about to be awarded to his 144,000; and (2) in his book, *Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled!*, he teaches that March 19, 1994 was the special terminal date of four of his time-setting theories, and therefore final events begin shortly afterward. So, according, to Larry, we are already at the end.

“Each prophet receives a partial view of God’s truths. So the testimony of any one prophet is incomplete until the 144,000 appear . . . The final generation on earth hears the whole truth.”—Page 48.

We have here a remarkable blank. The final generation (144,000) is supposed to suddenly “hear” the truth. Who from? Larry is careful to not say who they will hear it from. Yet, it is clear they do not get that truth from the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy. Larry is not worried. He is ready to tell them what he thinks they need to know.

In strong contrast, THE TRUTH IS that the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are filled with truth! Those precious books do not have just a smidgen of it!

Will the final group be overcomers? Yes. Will they be careful students of God’s Word? Yes. But Larry portrays them as being filled with great new light, which they got from somewhere.

Yet THE TRUTH is that ALL the new light which any of us will ever get—will come from a careful study of those prophets which Wilson holds in such contempt.

Let us now turn to another one of his basic assumptions:

2 - The prophets continually inserted error into their writings, whenever they understood what they were talking about.

Larry Wilson teaches that the prophets continually inserted error into their writings, whenever they understood what they were talking about. He goes on to explain that the only exception was Daniel and Revelation, which are infallible—only because the prophets did not know the meaning of the symbols, and so wrote them as given to them.

It sounds incredible, but that is what he teaches!

“However, this parable demonstrates how more light opposes ideas that were thought to be light.”—*Page 49.*

Wilson is now going to introduce his theory that the prophets regularly inserted error into their writings.

“Bible writers express their opinions and they don't say that it is their opinion!”—*Page 50.*

He candidly informs the reader that this “undermines” the use of “proof texts.” As Larry sees it, there is simply too much error in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. But he comforts us with the thought that the real truth is being revealed through people today.

“Then no one can absolutely separate truth from error. But how can God expect us to absolutely separate truth from error when truth is ever growing?”—*Page 50.*

Larry says that the prophets only gave us a very limited amount of truth, and because of all the error they mingled in with it,—we do not *yet* have enough truth to be saved in the last days! After all these centuries, and almost to the end of time—we still do not know how to accepted in the sight of God! In view of that, was anyone saved in earlier centuries? Probably not, since they did not have the light Larry wants to give us today.

“Truth is always larger than any one prophet. Truth is larger than all prophets combined for God and His truths are infinite. And He has not yet confirmed the details necessary for salvation in the end time! But, when God chooses the 144,000, He will reveal the truth necessary for salvation in the end-time to them.”—*Page 53.*

The TRUTH is that, in every age of history, man is saved in the same way. God has not changed, and neither has the plan of salvation. Anyone can be saved by studying the Bible alone and accepting Christ as his Saviour, without ever having listened to Larry Wilson.

3 - Only Daniel and Revelation were without error.

According to Wilson, of all the books in the Bible, only Daniel and Revelation have no error. Therefore, none of the rest are really trustworthy, and neither is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Such a man-made theology fits nicely into Larry's preaching and writing schedule, since all he wants is to get you to accept his theories about those two books.—And if you will but accept his ideas that no other inspired books (including the Spirit of Prophecy) are reliable, he hopes you will bank on what he says.

“The apocalyptic prophecies of Daniel and Revelation are unconditional and inerrant. Neither

Daniel or John understood what they saw in the visions that form the content of these books. Thus, both books contain very little, if any, personal opinion about chronology by their authors. These two books are uniquely designated as apocalyptic for they lay out the chronological structure of events culminating with the end of the world. Unfortunately, many Adventists have a false sense of ‘prophetic security’ in Ellen White.”—*Pages 67-68.*

Larry kindly wants to erase a sense of confidence in your Bible and Spirit of Prophecy books. He has devised a different path to heaven for you. Are you willing to follow him along that path?

— WILSON CITES TWO ERRORS IN THE PROPHETS —

1 - The prophets were mistaken in saying that “The day of the Lord is near.”

A thoughtful comparison of the lectures and writings of Larry Wilson, with those of Charles Wheeling, reveals that their premises are essentially the same. Both teach that the prophets wrote error, and that great new light is to come from the speculations of people in our time. Both seek to find errors in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, which they can gloat over. Both tend to center their developing, ever-changing theories and time prophecies on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

At this juncture, Larry cites two of his most powerful proofs that the Bible writers had erroneous ideas, and placed them in the Scriptures. Here is the first of them:

Wilson's first attack is one of Wheeling's old favorites: the idea that the prophets were wrong in declaring that the end was to come in their time.

Such passages as these are quoted by Larry:

“The day of the Lord is near for all nations.”—*Obadiah 1:15.* “Let all of the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand.”—*Joel 2:1.* “For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time for the heathen.”—*Ezekiel 30:3.*

Both Wheeling and Wilson almost fall over themselves with delight in their zeal to point to such passages, and say, “See, what did I tell you! Here is error in the prophets!”

Our reply:

First, throughout all history, the prophets of God have been guided to warn us that *the end was near—near at that time.* Why is this? Because it always is! None of us can know how soon we will die. Some will call this a trite reply, but it is absolutely true. One of the most powerful facts which God can, and does, point to is the ever-present imminence of death. Throughout our earthly days, we are always close to death. It can come by accident or disease, and we should continually be prepared to meet it.—Is not

that a true statement? Of course it is. Would it not be wise for God to keep warning us of the fact? Yes. Wheeling and Wilson can laugh all they want at the warning sounded by the prophets, but someday they too will have to face the judgment. And when they do, I fear they will not fare very well, for they will have to answer for hundreds upon hundreds of souls who once believed, loved, and obeyed the prophetic writings; but who were weaned away to follow the imaginative, and very fascinating, sparks kindled by these two men.

Second, time is short, since, even if we live a long life—even a long lifetime IS SHORT, very short, at best! Those of us who are older (including the present writer) are continually astounded at the utter brevity of life. I was a young man only a few years ago, and now I am old. How quickly the years passed! Yes, the day of the Lord is near—to all of us!

Third, many of the above quotations also speak about the day being near “for the nations.”

Keep in mind that many of the quotations, cited by Wheeling and Wilson, come from the major and minor prophets. As you know, they spent much of their writing time, discussing judgments which were to fall on Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations. Nations were to rise and fall, and the prophets said that their doom would come because of their conduct.—These are facts and not errors!

But Wheeling and Wilson also quote New Testament writers, and say they are teaching error when they write as Peter did:

“The end of all things is near at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”—*1 Peter 4:7*.

The skeptics see in this just another verse to laugh at. “These foolish prophets, which did not know better! Those mistaken men thought that Jesus was going to return the second time in their day! Ha! Ha!”

But will they laugh at God?

“And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand . . . And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”—*Revelation 22:10, 12*.

Charles and Larry do not quote that one, for it is obviously Christ Himself who is telling us to prepare NOW for His SOON Second Advent! Are they going to call Him errant also? When Jesus Himself tells us, in A.D. 95, to prepare right away for His SOON coming, we had better stop laughing.

If the Bible says that the other side of the moon is green, I will believe it. If the Bible says, in A.D. 95, that Jesus is about to return, I will believe it. And every other faithful Christian will believe it also.

And what is the response of the Apostle John to that glorious declaration of Christ?

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”—*Revelation 22:20*.

May God help us to be as faithful to His Word, as was John! As for the craven soul-destroyers, who would attempt to steal our hearts from confidence in God’s Word,—let us have nothing to do with them!

Why did Christ and the Apostles declare, in the first century A.D., that the Second Advent was very, very near at that time?

Well, wasn’t it? Is two thousand years a very long time, in light of eternity? Should Jesus not tell the people then that His coming was near?

Eternity is millions upon millions upon millions of years long, and, in comparison, 2,000 years is so very short!

But there is more: What about the thousands who would read those words on down through the centuries that followed A.D. 95? Did they not need that message—that Christ’s coming was near? Did they not need the warning message—which was also a heart-warming assurance—that Christ’s coming was near?

When God speaks, we should seek to find the truth in it, and not try to disprove it as being error!

May God have mercy on the souls of these teachers of doubt and confusion, and on the listeners brave enough to hang personal destinies on their words.

“They [the apostles] didn’t know that thousands of years would come and go before Jesus would return to earth. In fairness to them, we must remember that their understanding of truth was partial and thus faulty.”—*Page 55*.

Regarding that last sentence, Joel did not reveal as many truths as did Isaiah. We will agree with that, but that did not make any of his revelations faulty.

Larry is obsessed with imagining that the prophets interwove their own erroneous opinions into that which they wrote. But Larry is wrong; for in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, we are dealing with the Word of God, not the opinions of men! They gave the truth God gave them to give. It was as full as He presented it to them, and it was not faulty. (In a recent study, to be released soon, we discuss the matter of infallibility of Scripture in some depth.)

2 - Paul mistakenly thought that Jesus had already entered the Most Holy Place.

Here is the second of the two powerful evidences, which Larry cites, as proof that the Bible writers placed their own erroneous ideas in the Scriptures.

Continued on the next tract

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Larry Wilson vs. God's Word

Part Two of Three

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

Larry Wilson says that Paul erroneously thought Christ had already entered the second apartment of the heavenly Sanctuary, when the book of Hebrews was being written. According to him, this is but another evidence that the Bible writers did not know what they were talking about.

"[Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:11-12; and 10:19-22 is quoted] It is widely believed that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews about A.D. 64. And, from the above, it appears that Paul thought that Christ had entered the Most Holy Place as of A.D. 64 to officiate on behalf of God's people. This claim runs contrary to the Adventist position which says that Jesus entered the Most Holy Place in 1844."—Page 57.

"Adventists have had a difficult time with the timing in Hebrews when dealing with other denominations that place a lot of emphasis on taking the Bible just as it reads. Most of these denominations interpret the timing of Hebrews just like Paul because they don't understand the importance of 1844 either."—Page 59 [italics his].

As Wilson presents it, Adventists have foolish beliefs which are not in accordance with Paul, the Bible, or the great men of the other churches.

But the TRUTH is that our historic beliefs exactly accord with the Bible, in every way.

At this point, I will have to admit I feel a little buffaloed. The evidence, in the book of Hebrews, supporting the fact that Jesus was in the first apartment at the time Paul wrote Hebrews (about A.D. 64) is very complete and detailed. Over a decade ago, I placed it in my book, *The Biblical Sanctuary* (now in Part One of our *Sanctuary Tractbook*), and I hesitate to try to review all that in this brief analysis of Larry Wilson's teachings about the veracity of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

But let me briefly say that the content and Greek of Hebrews 7 through 10 clearly supports the truth that Jesus was already ministering in the first apartment by the time that Paul penned the epistle to the Hebrews, and that Paul said so. Paul did not say that Christ was in the Most Holy Place.

Frankly, the underlying problem is that some of the Bible versions did not translate portions of Hebrews 7 to 10 correctly. Then we come along and have to say, "The Bible says that, but that is not what it means," and people wonder why these people do not agree with the Bible. All this is explained in de-

tail in my lengthy study into the subject.

"Adventists keep Jesus in the Holy Place until 1844. But, other Christians read the book of Hebrews and clearly see that Paul puts Jesus in the Most Holy Place in A.D. 64. Adventists resist their claim because they understand the importance of 1844. Therefore, they believe Jesus entered the Most Holy Place in 1844, at the end of the 2,300 days. But, when asked for a Bible text that explicitly places Christ in the Most Holy Place in 1844, Adventists can't produce one. They *assume* that Jesus entered the Most Holy Place on the basis that the High Priest only entered the Most Holy Place on the day of atonement (Leviticus 16) which began at the end of 2,300 years (Daniel 8:14)."—Pages 57-58 [italics his].

According to Wilson, we historic Adventists surely are in a most miserable situation. All we have is our belief in "*the importance of 1844.*" And there it dangles, all alone, with no evidence to support any of our beliefs or prophecies regarding it. "Other denominations . . . [take] the Bible just as it reads," but we don't.

Yet, the TRUTH is that the Bible evidence does lead to and support the great events which began in 1844. At that time, Jesus passed from the first to the second apartment of the heavenly Sanctuary, and the Investigative Judgment began. The Bible evidence IS clear-cut and solid.

It is the other denominations which have not dug deeply into the Bible, and learned the facts about the Sanctuary service, in type and antitype! In addition, they know little or nothing about the great centuries-long time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

We have been giving Bible studies on these truths for decades; where has Larry Wilson been? He needs to take an elementary study in the 2300-year prophecy and the Sanctuary service.

Yet, looking more closely at the above quotation, it is clear that Wilson knows exactly what he is doing. He *does know* those Bible studies on the Sanctuary in heaven. You will note, in the above quote, that he carefully tries to undercut part of the basic line of Bible evidence which leads us to the truth about 1844 and what occurred then. He dismisses it with a sniff: "They *assume*," he says. To say it right, he should say: "The Bible teaches."

Beware of men who spend their time trying to tear down confidence in the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

I am sorry that I cannot go into detail on this quibble here, but let me say that the Apostle Paul knew exactly what he was doing when he wrote the book of Hebrews—and what he wrote is the truth. That truth is that Jesus was in the first apartment, ministering on behalf of His people, by the time Paul wrote that letter to the Hebrews.

— ELLEN WHITE ALSO WROTE ERROR —

In the midst of his steady rain of doubt and skepticism about the Bible writers and Ellen White, Larry Wilson frequently interjects comments about how he wants us to understand that he believes in those prophets.

“As said earlier in this book, this writer believes that Ellen White was an inspired person, inspired in the same sense as John, Peter and Paul.”—Page 59.

From what he has already said, such an “inspiration” is not worth much. With this introduction, Larry enters upon a discussion of how Ellen White was as erring as the Bible writers. His goal is to weaken confidence in all the Inspired writers, and he immediately sets to work to place her in the pit of error in which he has already thrown the prophets before her time.

“Finding she is wrong on some chronology does not diminish her works any more than learning that Paul was wrong about the timing of the ministry of Jesus in heaven.”—Page 60.

1 - Ellen White was wrong on every point believed by the Millerites.

Larry belabors the point that several things Ellen White taught in *Great Controversy* were believed by the pre-1843 Millerites—and therefore all those points were incorrect.

Why are they wrong? For most of the points, we only have his say-so that the Millerites were wrong in all their beliefs, but for some he gives a few weak arguments. (More on both below.)

In reply, two points should be noted. First, he assumes that everything the Millerites believed is wrong, but his mere statement proves nothing. Second, he includes, as pre-1844 beliefs, certain concepts which definitely are post-1844 beliefs. More on this below.

2 - Ellen White was wrong about 1755.

“The sixth seal opened in 1755, marked by the Lisbon earthquake.”—Page 60.

Cited as proof that this is incorrect is, first, his assertion that the Millerites believed it (page 60), and, second, his statement that it cannot be “historically confirmed” (page 62).

But the Lisbon earthquake did occur in 1755, and was one of the most powerful earthquakes of modern history. It was historically confirmed. What

kind of history books does Larry have?

“[It was] a cataclysm that still ranks as one of the worst in history. When it was over, Lisbon, Portugal, a great port and hub of a worldwide empire, had been reduced to rubble . . . The first shock struck on November 1, 1755 at 9:40 a.m . . . More than 60,000 people died that morning in Lisbon. But the disaster was by no means confined to that city. The shock rippled out across Europe and south into Africa.”—*Earthquake*, Bruce Walker, 46, 48.

“The earthquake itself was one of extreme violence, and although Lisbon was closest to its center, its effects were by no means limited to that area. Other Portuguese and Spanish cities also suffered damage, and thousands more were killed in Morocco and Algeria. The tremors were felt throughout Europe, from England to Bohemia, and as far away as the West Indies. The ocean wave generated by the quake reached the coast of Holland in less than an hour, breaking the anchor cables of ships in the port of Amsterdam.”—*Disaster!*, Editors of *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22-23.

The other aspect would be whether that event marked the beginning of the sixth seal. Larry Wilson disagrees, therefore Ellen White must be wrong because, surely, Larry cannot be wrong.

But THE TRUTH is that Ellen White does not mention the sixth seal, in connection with that 1755 event. (Read *Great Controversy*, 304-305.)

3 - Ellen White was wrong about the dating of the trumpets.

Wilson snipes at the Spirit of Prophecy dating of the trumpets, mentioned in Revelation. For most of those dates, his only objections are that they are wrong,—for a special reason:

“It is this writer’s opinion that all of the seven trumpets will sound in the near future.”—Page 68.

Therefore Ellen White is wrong, because Larry believes something else.

4 - Ellen White was wrong about four other things.

According to Wilson, Ellen White was wrong about all four of these items:

“[1] The beast that kills the two witnesses [in Revelation 11] is France. [2] The two witnesses of Revelation 11 are the Old and New Testaments. [3] The beast with seven heads [and] ten horns in Revelation 13 is the papacy in various forms. [4] The lamb-like beast of Revelation 13 is the United States of America.”—Page 60.

That list includes some of our basic historic beliefs. But Larry tells us they are incorrect.

“Now two things must be said. First, I find items a-g [those and the other items replied to in this present paper] to be faulty because they cannot be validated using the tests of historical confirmation or compliance with known rules of apocalyptic prophecy. Secondly, even though I find her conclusions to be wrong, this does not lessen her work as

a prophetess.”—Page 62.

It is a serious double charge to say that our historic beliefs are wrong, and that Ellen White was in error for teaching them! Yet that is what Larry Wilson is telling the readers of this book, which he distributes as widely as possible.

He presents two evidences to substantiate his charge:

1 - Those four points do not agree with “known rules of apocalyptic prophecy.” What are those rules? We are not told here, but, whatever they are, Larry probably developed them and interprets them as he pleases.

2 - Those four points definitely lack “historical confirmation.” Well, here we have something quite tangible. Those four items are said not to have a historical basis. They are said not to be true to the facts of history. Let us consider each one:

[1] It is our historic belief that the beast that kills the two witnesses in Revelation 11 is France, and that [2] those two witnesses are the Old and New Testaments.

This is a crucial prophecy, and is discussed in *Great Controversy*, 265-271. Read it once again. It is very well presented, and is quite sound. A key aspect is this:

“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.”—*Great Controversy*, 269.

It is clear that our historic beliefs about France, in Revelation 11, closely connect with the termination date of the 1260-year prophecy. So then, what atheistic nation was making war upon the Bible, just before 1798? It was obviously France. In view of all this, items one and two DO NOT lack “historical confirmation.”

[3] It is our historic belief that the beast with seven heads and ten horns, in Revelation 13, is the papacy. Yet Larry Wilson says that is not true! This beast, that was permitted to bear rule over the nations for centuries,—is said, by Wilson, to not be the Roman Catholic Church! He tells us that such an idea lacks “historical confirmation”! Can you imagine that!

[4] It is our historic belief that the lamb-like beast of Revelation 13, is the United States. But Wilson says it is not.

About the year 1798, as the 1260-year prophecy was ending, the United States arose out of “earth”—in an area thinly populated, and promising lamb-like tolerance (*Great Controversy*, 440-441). The specifications are met exactly. Yet Larry Wilson says it is not so. Why? because it lacks “historical confirmation”—that is, he says such a thing never happened historically!

3 - On pages 60 to 62, Larry informs the reader that concepts and statements, in *Great Controversy*, were merely uninspired and incorrect carryovers from Millerite theories before 1844. We have mentioned the other items elsewhere,—but on page 62, he includes this one:

“Speaking about the concluding scenes of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:19) she says, ‘Therefore the announcement that the temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of His testament was seen points to the opening of the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844 as Christ entered there to perform the closing work of the atonement.’ (GC 433).” —Page 62.

For Larry to include that concept as merely an uninspired and incorrect pre-1844 Millerite teaching is astonishing in two ways:

(1) He is telling us he does not believe it, and that it is error. But, if he does not believe it, then he is outside a major part of historic Adventism. He is not really an Adventist.

(2) He is telling us that it was a Millerite concept! If he really believes that, he does not know what the Millerites believed! They had taught that the earth was the sanctuary. The Millerites were concerned neither about the law of God, nor the Sabbath, and they were oblivious to a Sanctuary in heaven.

It was not until later, after Ellen White was called to be a prophet, that she was shown the meaning of Revelation 11:19—that in the last days the faithful were to discover the heavenly Sanctuary and, in its second apartment, the importance of the law and the Sabbath. Read *Early Writings*, 32-33. That vision was given in 1847.

This special experience applies only to those who, after October 22, 1844, by faith followed Jesus into the Most Holy Place. It is an experience we are to daily live today.

5 - Ellen White was wrong about 1840.

At last, Wilson gives us tangible evidence in support of one of his claims that Ellen White is wrong in what she says. But he uses just one example to give us such evidence. This apparently is the one instance in which he believes he has a foolproof case against Ellen White's statements in *Great Controversy*:

“One of the easiest places to challenge the claims of Ellen White with history is her view of the sixth trumpet. Ellen White was convinced that August 11, 1840 brought ‘an exact fulfillment’ to the sixth trumpet.”—Page 63.

Larry enjoys finding ways to challenge the correctness of the Spirit of Prophecy. Beware of such people. They are raiders of the flock. He says it is not easy to do, but he does have one special error of hers to tell us about. He says “the Turkish Empire did not fall on August 11, 1840, as the Millerites

claimed" (page 63).

What did Ellen White say was fulfilled on that date?

"At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations."—*Great Controversy*, 335.

Did that occur? Yes, it did. Then what is the problem? The problem is with Wilson. He spends his time trying to pick God's Word to pieces. And that is not an easy task for any skeptic.

Josiah Litch had predicted the downfall of that empire. As you may know, the Turkish Empire once was part of the vast domain which controlled the Near East, and several times threatened to overrun western Europe! It was a menace to Europe for many centuries.

The Turkish Empire was founded by a Tartar tribe in Armenia, in A.D. 760. It eventually became a terrible threat to Europe, as it kept conquering more territory. By the time of Luther, it was well on its way to moving strongly into western Europe, and had reached the walls of Vienna. Although, in 1525, the sultan of Turkey signed a truce with Hungary and in 1540, with Vienna, the Turkish Empire remained large—and dangerous thereafter.

But, in 1840, that empire met its downfall. In what way did it fall? It ceased to exist as an empire, and henceforth was to be one of the weakest nations of Europe. That situation has continued on down to the present time.

Ellen White explains it exactly:

"At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations."—*Great Controversy*, 335.

At the very time specified, Turkey's downfall as an empire ended. A major world power, which had threatened all Europe for centuries (since A.D. 1453)—the great Ottoman power was no longer a threat. Henceforth, it would merely be a mere shadow of itself, one of the weakest nations. And that is what happened. Since 1840, the history of Turkey has been merely a succession of further weakening and losses. In 1911, Italy warred against Turkey and defeated it. In 1912, Turkey pled with western Europe to intervene in the Balkans War, which they did and thereby stopped further losses for Turkey. By allying with Germany in World War I, Turkey lost additional territory. It was 1840 which brought the change; all that followed resulted from it.

While on this subject, it should be noted that the Greek ,of Revelation 9:15, can be interpreted in more

than one way. Litch interpreted it as "prepared for an hour," which Ellen White accepted as the correct one. The other interpretation is "kept ready for this very hour," which, of course, Larry was quick to adopt.

Which one shall we take? I will stay with the one which the Spirit of Prophecy considered best.

"Here is presented with this evidence [against Litch and Ellen White], many Adventist pastors and leaders will blindly insist on the fulfillment of the sixth trumpet. I suspect they do so for two reasons: First, they don't have an answer. Secondly, they believe Ellen White is infallible."—Page 64.

Here is the problem: Some people still believe in the Spirit of Prophecy. Wilson thinks his arguments against the prophesied 1840 Turkey event are invincible, and wishes to capitalize on it. But his ideas about 1840 and Turkey are also incorrect.

"Mrs. White's position on the sixth trumpet is simply wrong and if she were alive, she would clearly say so. She would update her position and remind all of us that she was not infallible."—Page 64.

Sorry, Larry, she was correct. We refuse to forsake the truth that both the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are safe guides, which can lead every believing, obeying soul to heaven.

Someone may reply, "Well, she may have correctly stated the event which occurred on that date, but Litch didn't." Yes, Litch did. He predicted the fall of the Ottoman Empire; he did not predict the end of Turkey as a nation—but that is exactly what happened. The Ottoman rule was overthrown on that date, and, henceforth, Turkey would be a minor nation in Europe and the Near East.

"[Litch was] . . . predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire . . . when the Ottoman power . . . may be expected to be broken."—*Great Controversy*, 334-335.

Ellen White's comment on the Litch prediction is Wilson's primary exhibit to show she writes error. Yet we have seen she did not write error. However, Wilson himself did. He said this:

"Speaking about the sixth trumpet she [Ellen White] says, [GC 335 quoted earlier]."—Page 61.

If you will carefully read Ellen White's statements about this topic (*Great Controversy*, 335), you will find she nowhere says it was a fulfillment of the sixth trumpet, or that the sixth trumpet sounded at that time. Her description of Litch's statement about the matter (page 334) also makes no mention of the sixth trumpet.

Larry wants us to abandon God's Word and hang our destiny on what he has to say. If we did, we would

Continued on the next tract

Larry Wilson vs. God's Word

Part Three of Three

Continued from the preceding tract in this series

be the blind—following blind, uninspired men, leading us by their self-assured speculations into the ditch.

Having given us this one example to demonstrate how erroneous Ellen White's writings are, Wilson next turns to a different mode of attack on the Spirit of Prophecy:

— ELLEN WHITE PLAGIARIZED MOST OF HER BOOKS —

Not this again! But, yes, Wilson wants to bring up this dead horse. He is determined to find every way to downgrade the Spirit of Prophecy in your thinking. Why is he so zealous about this? Here is the answer:

When Larry Wilson arrives in town to hold his meetings, so he can teach his strange ideas,—he always runs into a solid wall. There are some who object, saying, "But this is not in the Spirit of Prophecy!" This remark awakens others, and they too begin to realize that Wilson is not a safe person to listen to.

So Larry Wilson finds it necessary to cast aspersions on the Spirit of Prophecy, in a vain attempt to convince people that his own theories are correct. But, checking into it further, some of his hearers find his suppositions do not agree with the Bible either, and this causes more conflict. So Larry finds it necessary to downgrade the Bible writers also.

According to Wilson, all the Inspired writers teach error, and only someone in the 144,000 can figure out what, in those books, is truth. But there is no hint that Larry might be teaching some error.

As part of his attack, he brings up the debunked plagiarism charge.

"Walter Rea, a former Adventist pastor claims that Ellen White's *Conflict of the Ages Series*, is about 60% her work and 40% the works of others."—Page 65.

In earlier publications, we have clearly shown that the plagiarism charge is groundless. Walter Rea was adept at making up charges, and then traveling around the nation holding meetings at \$1,000 a night to tell gawking Adventists that the Spirit of Prophecy was not worth much.

The hammer can beat against the anvil all it wants, but the anvil will remain. Woe be to those who pick up those hammers and try to destroy God's

Word with their clever skepticism. They will pay for it someday.

Rea said that all her books were heavily plagiarized. But, when pressed, he said that *Great Controversy* was copied more than any other book. When pressed still more, he admitted it was only the historical quotations which were copied!

Then he said that, aside from *Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages* was copied more than any other book. So the E.G. White Estate launched an expensive six-year research project, under the direction of Dr. Fred Veltman, to examine that book. The results showed that almost nothing had been found justifying the charge! (An in-depth analysis of Veltman's final paper on his findings is to be found in *The Desire of Ages Project—Part 1-4 [WM—351-354; now in our White Tractbook.]*.)

Several additional studies on the plagiarism charge are also available. Some are still available in tract form, but all are now in Part One of our *White Tractbook*.

— THE SEVEN TRUMPETS —

At this point in his accusations against the Spirit of Prophecy, Larry Wilson turns back to his primary concern: that everyone ought to accept his own view of the seven trumpets in Revelation.

Frankly, if someone comes to me and tries to downgrade the Spirit of Prophecy or the Bible, I do not care to hear anything about their views of prophecy! Their views HAVE TO BE WRONG, because they have to downgrade God's Word in order to gain their acceptance!

Unfortunately for Larry, many people recognize this, and they avoid him like the plague. Disgusted that there are still those who stick with the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, when they should be abandoning them in order to accept his theories, he lashes out with some strong statements:

"The longer nothing is done, the worse the problem. The church faces a difficult choice. Either it openly admits that it has been wrong (and that Ellen White was wrong also) about the seven trumpets or eventually, as more people learn about the discrepancy, it must create some kind of mechanism to avoid such a confession. Some pastors have taken the latter course. They defend the error in the *Great Controversy* saying, 'Ellen White was presenting Litch's position in the *Great Controversy* and not what John would have us understand about the

trumpets.’ ”—Page 66.

If Larry could somehow get rid of the Spirit of Prophecy, he imagines that he could preach in peace, and everyone would accept him. Canright thought the same thing, and he came to a miserable end (see our five-part study on *Canright [DH—201-205]*, now in our *White Tractbook*).

“Some have said to me, ‘It is not necessary to understand what the first five trumpets were, because the sixth one was fulfilled in 1840.’ Because the church accepts her writings as inspired, many students of prophecy have been unwilling to consider any other explanation of Revelation than the views set forth in *Great Controversy*.”—Page 67.

It rankles in his soul that there are people who still believe that Ellen White is inspired, and that *Great Controversy* is true. He places the trumpets in the future, and he is convinced he must overthrow confidence in that book, in order to gain a following for his own views.

In an early 1994 edition of his book, *Warning! Revelation is about to be fulfilled!*, Larry Wilson said the two witnesses experience will begin in April 1994, the seven trumpets will begin in 1994, the 1260 days will extend from April 1994 to September 1997, Satan will appear in late

“It is this writer’s opinion that all of the seven trumpets will sound in the near future.”—Page 68.

“Prophets of God can and do express opinions regarding chronology that have been shown to be wrong.”—Page 69.

Larry Wilson is willing to sell his soul in a cheap market: trying to prove a pet theory of his about the seven trumpets!

“Unfortunately, many Adventists have a false sense of ‘prophetic security’ in Ellen White . . . [This] automatically condemns any who disagree with Ellen White. Herein lies a deadly peril.”—Pages 68.

Larry says you are in peril if you believe the writings of Ellen White. Keep that in mind, the next time someone invites your family to go hear Larry Wilson speak.

This concludes our analysis of chapter 3 (“Prophets Can Make Mistakes”) in Larry Wilson’s book, *Questions on Revelation*, pages 47-69.

1996, the seven last plagues will begin in September 1997 and end in 1998,

But, in a later 1994 edition, Wilson removed all those dates and only mentioned March 19, 1994—as the special initial date for final events.

Here are some promised events which God has foretold before the millennium begins, when we shall be with Christ in heaven:

DEFINITE TIME—There will be no tracing of definite time after 1844 (*7BC 971*), for time setting is not a test after 1844 (*EW 75; 2SM 73; 1T 409*).

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT—None know how soon it will pass to the cases of the living (*GC 490; 5T 692*), for no man knows how near we are to the close of it (*GC 490-491*). The destiny of all men is decided at its close (*COL 310; GC 428, 490*), for the door of mercy will be closed when it ends (*GC 428*), and probation ends at that time (*GC 428, 491*). There is no probationary time after it has examined the cases of the living (*COL 123*), for it will continue until every case has been decided (*GC 436*). Thus it extends to the close of probation (*GC 436*), for it is the closing work in the heavenly Sanctuary (*GC 428*).

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW—The enforcement of this Sunday law will be the sign that the end is near, that the limit of God’s forbearance has been reached, and that the time for Satan’s

marvelous workings has come (*5T 451*).

THE LOUD CRY AND THE LATTER RAIN—The Loud Cry and Latter Rain are very closely related (*EW 271*), for the Latter Rain empowers God’s people in the Loud Cry (*EW 86; GC 611-612*). But it is wrong to predict the date for the Latter Rain (*ISM 188*), because we should not time set the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (*EV 221*). No light has been given us regarding a definite time for this event (*7BC 984*).

THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE—We are warned against time setting in our sharing of the truth (*1T 72*). This message does not need time setting in order to strengthen it (*EW 75*). It must never be hung on time (*ISM 188*). God has never revealed a definite time for the close of the last message (*7BC 989-990; ISM 191*), for, indeed, there are no more messages of any kind that are based on time (*6BC 1052; 7BC 971; ISM 188*) and no man has a true message of definite time (*2SM 113*). This is because no man is able to predict any future time event (*EV 221*). He cannot know definite time (*6BC 1052; EV 221; ISM 188; 6T 440*).

THE CLOSE OF PROBATION—God has not revealed definite time for the

close of probation (*7BC 989-990; ISM 191*), and we have been warned against time setting in regard to this event (*7BC 989-990; 2SM 73*).

ANY PROMISE GOD HAS GIVEN—We should beware of time setting in regard to any promise that God has made (*TM 55*). So then, consider this: The people of God have been promised many events that shall take place before the Second Advent. (1) Should we try to figure out when these events will take place? No, we should not try to do this (*TM 55*). (2) Should we dream up new events that God has never told us of and time set in regard to them? Obviously, we should not do this either.

THE SECOND COMING—No man has a true message of time setting in regard to the Second Advent (*2SM 113*), and to try to do so pleases Satan (*DA 457*). We have been warned against doing this (*DA 632-633; FE 335; GC 456-457; 1T 409; TM 55, 61-61*) and we should beware of doing it (*TM 55, 61; ISM 75-76*). Those who do it only weaken the faith of God’s people (*EW 22; 1T 72-73*).

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