

Loma Linda “Vision”

Today we will be looking at something called the Loma Linda Train Station Vision. It is an account of a rather startling statement that Ellen White is said to have made.

The Statement

At a train station in Loma Linda, waiting for a train, Ellen White is reported to have basically said the following: A storm of persecution is coming, and the SDA Church will collapse under it. All the leaders will leave and never be seen again; then people who have never sought positions before will be ordained to leadership positions. Then the Church will be the church triumphant. (To conserve space, the specific account is later given.) This is not an official statement, and we cannot locate it in the official writings of Ellen White.

Is it accurate?

A wise person once said, “Consider the source.” Will Ross gave this account about what Ellen White said to him, Sister Sara McEnterfer, and Elder D.E. Robinson while they waited at the Loma Linda railroad depot. I was unable to find anything about anyone named Will Ross in the writings of Ellen White. Further, Will claimed to know EGW well because he lived next to her in Loma Linda and often went on walks with her around 1908. However, Ellen White had moved to Elmshaven in the year 1900; so this cannot be the case. According to Arthur White, she no longer did much walking due to her age at that time. In the year 1908, EGW did, in fact, visit Loma Linda. The record includes those who accompanied her. Here is what I was able to find:

“It is of interest to note that in one report of the camp meeting, in which ministerial help from northern California is listed, we find the words ‘Mrs. E.G. White and her company.’ Her ‘company’ consisted of Sara McEnterfer; W.C. White; Clarence Crisler; and his wife, Caroline; Miss Hannaford, the new housekeeper; and Minnie Hawkins. Ellen White and several of her helpers stayed in a nearby cottage, which, she noted, had the convenience of a bathroom. Following the camp meeting in Los Angeles, Ellen White visited the sanitariums at Glendale, Paradise Valley, and Loma Linda. On the Loma Linda farm she reported to Edson: ‘We saw large patches of melons, strawberries, asparagus, tomatoes, and corn.’ Ellen White was always interested in agricultural pursuits and intrigued [very interested] by food production. Back at home after

the four-week trip to the south, she complained of how calls to minister in the field hindered her and her workers at Elmshaven from doing what they wanted to do. ‘I cannot do my writing if I keep traveling,’ she wrote on September 11, and declared, ‘We are striving with all our powers to get out my books.’ ”—*Arthur Lacey White, The Later Elmshaven Years, Volume 6, 1905-1915, p. 170, pars. 2,4,5.*

To sum up this account, Ellen White went to Southern California for four weeks. Ten days were spent at the Los Angeles camp meeting, and three weeks were spent visiting the three sanitariums. This means Ellen White did not live next to anyone in Loma Linda but only visited for, at most, a week and a half in 1908. Second, only one of the people (Sister McEnterfer) is actually listed as being present; the other individuals, Will Ross and Elder D.E. Robinson, are not mentioned. Ellen White was often charged with saying and doing all manner of things. In her time, verifying facts was more difficult; since they didn’t have the advanced forms of communication that we do. Here is a brief fact check:

Mr. Ross lived next to EGW around 1908: No

Mr. Ross spoke to her around 1908: possible

EGW was in company with people that Will Ross described: No

EGW, about 1908, often walked with friends: No

A lot of details in this account are not accurate; additionally, Elder D.E. Robinson himself denied remembering this experience when personally asked. We can confirm that Ellen White did speak of a storm of persecution, but not one that sweeps away the church structure:

“When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest.”—*6 Testimonies for the Church, 401.*

Here we see that the storm of persecution doesn’t dissolve the Church; rather, it brings back many backsliders into the fold. There will be a drawing together and a uniting. Due to the perils of the times, men will act irrationally, trying to exalt themselves.

The final detail I found is that Will Ross sent

2 copies of his account to the EGW Estate, and Arthur White reported that their earliest copy was 36 years after the remembered event. How likely is it that this conversation took place as described? It is highly unlikely, but it is still possible.

Laying to Rest the Possibility

Despite many of the facts not adding up, the possibility still looms and gives an excuse for people to continue to share what is, at best, unverified information only heard from others and, at worst, intentionally misleading. So how do we lay any doubts to rest? With the words of Ellen White of course!

“One, Garmire, advocated and published a message in regard to the loud cry of the third angel; he accused the church in a similar manner to what you are now doing. He said the leaders in the church would all fall through self-exaltation, and another class of humble men would come to the front, who would do wonderful things. This man had daughters who claimed to have visions.

“This delusion was opened to me. This is an intelligent man of an acceptable address, and self-denying and full of zeal and earnestness, and carrying an appearance of consecration and devotion. But the word of God came from God to me, “Believe them not, I have not sent them!”

“He claimed to believe the testimonies. He claimed them to be true, and used them in the same manner you have used them to give force and appearance of truth to his claims. I told them this message was not of God; but it was deceiving the unwary [not cautious, easily caught off guard]. He would not be convinced. I told them the visions of his daughter [Anna] were spurious [false, not correct], yet these visions, he claimed, were like the visions of Sister White, testifying to the same things. This daughter was deceiving the family and several others who believed these false messages. I was shown that the young girl was not virtuous, but was corrupt....

“If ever a man that I looked upon was inspired, this man certainly was; but I told him plainly his inspiration was of Satan, not of God. His message bore not the divine credentials.”—2 Selected Messages, 64-65.

This man, Garmire, claimed that the leadership would fall and be replaced by humble men. Let us compare these sentiments with those Mr. Ross claimed Ellen White expressed:

“Sister White told us as we three stood there on the depot platform, that a terrible storm of persecution was coming like a windstorm that blew down every standing object. There was not a Seventh-day Adventist to be seen. They, like the disciples, forsook Christ and fled. All who had sought positions were never seen again.

“After the storm there was a calm, then the Adventists arose like a great flock of sheep, but there were no shepherds. They all waited in earnest prayer for help and wisdom, and the Lord answered by helping them to choose leaders from among them who had never sought positions before. They prayed earnestly for the Holy Spirit which was poured out upon them, making them fully ready for service. They then went forth ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners,’ to give this message to the world.”

This sounds like something Sister White would write; it quotes verses and draws comparisons to biblical stories, but it contains the exact elements that Garmire shared. *First*, it asserts that those who sought positions in the Church never returned, the obvious reason was because they sought positions out of pride. *Second*, it replaces them with men who never sought positions. The conclusion is that they were humble men. Lastly, this quote is being used by people claiming this fall of leadership has something to do with the loud cry of the third angel. Here again is what Garmire said:

“He said the leaders in the church would all fall through self-exaltation, and another class of humble men would come to the front, who would do wonderful things.”—2 Selected Messages, 64.

It is therefore not only accurate but necessary that we apply the same statement to this account that Ellen White spoke to Garmire:

“The word of God came from God to me, “Believe them not, I have not sent them!”—2 Selected Messages, 64.

Divine Credentials

The question must now be asked, How do we know if someone is bearing divine credentials? Sister White said this of Garmire:

“If ever a man that I looked upon was inspired, this man certainly was; but I told him plainly his inspiration was of Satan, not of God. His message bore not the divine credentials.”—2 Selected Messages, 65.

If we are to correctly judge the many deceptions that are arising, it is necessary that we know what these divine credentials are! It is surprisingly simple to identify them.

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn [cut down] down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”—Matthew 7:18-20.

What are their fruits? Strife? Confusion? Accusation? Backbiting? Distrust? Well, then they are

a corrupt tree, even if they look more godly and inspired than Ellen White, even if they profess to believe every word of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and even if they are your closest friend. Here are some things that disqualify someone from having divine credentials:

“Caviling [fussing] and criticism leave the soul as devoid of the dew of grace as the hills of Gilboa were destitute of rain. Confidence cannot be placed in the judgment of those who indulge in ridicule and misrepresentation. No weight can be attached to their advice or resolutions [decisions to achieve certain goals]. You must bear the divine credentials before you make decided movements to shape the working of God’s cause.”—*Life Sketches*, 325.

“The Lord would have given them flesh had it been essential for their health, but He who had created and redeemed them led them through that long journey in the wilderness to educate, discipline, and train them in correct habits. The Lord understood what influence flesh eating has upon the human system. He would have a people that would, in their physical appearance, bear the divine credentials, notwithstanding their long journey.”—*Healthful Living*, 96-97.

“There is a work to be done in all our cities, and those who still work and walk humbly with God, striving daily to be overcomers, will gain precious victories day by day. The work that is done in humility will bear the divine credentials.”—*Counsels on Health*, 544.

“God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul temple. The work that He will accept is the work that reflects His image. His followers are to bear, as their credentials to the world, the ineffaceable [impossible to erase or to remove] characteristics of His immortal principles.”—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, 97.

These characteristics are the divine nature. About this topic, I find the following quote to be of the greatest value:

“Redemption is part of the divine nature. It is the prerogative of God to have to reconstruct, not to destroy.... When one is bruised by the enemy and wounded and commits error, as faithful and true to the Master, as workers together with God, we must take up the missionary work next to us, we must work to heal, not to ruin and to destroy.... When there are those in any of our institutions associated together who err, let not men act the part of denouncing, condemning, and destroying, as though they were faultless. It is the work of the Christian to mend, to restore, to heal. This healing process saves many a soul and hides a multitude of sins. God is love; God is, in Himself, in His essence, love. He makes the very best of what appears an injury, and gives Satan no occasion for

triumph by making the worst appear and exposing our weakness to our enemies. The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt and, as stated in Revelation, ‘a cage of every unclean and hateful bird [Revelation 18:2].’—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 264-265.

The spirit of Babylon is the opposite of the divine nature. This is the spirit of the world, and it is not to be joined to the Church. Some YouTube channels and some Seventh-day Adventist news websites have become hotbeds for this type of content by their exposing the faults of others as if they themselves are without sin and biting, devouring, accusing, and denouncing—a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Be it not so with you.

“When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant, be afraid of them. They do not bear the divine credentials. God has not given them any such burden of labor. They would tear down that which God would restore by the Laodicean message. He wounds only that He may heal, not cause to perish. The Lord lays upon no man a message that will discourage and dishearten [cause to lose spirit and hope] the church. He reproveth, He rebukes, He chastens; but it is only that He may restore and approve at last.”—*Review and Herald*, October 17, 1893, par. 7.

“Should not the words of Christ have any weight? ‘Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening [extremely hungry and violently predatory] wolves’ [Matthew 7:15]. ‘Lo here and lo there is Christ’ [see Mark 13:21] will be multiplied. Let the believers heed [obey] the voice of the angel who has said to the church, ‘Press together.’ In unity is your strength. Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. God hath a church, and Christ hath declared, ‘The gates of hell shall not prevail against it’ [Matthew 16:18]. The messengers the Lord sends bear the divine credentials.”—*8 Letters and Manuscripts*, Letter 16, 1893, par. 25.

We are strongly urged to love as brethren, to be kind, courteous, forbearing, in honor preferring one another. Love for God and for one another constitutes the divine credentials which the children of God bear to the world. “By this,” said Jesus, “shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). Those who cherish this love will sacredly guard the interests of one another. No evil reports will be carried; tattling and gossip will stop; Christ and the truth will be magnified.

4 “Christ identifies His interest with that of humanity. The work that bears the divine credentials is that which manifests the spirit of Jesus, which reveals His love, His carefulness, His tenderness in dealing with the minds of men. What revelations would come to man if the curtain should be rolled back, and you could see the result of your work in dealing with the erring who have needed most judicious [having good judgment] treatment lest they should be turned out of the way. ‘Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed’ [Hebrews 12:12-13].”—*Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers*, pp. 9-10.

I can continue, but this should be enough to make the point. We now have been equipped with a knowledge of what the divine credentials are. Let us now walk in this light. Exercise your own understanding in order to see who has these credentials. When you identify those who do not, tell them where they stand; so that you will not be accountable to God for their sins. Just make sure you have the divine credentials when you do so; otherwise, they will not listen.

Conclusion

Our website, ellenwhitedefend.com, has had a PDF of Will Ross’ statement for more than ten years now. This PDF has been removed because it is not in harmony with the writings of Ellen White and is factually unreliable. I encourage you to make your foundation on the truth of God’s Word and the authoritative writings of Ellen White, not hearsay without evidence. We support the truth, and it will ever bear scrutiny. In conclusion, I exhort you to exercise good judgment in deciding what is truth. We only want to be listening to those who have the divine credentials:

“Says Christ: ‘A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another’ [John 13:34-35]. Faith and love are the divine credentials we show to the world in proof that we are children of the light, and not of darkness.”—*Review and Herald*, January 15, 1884, par. 17.

“Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency

to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency [capable of producing desired results with little or no waste] to do good, and to do nothing else but good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible [an act of despising, scorning] in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh than the amount he doeth. Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns. Love cannot live without action; and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless. Love works not for profit nor reward; yet God has ordained that great gain shall be the certain result of every labor of love. It is diffusive [spreading] in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful. Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, or of force is employed [used], and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach assume a defensive, repelling [discouraging, resistant] position, and their strength of resistance is increased. Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came into the world to bring resistance and authority into subjection to Himself. Wisdom and strength He could command, but the means He employed with which to overcome evil were the wisdom and strength of love.”—*2 Testimonies*, 135-136.

May we all be found to have these credentials. Jesus is coming soon and deception will only increase. Arm yourselves now.

For a finished work



Jonathan Taylor

Wisdom is justified of all her children. -Luke 7:35

More Food for the Little Flock —