

# The Wrath of the Dragon

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (**Revelation 12:17**).

## I. THE DRAGON AND THE WOMAN

1. Revelation 12 opens with a view of the Woman and the Dragon
  - a. The Woman is the church
    - (1) She is pregnant, about to deliver
  - b. A Dragon stands near her, ready to devour her newborn Child
  - c. The Child is born
    - (1) But escapes the Dragon
  - d. Then he is angry and turns his attention toward the Woman
2. “<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. <sup>14</sup> And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. <sup>16</sup> And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> And **the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have *the testimony of Jesus Christ.***” **Revelation 12:13-17.**
3. As SDAs we understand the woman’s identification
  - a. She is clothed with the sun
    - (1) This is the light of the Gospel in the face of Jesus Christ
  - b. The moon is under her feet
    - (1) Under her feet is the types and shadows which are a reflection of the light of the sun
  - c. The crown on her head has twelve stars
    - (1) These stars are the twelve apostles and their successors
  - d. But how do we know who this woman is?
    - (1) Who are the successors of the apostles, that she is crowned with?
    - (2) Jesus set up His church on the Word of God
      - (a) This is what then gives her the apostolic succession
      - (b) This becomes the distinction of the woman
        - (i) Sola Scriptura
        - (ii) The authority of the Word only, NOT the authority of man
  - e. Who are the woman’s children?
    - (1) The woman was helped by the earth
      - (a) The New World absorbed the attention of Europe and became a haven of freedom
      - (2) The Protestants settled in America
      - (3) The Advent movement arose out of them
      - (4) And the remnant of these are:
        - (a) Those who keep God’s commandments and who have the Testimony of Jesus
      - (5) The dragon is wroth with these
4. These are characteristics of those faithful in the three angels’ messages.
  - a. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God**, and the faith of Jesus.” **Revelation 14:12.**
  - b. What is the testimony of Jesus? “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**” **Revelation 19:10.**
    - (1) A full presentation on the work of the Spirit of Prophecy in the remnant church is beyond the scope of this study.
    - (2) Suggested Reading:
      - (a) **The introduction to Patriarchs and Prophets.**
      - (b) **The introduction to The Great Controversy.**
    - (3) As Seventh Day Adventists we should understand this subject.
  - c. These two characteristics raise the ire of the dragon

## II. THE AUTHORITY OF THE WRITTEN WORD

1. "For the **prophecy came not in old time by the will of man**: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." **2 Peter 1:21**.
  - a. It is called "Scripture" when it is written down. "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." **2 Timothy 3:16**.
  - b. "**God did not leave His Word to be handed down from generation to generation by oral transmission and traditional unfolding. Had He done this, the Word would gradually have been added to by man. Let us thank God for His written Word.**" *Signs of the Times*, March 21, 1906, par. 6.
2. Why written law was not necessary before Moses.
  - a. The genealogies establish that the patriarchs were living concurrently.
    - (1) Three men could have spanned knowledge until the time of Jacob
      - (a) Adam, Methuselah and Shem [see chart]
3. Oral law in rabbinical Judaism.
  - a. (Sources: Wikipedia article "Oral Torah," retrieved 19 Nov. 2010)
    - (1) Oral law. "A term used to denote the legal and interpretative traditions which, according to tradition, were **transmitted orally from Mount Sinai, and were not written in the Torah**. According to Rabbinic Judaism, the oral Torah, oral Law, or oral tradition was given by God orally to Moses in conjunction with the written Torah, after which it was **passed down orally through the ages**. Later to be codified and written in the Talmud."
4. Tradition in the Roman Dogma
  - a. (Source: Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Apostolic Tradition." Online version at the Vatican web site: [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_PK.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_PK.HTM). Retrieved 19 Nov 2010)
    - (1) [abbreviated by ellipses] "[T]he apostles left bishops as their successors. **They gave them their own position of teaching authority.**' Indeed, 'the apostolic preaching... was to be preserved in a continuous line of succession until the end of time.'
      - (a) "This living transmission... is called Tradition.... Through Tradition, 'the Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, **perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.**'"
  - b. (Source: Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Relationship Between Tradition and Sacred Scripture." [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_PL.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_PL.HTM). Retrieved 19 Nov 2010)
    - (1) "[T]he Church... 'does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.'"
5. Since the hand of God preserves the Scriptures
  - a. Man is powerless to do anything to them
    - (1) So he places his own authority on a level or even above those Scriptures
  - b. We can trust them
    - (1) Man may war against it but cannot do anything to the Bible
      - (a) "The Bible is the anvil which has worn out many hammers"
    - (2) This is God's word coming down through time
      - (a) Speaking directly to *YOU*

## III. MANIPULATION

1. How is the Word of God preserved? "**6 The words of the LORD are pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.**" Psalm 12:6, 7.
  - a. "**The Bible is the most instructive history that men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and a divine hand has preserved its purity through all the ages.... Here only can we find a history of our race unsullied by human prejudice or human pride.**" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 596.
2. The Spirit of Prophecy.
  - a. Was there ever any charge of manipulation during the lifetime of Sr. White? "**I have my work to do, to meet the misconceptions of those who suppose themselves able to say what is testimony from God and what is human production.** If those who have done this work continue in this course, **satanic**

agencies will choose for them.

- (1) “I want to say, *never repeat to another soul as long as you live the words that W. C. White manipulates my writings and changes them. This is just what the devil is trying to make all believe.*” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 4, p. 240.
  - b. “There are those who say, ‘Someone manipulates her writings.’ *I acknowledge the charge. It is One who is mighty in counsel, One who presents before me the condition of things.*—Letter 52, 1906.” *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 64:2.
3. Someone will say, “Oh, but we have some evidence you have not seen...”
    - a. I have looked at every case that has ever come across my desk
      - (1) I have never found true what is being said about manipulation of the Spirit of Prophecy
    - b. Here in this study I focus mainly on the principle because we need to have faith and believe that

#### IV. OPINION

1. Can we determine that some things are opinion in the writings of a prophet? “*All scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” **2 Timothy 3:16.**
  - a. “If the preconceived opinions or particular ideas of some are crossed in being reproved by testimonies, *they have a burden at once to make plain their position to discriminate between the testimonies, defining what is Sister White’s human judgment, and what is the word of the Lord. Everything that sustains their cherished ideas is divine, and the testimonies to correct their errors are human—Sister White’s opinions.* They make of none effect the counsel of God by their tradition.” *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 68.
2. Did she give opinion? “In the testimonies sent to Battle Creek, I have given you the light God has given to me. *In no case have I given my own judgment or opinion.*” *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 70:1.
  - a. “In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. *I do not write one article in the paper expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.*” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 67:2.
3. Does the prophet need to say “I saw” to show this is a revelation and everything else is just their words?
  - a. “Paul was an inspired apostle. The truths he taught to others he had received ‘by revelation;’ yet **the Lord did not directly reveal to him at all times just the condition of His people.** In this instance [1 Corinthians 1:11] **those who were interested in the prosperity of the church** at Corinth, and who had seen evils creeping in, **had presented the matter before the apostle, and from divine revelations which he had formerly received he was prepared to judge of the character of these developments.** Notwithstanding the fact that *the Lord did not give him a new revelation for that special time, those who were really seeking for light accepted his message as* <sup>303</sup> *expressing the mind of Christ....* He was to watch for souls as one who must render account to God, and was it not consistent and right for him to take notice of the reports concerning the anarchy and divisions among them? **Most assuredly; and the reproof he sent them was as certainly written under the inspiration of the Spirit of God as were any of his other epistles.**” *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 302-303.
4. When does a prophet speak for God? “**I gave myself, my whole being, to God, to obey His call in everything, and since that time my life has been spent in giving the message, with my pen and in speaking before large congregations. It is not I who controls my words and actions at such times.**” *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 39.
  - a. If we want to know what the Lord revealed to Sr. White, how shall we find it out? “And now to all who have a desire for truth I would say: Do not give credence to unauthenticated reports as to what Sister White has done or said or written. *If you desire to know what the Lord has revealed through her, read her published works.*” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 696:1.
5. What if we do try to discriminate in inspiration? “I have my work to do, to meet the misconceptions of those who suppose themselves able to say what is testimony from God and what is human production. **If those who have done this work continue in this course, satanic agencies will choose for them.**” *Selected Messages*, bk. 3, p. 70:3.
  - a. This goes back to the Bible as well. “Finite beings, with their narrow, short-sighted views, feel

themselves competent to criticize the Scriptures, saying: ‘This passage is needful, and that passage is not needful, and is not inspired.’ *Christ gave no such instruction in regard to the Old Testament Scriptures.*” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 709.

- (1) “My brethren, **let the word of God stand just as it is. Let not human wisdom presume to lessen the force of one statement of the Scriptures.** The solemn denunciation in the Revelation should warn us against taking such ground. In the name of my Master I bid you: ‘Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.’” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 711.
6. Why do we need to be willing to accept whatever we read? “**What voice will you acknowledge as the voice of God? What power has the Lord in reserve to correct your errors and show you your course as it is? What power to work in the <sup>69</sup> church?.... The word of the Lord comes to us all who have not resisted His Spirit by determining not to hear and obey. This voice is heard in warnings, in counsels, in reproof. It is the Lord’s message of light to His people.** If we wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light may be withdrawn, and we left in darkness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 68, 69.
  - a. To be consistent, what should a doubter really do? “**Do not feel that you can dissect [the Testimonies] to suit your own ideas, claiming that God has given you ability to discern what is light from heaven and what is the expression of mere human wisdom. If the Testimonies speak not according to the word of God, reject them.**” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 691:2.

## V. Do You Know It?

1. What does it mean to have the testimony of Jesus?
  - a. It used to be that a letter would come in the mail
    - (1) The rebuke would be personally addressed to you
  - b. What about now that the living messenger has passed away? “**The volumes of *Spirit of Prophecy*, and also the *Testimonies*, should be introduced into every Sabbathkeeping family, and the brethren should know their value and be urged to read them.... They should be in the library of every family and read again and again....**
    - (1) “**Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings.**” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 390, 391.
2. What will happen in the future? “**The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.** ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Proverbs 29:18). **Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.**” *Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 48.
3. What is our only safety? “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” **2 Chronicles 20:20.**
  - a. Therefore what should we do with the light that God has graciously given? “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” **Revelation 12:17.**
    - (1) “**I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several *Testimonies for the Church*, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met.... It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God’s inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.... Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the *Testimonies* simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse.**” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 605:1, 2.
      - (2) Is the dragon happy with you?
      - (3) Let us come step up to the light
        - (a) Let us be the people who will treasure and live by every ray of Light that God has sent

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