



BIBLICAL FOOTPRINT 6 —

Pioneer Writings

We are required to know the history and historic message of Seventh-day Adventism, because if we do not know our history, we will follow the path of the children of Israel and slide down the slippery slope into eternal hopelessness. The pioneer writings are the only reliable source from which to derive our history and see how and what God has established as present truth.

#1 How does God Define Present Truth?

"The standard bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.

*"We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And **while the Scriptures are God's Word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake.** He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God." **Notebook Leaflets Vol. 2 pg. 157***

Thus, "the truth for this time" must be and can only be defined as Present Truth.

#2 How did God establish the Foundation of our Faith?

"In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we studied diligently to understand the meaning of many

scriptures. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; but when our brethren who had assembled for study, came to a point where they could go no farther, and had recourse to earnest prayer, the Spirit of God would rest upon me, and I would be taken off in vision, and be instructed in regard to the relation of scripture to scripture. These experiences were repeated over and over and over again. **Thus many truths of the third angel's message were established, point by point.** Think you that my faith in this message will ever waver? Think you that I can remain silent, when I see an effort being made to sweep away the foundation pillars of our faith? I am as thoroughly established in these truths as it is possible for a person to be. I can never forget the experience I have passed through. God has confirmed my belief by many evidences of His power." **Ellen G White, Review & Herald, June 14, 1906**

#3 What is God's declaration to those who would seek a different foundation to be laid?

"I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving no countenance to those who would unsettle the established faith of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. **I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels' messages.** Said my accompanying angel, 'Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. **The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.**' I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform. I saw individuals approach the platform and examine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. **They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier.** Some stepped off the platform to examine it and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master Builder, and they were fighting against Him. They recounted the wonderful work of God, which had led them to the firm platform, and in union raised their eyes to heaven and with a loud voice glorified God. This affected some of those who had

complained and left the platform, and they with humble look again stepped upon it." **Ellen G White, Early Writings, pg. 258-259.**

#4 **Who Did God Call To Write What Defines Present Truth?**

"The standard bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes **the truth for this time.**" **Notebook Leaflets Vol. 2 pg. 157**

When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. Ellen G White, Notebook Leaflets, Volume 2 pg. 157

#5 **The Foundation of our Faith; can it be changed?**

"Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work by prayerful study of the word and by revelation. (See number 3) Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid." 1905, *Testimonies to the Church Vol. 8 pg. 297*

#6 **What Does God Say Is The Old Landmarks?**

*"In Minneapolis God gave **precious gems of truth to His people in new settings.** This light from heaven by some was rejected with all the stubbornness the Jews manifested in rejecting Christ, and there was much talk about standing by the old landmarks. **But there was evidence they knew not what the old landmarks were.** There was evidence and there was reasoning from the word that commended itself to the conscience; but the minds of men were fixed, sealed against the entrance of light, because they had decided it was a dangerous error removing the 'old landmarks' when it was not moving a peg of the old landmarks, but they had perverted ideas of what constituted the old landmarks.*

*"The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes **the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven,** and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth, [also] **the first and second angels' messages and the third,** unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, **'The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.'** One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth*

commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. **The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more that can come under the head of the old landmarks. All this cry about changing the old landmarks is all imaginary.**

"Now at the present time God designs a new and fresh impetus shall be given to His work." 1888 Materials, pg. 518

#7 How important are the Pioneer Writings which established Present Truth?

God's prophet, speaking of those who do NOT accept and use these books such as Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith, said:—

***"Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that one teach them what is meant by godliness and truth."* Ellen G White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1 pg. 61**

The interest in Daniel and the Revelation (1897 edition) is to continue as long as probationary time shall last. God used the author of this book as a channel through which to communicate light to direct minds to the truth. Shall we not appreciate this light, which points us to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King? Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 1, pg. 63.

#8 Does God want the message, and the true foundation to be lessened or ignored as Established?

"Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden." Ellen G White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 6 pg. 61

"As a people, we are to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth that has withstood test and trial. We are to hold to the sure pillars of our faith. The principles of truth that God has revealed to us are our only true foundation. They have made us what we are. The lapse of time has not lessened their value. It is the constant effort of the enemy to remove these truths from their setting, and to put in their place spurious theories. He will bring in everything that he possibly can to carry out his deceptive designs. But the Lord will raise up men of keen perception, who will give these truths their proper place in the plan of God." Ellen G White, Special Testimonies Series B No. 02 pg. 51

"May God help you all and help me. I want help and strength and power. But **do not quote Sister White till you stand on vantage ground, where you know what you are doing. Take the word of God. It is full of meat and drink. Study the Bible, and you will know more of God than you do now. You will have something fresh to impart to others.** You will not go over the same ground again and again. You will realize that there is a world to save. I ask you to put on the whole armor, and be sure that your feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.—Ms 43, 1901, pp. 12-19. Talk in Battle Creek College Library, April 1, 1901." **Ellen G White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 6 pg. 313**

God has given us the truth that is to stand forever. It is present truth for this time. If it is claimed and applied, it will see us safely through to eternity. He has given us this truth through the pioneers including God's servant, Sister White. If we choose to ignore, shun, put away, or cast aside this truth, regardless of why it is done, then we find ourselves being contrary to God and His will, delaying His return, and forfeiting what would otherwise be our rightful inheritance.

"We may have to remain here in this world because of insubordination many more years, as did the children of Israel, but for Christ's sake, His people should not add sin to sin by charging God with the consequence of their own wrong course of action." Ellen G White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 20 pg. 313

"When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No after-suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another with new light, which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit. A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat and repeat till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. And the standard bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And **while the Scriptures are God’s Word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake.** He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.” **Ellen G. White, Notebook Leaflets, Volume 2 pg. 157**

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