

William A. Spicer on the Relationship of Ellen White to the Bible: 1937

Between 1900-1940, except for two to three years, Spicer served the church as secretary and president of the General Conference, editor of the Review, and general field secretary of the General Conference. All bold in the text is the editor's emphasis.

The Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement (1937)

From Chapter 5—"The Place of the Gift in the Church"

Opposers have been quick to say, "Oh, you Seventh-day Adventists have another Bible—the writings of Mrs. White."

But One Foundation Of Doctrine

No, we reply, Seventh-day Adventists have but one Bible. That is the one foundation of faith and doctrine. The church is built upon Christ, and all its doctrine upon the living word. **All spiritual gifts are gifts to the church that is built upon the word. These gifts are to minister the word of God to us, and to lead us into the Scriptures, which are our one rule of faith. That has always been the teaching in this advent movement.** In the first little booklet issued by James White, our early leader (who became the husband of Ellen G. Harmon), he wrote, in 1847:

"The Bible is a perfect and complete revelation. It is our only rule of faith and practice."—*A Word to the Little Flock*, p. 13.

Again, he wrote in the organ of the movement, in 1854: "Every Christian is therefore in duty bound to take the Bible as a perfect rule of faith and duty. He should pray fervently to be aided by the Holy Spirit, in searching the Scriptures for the whole truth, and for his whole duty. He is not at liberty to turn from them to learn his duty through any of the gifts."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 3, 1854.

Repeated By The Spirit Of Prophecy

This was the principle laid down from the beginning in the writings of the Spirit of prophecy itself. In *Early Writings*, the first book put out by Mrs. White, containing early views and experiences, it was written:

"I recommend to you, dear reader, the word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that word we are to be judged. God has, in that word, promised to give visions in the 'last days;' not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."—Page 78.

In the lands that she was called to visit in a lifelong ministry, Mrs. White bore the same testimony. Speaking in Christiania (now Oslo), Norway, in 1885, she said:

"The Bible and the Bible alone is to be our creed, the sole bond of union; all who bow to this holy word will be in harmony. . . . Let us meet all opposition as did our Master, saying, 'It is written.' Let us lift up the banner on which is inscribed, The Bible our rule of faith and discipline."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 15, 1885.

Exalting The Book

Well I remember the last words this faithful servant ever spoke in the general assembly of the movement. At a world's General Conference in Washington, D.C., she came to the platform, on the last day of the session, to speak a farewell word to the delegates who had come in from the four quarters of the earth. She felt impressed that she would never attend another General Conference; and she never did. What would be the last message by personal presence, in such an assembly, by one who had been so many years the agent through whom the writings of the Spirit of prophecy had come? Mrs. White spoke a few words of good cheer and farewell, and then turned to the pulpit, where lay a Bible. She opened the book, and held it out with hands that trembled with age. And she said:

"Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this Book."

Without another word, she closed the book, and walked from the platform. **It was her last spoken word in the world assembly of the remnant church. Well was it symbolic of the lifelong ministry through this gift, ever exalting high, supreme above all, the Holy Scriptures as the foundation of the faith of the people of the advent movement.**

No; critics of this movement can never say justly that Seventh-day Adventists have "another Bible." The one book is all that is needed to maintain the doctrines they preach as fundamental in the gospel of salvation,