



Ellen G. White (1827-1915)

The Story of Great Controversy And the Spirit of Prophecy

Throughout her life, Satan sought to hinder Ellen White, not only from writing other important books, but especially Great Controversy. Over the years, he has repeatedly tried to keep it from being printed and widely distributed. We will look at some of the amazing stories about this, and see the importance of the book, Great Controversy, and why you should read it and also learn of the life of the lady called to be a special messenger for the Lord in these last days. These accounts show us how real is the battle between the two kingdoms here on earth.

Great Controversy is the special book given to the Advent people to read, understand, and share its message with others. Yet it has been neglected, criticized, and ignored more than any other book among us. The historical facts and predictions in this volume, detail the future events of our planet better than any other book which has ever been written.

Satan knows this. He has been working desperately to keep this book from being read and distributed. No other Spirit of Prophecy book has been so ruthlessly attacked, belittled, and condemned as Great Controversy. No other book brought Ellen White so close to paralysis and death.

Dark forces have combined to keep this, the most important book for these last days, from the world. Yet the God of heaven has had His hand over it, protecting its text and the one who wrote it. He will also guide and help those who, today, are willing to give it widest distribution.

This is the story of Satan's work to keep men and women from learning the truths contained in this, by far the most important book written in the last 1900 years since the first Revelation was completed.

Thrown into Boiling Oil! **"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is**

come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Revelation 12:12.

The death of Christ made certain the final destruction of Satan. Until then, the devil flattered himself that he would yet conquer and spread his rebellion to other worlds. Ever since Calvary, Satan has worked more feverishly, desperately than ever before. Throughout the lives of the Apostles, he did all he could to hinder their work. Finally, after causing nearly every one to be slain, until there was only one left! The Apostle John.

John was the last one providing additional instruction and warnings, direct from God to the world. Working through apostate Jews and government leaders, Satan was certain he could have John put to death.

“The rulers of the Jews were filled with bitter hatred against John for his unwavering fidelity to the cause of Christ. They declared that their efforts against the Christians would avail nothing so long as John’s testimony kept ringing in the ears of the people. In order that the miracles and teachings of Jesus might be forgotten, the voice of the bold witness must be silenced.” Acts of the Apostles, 569.

In order to give him the worst possible kind of death, John was sent to Rome, where he was brought before emperor Domitian. This ruler, which ruled from A.D. 81 to 96, is recognized by historians as one of the most evil of the Roman emperors.

“John was accordingly summoned to Rome to be tried for his faith. Here before the authorities the apostle’s doctrines were misstated. False witnesses accused him of teaching seditious heresies. By these accusations his enemies hoped to bring about the disciple’s death.”

But John spoke with a power and authority which no one could show to be false.

“John answered for himself in a clear and convincing manner, and with such simplicity and candor that his words had a powerful effect. His hearers were astonished at his wisdom and eloquence. But the more convincing his testimony, the deeper was the hatred of his opposers.” Acts of the Apostles, 569.

Urged on by Satan, Domitian sensed that it would take something unusual to kill John.

“The emperor Domitian was filled with rage. He could neither dispute the reasoning of Christ’s faithful advocate, nor match the power that attended his utterance of truth; yet he determined that he would silence his voice.” Acts of the Apostles, 569-570.

An immense cauldron was placed over a pit filled with wood and covered with an iron grating. After being filled with olive oil, it was heated till its surface roiled. Then Domitian ordered the Apostle to be cast into the pot. But historians reveal that this could not be done simply by tossing him in, for the splash from boiling oil would burn everyone nearby. Standing on a platform alongside it, John was lowered by strong men into the oil.

The emperor cried out, “Thus perish all who believe in that deceiver, Jesus Christ of Nazareth!” and then fell silent. Near instant death to the Apostle had been expected; yet as he was lowered into the bubbling oil, John remained calm and said he was willing to die for His Lord. Standing on the bottom of the large pot, totally unaffected by the superheated oil, he spoke to

the Emperor and all who were present, to repent of their sins before it was too late!

Totally shaken, Domitian recognized that a divine hand had protected John, and he was removed from the cauldron by the very men who had cast him in. Filled with hatred, yet afraid to try to injure the Apostle again, John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, a small island in the Aegean Sea, about 50 miles southwest of Ephesus. On this small island, about 10 miles by 6 miles, John found a quiet, peaceful home. The godly prophet quickly made many friends and was given freedom to go anywhere on the island.

“Half a century had passed since Jesus ascended to present His church before God, and to prepare mansions for His faithful ones. He still loved His people; for He came to His aged servant to reveal to Him God’s plans for the future.” 7 Bible Commentary, 955.

In the providence of God, while on that island, John was given the visions and instructions which he recorded in the book of Revelation. He received a flood of encouraging and warning messages for the people of God to the close of time.

“It was after John had grown old in the service of the Lord that he was exiled to Patmos. And on that lonely isle he received more communications from heaven than he had received during the rest of his lifetime.” 7 Bible Commentary, 955.

Historians tell us John was later released from the prison island and taken to Ephesus. Even after John’s voice was silenced by death, the messages he gave to the world, His Gospel, the three Epistles, and the book of Revelation, would speak to the world down to the end of time. That is the way it is when God’s truth is placed in written form: it continues on forever.

“It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel. It was Gabriel, ‘His angel,’ whom Christ sent to open the future to the beloved John; and a blessing is pronounced on those who read and hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein. Revelation 1:3.” Desire of Ages, 234.

Throughout Bible history, God’s inspired prophets were accused, persecuted, and even slain. We know that Isaiah was placed in a hollow log and sawed to death (4 Bible Commentary, 1137). All of the New Testament authors, except John, died a martyr’s death.

Satan hates the Word of God; yet, while tempting men to ignore it, he himself has been a careful student of everything in it. He studies so he can try to defeat the revealed plans of God to help His people. After John’s death, Satan tried to get rid of the Bible in many ways.

Some people denounced parts of the New Testament back in the early church. In Alexandria parts of non-inspired books were mixed in with the true New Testament. Another method of attack by Satan was to encourage early churches to reject certain books from the Biblical list of inspired books.

Another method of attack was the decrees destroying copies of the Bible. Diocletian, in A.D. 303, demanded the destruction of all sacred books of Christianity. Remember, in those day all books had to be written by hand, there was no printing.

Later an increasing number of roman decrees forbade anyone to own or read the Bible. Also forbidding copies of the Bible in the common language of the people. Then came the

production of the Alexandrian version of the Bible, which contained many errors, and later became the basis for the 19th-century Westcott-Hort New Testament text.

Satan knows that the basis of all apostasy and error is found in separating the people from the Written Word of God. So his primary method of attack was to keep written copies of the Bible from the people.

“Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the Word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, ‘It is written.’ To every suggestion of the adversary, He opposed the wisdom and power of the Word.

“In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church.

“For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state.

“The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to ‘think to change times and laws.’ Daniel 7:25. This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship . .

“The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven’s authority. Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Genesis 2:2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as ‘the venerable day of the sun.’ ”—Great Controversy, 51-52.

It is important that we understand why Satan focused so heavily on eliminating written copies of God’s Word. What would we know today about the earliest history of our world, down to the death of Moses, if he had not taken the time to write the first five books of the Bible? Nothing. What would we know about the earthly life of Christ if four men had not written about His life?

The Written Word is powerful! The spoken word is only good for whoever immediately hears it. Then the sounds fade off into the air and are gone. Therefore it is Satan’s special work to malign, attack, and destroy the Written Word. So it will be to the end of time.