

UNITED WE STAND. . .

From God's perspective, is it okay for His Church to be presenting multiple views on some of the great lines of prophecy?

We have seven different views of the trumpets, half a dozen views on Daniel 11, several views on Revelation 17, etc. How can we know who is presenting the correct interpretation? Is it Maxwell? Bohr? Vieth? Paulien? Naden? LaRondelle? Rafferty? Stefanovic? Roosenberg? Shea? Thiele? Or someone else?

The teaching of the great lines of prophecy played an important role in the Millerite Movement. They presented a united message on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and their unity gave power to their message. Revelation 10:11 tells us that we must prophesy again: "And he said unto me, *Thou must prophesy again* before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." Revelation 10:11, emphasis supplied in all quotations.

If we hope to experience the same power that attended the prophetic message of the Millerite Movement, we too must present a united view on the prophecies of God's Word.

"... the messengers of God should be *perfectly united* in their views of Bible truth and should consult with each other, and should not advance any new view until they first went to the messengers and examine those views with the Bible, and if they were correct let all the messengers spread them, and if they were error lay them to one side. Then the gospel seed would be sown in union and raised in strength; and all the messengers East and West, North and South, would be *telling the same story*." 3MR 401.

Today, the messengers of God have never been more divided in their views of Bible truth. We are even considering a vote at the General Conference Session to authorize a divided view on the ordination of women as pastors. We spent two years trying to come into unity and sadly, we failed—we are in a real fix. Why? Because Jesus won't return until His faithful followers are perfectly united.

It was our disunity and the ungodly feelings and actions that went with this discord that put the Second Coming of Jesus on hold back in the 1800s. If we truly want Jesus to come soon, then we are going to have to answer the prayer of Christ and speak the same thing:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that *ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Corinthians 1:10.

What is preventing us from all speaking the same thing? It seems that the more we study and pray together, seeking for unity, the more divided we become. I believe that there is a solution to our disunity and it is found in obeying the following short, simple directive the Lord has given to us through His messenger:

"There must be *no long discussions, no presenting of new theories* in regard to prophecies that *God has already made plain*." *Review and Herald*, November 27, 1900.

Why should there be no long discussions? Because God will not bless this approach to achieve unity today. The long, thorough discussions have already taken place:

"*By a thorough investigation of the prophecies* we understand where we are in this world's history; and we know for a certainty that the Second Coming of Christ is near. The result of these investigations must be brought before the world through the press. . . . We are now living in the *full blaze of the light of Bible truth*." 4T 592

God raised up chosen servants at the very beginning of our movement and gave to them a correct, "full blaze" understanding of the great lines of prophecy found in Daniel and Revelation. They were all on the same page

when it came to the rules they employed in interpreting Bible prophecy. Today, conflicting hermeneutics are employed causing further theological division. If ever there was a time to “believe on their word,” that time is now!

“The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on ‘their word’ who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. . . . It is true that there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. But very erroneous work has been done again and again, and will continue to be done by those who seek to find new light in the prophecies, and who begin by turning away from the light that God has already given.” 2SM 111

That through investigation of the prophecies produced this full blaze of light and this light was recorded in Uriah Smith’s book, making very plain the great lines of prophecy.

"Everything that can be done should be done to circulate *Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation*. I know of no other book that can take the place of this one. It is *God's helping hand*." Manuscript Releases, vol. 21, p. 444.

For most of us, it is insufferable to think of yielding up our personal theories on the great lines of prophecy in order to harmonize with a book written in the 1800s—a book on prophecy written by a person with no letters behind his name. And yet a person that has the imprimatur of the Holy Spirit’s stamp of approval on his work. One who has an approval rating and endorsement of divine validation that few if any Adventist authors other than Ellen White’s Holy Spirit-guided writing can claim.

“The natural stubbornness of the human heart resists the light of truth. Its natural pride of opinion leads to independence of judgment and a clinging to human ideas and philosophy.” RH, August 19, 1909.

“Christ is leading out a people, and bringing them into the unity of the faith, that they may be one, as He is one with the Father. Differences of opinion must be yielded, that all may come into union with the body, that they may have one mind and one judgment.” 1T 324.

Our natural stubbornness and our natural pride of opinion prevent us from yielding our differences of opinion. Are you saying that I am to set aside my differing long-held views and simply “believe on their word”?

YES.

I did this. You can do this too.

Before Jesus comes there will be a group of church members who will be obedient to this directive and yield up their differences of opinion, coming into unity with the platform of truth laid down at the very beginning of this prophetic movement:

“The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united.” EW 15.

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