

## **The Omega of Apostasy – Study #2**

© The title of today's study is:  
**"The Alpha – The Omega" Part 1**

Let us pray ...

When we look at the Christian world today and how they view the mark of the beast, too many are too quick to call it a super computer in Belgium or the barcode on your forehead or your social security number, etc. But that is all speculation and conjecture. It is impossible to know what the mark is unless you first know who the beast is.

Likewise, many within Adventism are aware of the prophesied omega of Apostasy. But too many have been too quick to identify it with some troubling issue such as spiritual formation, or women's ordination or something else equally controversial. But that too is all speculation and conjecture.

© It is impossible to know what the omega of apostasy is unless you thoroughly understand what the

© alpha of apostasy is. That is exactly what we need to uncover today.

© First we want to read a scripture in Eccl. 1: 9, 10

**“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything whereof it may be said: ‘See, this is new’? It hath been already of old time which was before us.”**

Solomon is saying certain things which happened in the past can occur again in the future. So if we want to understand why certain things are happening in the church today, where do we need to look? We need to examine church history.

God says through His prophet in 1SM 200:

© “In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and **will be** received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.” 1SM 200.

What type of heresy is received by those who will neglect to heed God’s warning? Deadly heresies. Therefore this is no small matter.

We need to examine what the warning was that God gave in regards to the Alpha? And once we understand the warnings that God gave regarding the Alpha, we are in a better position not to fall and be deceived by the Omega. Would you not agree?

© The Alpha occurred in our church in the early 1900’s, when a very prominent physician, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, wrote a book entitled “The Living Temple,” which Mrs. White mentioned in the quote we’ve just read. His reason for writing it was to raise funds to rebuild the Battle Creek Sanitarium which had burned to the ground.

In the book, Dr. Kellogg inserted some of his theology that Sister White identified for us as heretical.

© The scriptures tell us, “**The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.**” Deut. 29:29.

© God’s prophet says, “***The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate.***” Ministry of Healing, 429.

A very important statement because Kellogg was seeking to penetrate beyond that which was revealed. So Mrs. White wrote that warning. But it’s interesting that she also says that the things that God has given us in His Word are for our study and this we are to seek to understand.

What God has given us in His Word we can understand, but beyond this we are not to penetrate. So here Kellogg was venturing on a ground beyond what revelation had given us. And Sister White continues, in *Loma Linda Messages*, page 253. She’s a bit more specific here.

© She wrote, ***“The teaching regarding God that is presented in Living Temple is not such as our students need. ...Those who express such sentiments regarding Him show that they are departing from the faith.”*** Loma Linda Messages, p. 253.

She says the issue “regarding God.” Kellogg was teaching or promoting something about God that Sister White identified as the Alpha of deadly heresies. And she said: it’s a “departure from the faith.” It’s a very serious matter. We’re looking at the warnings that God has given us regarding the Alpha, so that we can better understand the Omega. Let’s see what Kellogg was trying to teach about God in his book that brought such strong warnings from the Sister White.

© This is Arthur Daniells, the General Conference president of the time. One day he had a conversation with Dr. Kellogg. The conversation was so alarming to Brother Daniells that he wrote a letter to Ellen White’s son,

© Willie White, to share his concerns about what Kellogg had told him. The issue was regarding the book Kellogg wrote and the things that Ellen White said about it. Here is the letter we need to see what his concerns were. He says:

© “Ever since the council closed I have felt that I should write you confidentially regarding Dr. Kellogg’s plans for revising and republishing The Living Temple. He [Kellogg] said that some days before coming to the council, he had been thinking the matter over, and began to see that he had made a slight mistake in expressing his views... He then stated that his former views regarding the trinity had stood in his way of making a clear and absolutely correct statement; but that within a short time he had come to believe in the trinity and could now see pretty clearly where all the difficulty was, and believed that he could clear the matter up satisfactorily. He told me that he now

© believed in *God the Father*, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost; and his view was that it was God the Holy Ghost, and not God the Father, that fills all space, and every living thing. He said if he had believed this before writing the book, he could have expressed his views without giving the wrong impression the book now gives. I placed before him the objections I found in the teaching, and tried to show him that teaching was so utterly contrary to the gospel that I did not see how it could be revised by changing a few expressions.”

Letter, A. G. Daniells to W. C. White, 10/29/1903, p 1, 2.

So, Kellogg said that he had come to believe what doctrine? The doctrine of the trinity. And specifically said he now believed in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost and that he was going to revise his book. Does that sound familiar to anyone? The G.C. president said “I placed before him the objections I found in the teaching.” Solomon told us “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be.” Today we have a majority of the denomination preaching what Kellogg believed. What did Sister White write in these regards?

© ***“It will be said that Living Temple has been revised, but the Lord has shown me that the writer has not changed, and that there can be no unity between him and the ministers of the gospel while he continues to cherish his present sentiments. I am bidden to lift my voice in warning to our people, saying, ‘Be not deceived; God is not mocked’ (Gal. 6 :7).”*** 1SM 199.

She said *the writer has not changed and that there can be no unity between him and the ministers of the gospel*. What were his present sentiments according to the admission of the General Conference president at that time? *That he [Kellogg] believed in the trinity — that he believed in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit*. She says this is actually a mockery of who? Of God. She says: *“be not deceived; God is not mocked.”*

Here is a letter she wrote to Kellogg.

© ***“You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.”*** Letter 300 from Ellen White to Kellogg, 1903.

We are doing a historical examination of the alpha of deadly heresy. So Kellogg, very simply, had come to believe in the trinity as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, which belief is very common today. Satan tried to bring this teaching into the denomination in the early 1900's. Today people believe that this is a foundation of the faith, and when you try to show them that it is only an enlargement of Kellogg's error, they become agitated. Here is what Sister White said will happen:

© ***“In the controversy that arose among our brethren regarding the teachings of this book, those in favor of giving it a wide circulation declared: ‘It contains the very sentiments that Sister White has been teaching.’ This assertion struck right to my heart. I felt heartbroken; for I knew that this representation of the matter was not true.”***  
1Selected Messages, 203.

So as a result of what Sister White said about the book, Kellogg – in self-defense – said: “What I'm trying to say is really the same thing that Mrs. White is teaching.” So he was trying to use the Spirit of Prophecy in support of his teaching. And his followers repeated what he said. Sister White said that is not true.

© What one word summarizes the teaching of the book, The Living Temple? Sister White identified it clearly, it's pantheism. And what does the word “pantheism” mean? God in everything.

© As we examine this further, what was Kellogg trying to teach in his book that Ellen White said “it's pantheism;” “it's a deadly heresy;” “it's a departure from the faith;” “the ministers of the gospel should not be united with him when he has his present sentiments”? He wrote a letter to G. I. Butler and this is what he said. Kellogg speaking:

© “As far as I can fathom, the difficulty which is found in The Living Temple, the whole thing may be simmered down to the question: Is the Holy Ghost a person?” Letter of J. H. Kellogg to G.I. Butler, October 28, 1903.

From his own admission, what he was in effect saying was, everything I’m trying to say basically comes down to this: Is the Holy Ghost a person? Does that sound familiar today? His letter continues:

© “You say no. I had supposed the Bible said this for the reason that the personal pronoun ‘he’ is used in speaking of the Holy Ghost. Sister White uses the pronoun ‘he’ and has said in so many words that the Holy Ghost is the **third person of the Godhead**. How the Holy Ghost can be the third person and not be a person at all is difficult for me to see.” Letter, Kellogg to Butler, 10-28-1903.

© So what was the Alpha all about?

© Is the Holy Ghost a person? He had gone to the Spirit of Prophecy and specifically used Sister White’s statement that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.

So leaders in the church today stand before the people and say, “Brethren, Sister White says the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead; that means that the Holy Spirit is a person just like the Father and the Son.” This is what Kellogg was teaching in 1903.

So the whole problem in the book Living Temple was about the personality of the Holy Spirit.

© Is the Holy Spirit a person, like the Father and the Son, or not? And Kellogg had come to believe that the Holy Spirit was God the Holy Spirit, an individual God-being like the Father and the Son, making: **God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit**. Sister White said that’s

© The Alpha of deadly heresies. And people today think that this is not an important issue. That this is a side issue. Now it’s important to

understand, because the Bible says, "... the thing that hath been it is that which shall be."

Sister White wrote this,

© ***"I am compelled to speak in denial of the claim that the teachings of Living Temple can be sustained by statements from my writings."*** 1 SM 203.

What statements did Kellogg specifically use? "The third person of the Godhead." And Ellen White says, I deny the claim that this statement supports what Kellogg is teaching – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. That means for you, brother or sister, who think that that statement supports that, you need to go back and read what the Spirit of Prophecy says, because Ellen White just told you this statement is not the meaning, that is the conclusion that is made by Kellogg: that the Holy Spirit is a person. A "God, the Holy Spirit." She continues:

© *"There may be in this book expressions and sentiments that are in harmony with my writings. And there may be in my writings many statements which, taken from their connection, and interpreted according to the mind of the writer of Living Temple, would seem to be in harmony with the teachings of this book. This may give apparent support to the assertion that the sentiments in Living Temple are in harmony with my writings. But God forbid that this sentiment should prevail."* 1 SM 203

Now, we need to ask the question:

© Was Ellen White a Trinitarian? In other words:

© Did she believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit? If so, then how dare she rebuke Kellogg for bringing it to light, because that's what Kellogg believed. He believed in the trinity – in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Ellen White said,

© "That's heresy."

Was it God who told her to rebuke Kellogg? It certainly was, because she is writing under inspiration. She says, "The Lord has shown me." "I'm compelled to speak." Now

if that's the case, then how could God inspire her to oppose the Trinity, if it is really truth?

On one side we have Ellen White condemning Kellogg for believing the Trinity, and on the other side we have people today saying "But Ellen White believed in the Trinity." If the second were true, that would make Ellen White a false prophet. Ellen White could not condemn what Kellogg was teaching and then go and teach the same thing. That's impossible.

What was Ellen White trying to say? In Letter 52, 1903, speaking to Kellogg, she says,

© *"Your ideas are so mystical that they are destructive to the real substance, and the minds of some are becoming confused in regard to the foundation of our faith. If you allow your mind to become thus diverted, you will give a wrong mold to the work that has made us what we are — Seventh-day Adventists."* Letter 52, 1903

So what was the confusion about? Minds were getting confused in regard to the foundation of our faith. In regard to what makes us Seventh-day Adventists. Was it serious? It was so serious that Sister White said this is a deadly heresy.

What is it that was considered to be the foundation at the time? In other words, what was the church teaching about this topic at the time that Kellogg was departing from, and Ellen White said, "you're endangering the foundation of the faith; you're departing from the faith"?

Let's see what was believed in the church at the time. 1891 - this is from Uriah Smith - he says,

© **"The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God; it is also the Spirit of Christ"** U. Smith, General Conference Daily Bulletin, Volume 4, March 14, 1891, pp. 146, 147.

Here is another one, from E. J. Waggoner:

© **"Here we find that the Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ"** E. J. Waggoner, Christ and His Righteous-ness, p. 23. 1890.

Does that sound to you like these brethren believed that the Holy Spirit was a person called God the Holy Spirit? No, they believed it was the Spirit of God and it was the Spirit of Christ. That's what our pioneers believed and taught.

And from Loughborough:

© **“We learn from this language that when we speak of the Spirit of God we are really speaking of His presence and power”** John Loughborough, Review & Herald, September 13, 1898.

Is the “presence and power” of God a different person to God? Certainly not. This is a very clear definition that Loughborough is saying. He says: “when we speak of the Spirit, it's really the presence and power of God.”

© And this from God's Prophet: **“The divine Spirit that the world's Redeemer promised to send, is the presence and power of God”** ST, November 23, 1891.

So this was the foundation that the church believed at the time. Kellogg was departing from that, and he was saying: “The Holy Spirit is another person; God the Holy Spirit.” Ellen White said: “Be careful.”

Therefore when we compare between what Kellogg was believing and the foundation at that time, when God gives us His Spirit, does God give us another individual, or Himself? Now let's see what the answer is. Is it someone different or not? Testimonies, vol. 7, page 273:

© **“In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself, making Himself a fountain of divine influences, to give health and life to the world.”** EGW, 7T, 273.

The statement that says “third person of the Godhead” that people still use today... does she explain to us what this third person of the Godhead is?

© **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** [She is quoting John 6 here.] **Christ is not here referring to his doctrine, but to**

***his person, the divinity of his character.***” EGW, Review & Herald, April 5, 1906.

So, when Jesus was speaking about the Spirit, He says “it’s the Spirit that quickeneth.” Sister White says, “when Jesus said that, He was not referring to His doctrine but He is actually referring to His person.” The Holy Spirit is a person. Sister White said: “It’s the third person of the Godhead.” It is the person of whom? It’s the person of Christ.

We read the following quote last week, but we need to read it once more:

© ***“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of world.’” Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.*** {DA 166.2}

Jesus in His physical presence is the minister of the sanctuary above, yet He is still the minister of the church on earth by the person of His Omnipresent Spirit. Jesus is one Minister working on two fronts.

Think about this fact, we could not have two different mediating because the Bible says, **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”** (1 Timothy 2:5) People who believe in a third God Being are therefore believing in two mediators which opposes scripture.

There’s more:

© ***“Christ declared that after His ascension, He would send to His church, as His crowning gift, the Comforter, who was to take His place. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit, - the soul of His life, the efficacy of His church, the light and life of the world. With His Spirit, Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power that takes away sin.”*** Review and Herald, May 19, 1904.

She says this Comforter that Jesus promised to send is the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is the soul of His life. Question: is the soul of Jesus' life a different person to Him? No, it's His very own person. Now this is the problem that people have today, because how can the soul of the life of Christ be a different individual? How can the Holy Spirit be "God the Holy Spirit"? We have just this bizarre understanding of which Ellen White said, "this is a very dangerous heresy."

Last week we proved with scripture and Spirit of Prophecy that the Spirit of Christ is the promised comforter. Look at this quote from DA 669.

© ***"The Lord knows all about His faithful servants who for His sake are lying in prison or who are banished to lonely islands. He comforts them with His own presence."***

The Lord comforts them with His own presence; it's not with someone else. But the Trinitarian says the Comforter is someone else. They say it is God the Holy Spirit, not Jesus. Here is what we read last week:

© ***"There is no Comforter like Christ, so tender and so true."***  
Review & Herald, Oct. 26, 1897.

© ***"...Christ is everything to those who receive Him. He is their Comforter, their safety, their healthfulness...."*** LHU 221.

© ***"As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving Jesus the Comforter."*** MR19, 296, 297.

To believe that Jesus is the Comforter some will say "Oh, that's a very dangerous doctrine." It's not dangerous to believe that Jesus is your Comforter! It's very dangerous to believe otherwise,

© Next study in Part 2 of "The Alpha – The Omega" we will continue showing how the understanding of the Alpha of Apostasy became "The Omega."  
© Let us pray ...