

Apparently there is a disagreement as to whether the political left or the political right is the "real" threat to religious liberty. And in one such discussion that I just read, advocates of both sides felt they had the full support of Ellen White, and particularly of the book *Great Controversy*.

Second only to the revelation of God's character given through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ, I suspect the content of the *Great Controversy* is the greatest gift of God to His people in our age. But I question all such efforts to use that volume to nail down precise points and specifications of final events.

Do I doubt the book? Not at all. But there are limits as to what God could specify. It's an old idea that for every mile of road there are two miles of ditch. To describe final events, however, I think the picture would need to include pot holes of sufficient magnitude to take out both the suspension and the gear box of anyone trying to navigate the route without the benefit of real-time, situation-specific guidance. No, such guidance will not contradict previous truth, but I don't think *Great Controversy* provides that level of detail.

That's my thought. Below is a short assemblage of far more authoritative advice.

The manner of Satan's attacks, unless the senses are sharpened to comprehend them, will be so deceiving, his manner of warfare so different, that there will not be a preparation of defense. {Ms37-1886}

The form of Satan's working will be changed as the circumstances change. He adjusts himself readily to circumstances, but his hatred of truth and righteousness will be peculiarly manifested near the close of time. {Ms75-1886}

Your soul is in peril. Should I specify the particular temptations, Satan would shift his operations and prepare some temptation you are not expecting. {Lt38-1894}

If [errors] of this nature are to be so eagerly grasped, you will have plenty of them, varied in some respects, yet such as you could treat with as much confidence. I am so sorry, so sorry. {Lt68-1894}

Satan has thousands of satanic battles to open upon the soldiers of Jesus Christ; we will not undertake the task of enumerating them. {Lt103-1894}

The question is asked often, How about the time of trouble? I answer, Wait until you get to it; for if I should try to tell you, you would not understand anything

about it. {Ms174-1901}

As often as [Satan's] position has been seen in its true light, he has changed to some other position. {Ms1-1902}

In the future, Satan's superstitions will assume new forms. False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. {Lt238-1903}

If [false teachers] do not succeed, because their way becomes hedged by warnings from God, they will change somewhat the features of their work, and the representations they have made, and bring out their plans again under a false showing. {Ms94-1903}

I had matter written out to meet this issue, but I had given instruction to my helpers to hold these documents until future developments. I was to let these men take the aggressive. Had I outlined their future course, they would have denied any such intentions. {Lt328-1906}

When waking out of sleep, [shortly before her death, Ellen White] called the nurse to her side and said, "I want to tell you. I hate sin (repeated three times). I am charged to tell our people, that some do not realize, that the devil has device after device, and he carries them out in ways that they do not expect. Satan's agencies will invent ways to make sinners out of saints.

"I tell you now, that when I am laid to rest, great changes will take place.

"I do not know especially what changes will take place; but they should watch every conceivable sin that Satan will try to immortalize." {Ms1-1915}