Adventist Futury III

Lessons of the Past and Future #3

- "You shall not permit a sorceress to live." —Exodus 22:18
- "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."

—Leviticus 19:31

 "And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits... I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people."

—Leviticus 20:6

" "There shall not be found among you anyone who... practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead."

—Deuteronomy 18:10–11

 "His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his thoughts perish.

—Psalms 146:4

* "For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing,... their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun."

—Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

-Ecclesiastes 9:10

* "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.... For David did not ascend into the heavens."

-Acts 2:29, 34

* "He said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up. Then His disciples said, 'Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.' However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.'"

—John 11:11–14

 "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

-2 Corinthians 11:14

 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons." —1 Timothy 4:1

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders."

-2 Thessalonians 2:9

- Hydesville, New York
- March 31, 1848



The Fox sisters



"Rappings"

 Most rapidly growing "religious" movement in the United States by the mid-1850s



SP DEVOTE INTERCOURSE.

PARTRIDOE AND BRITTAN. ARS FER ANNUM IN ADVANCE; SINGLE COPIES, FIVE CENTS.

«VOL. II.-NO. 6.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1853.

WHOLE NO. 58

Che Principles of Mature.

SPIRITUALITY AND INSANITY. BY D.S. J. S. STURARAN

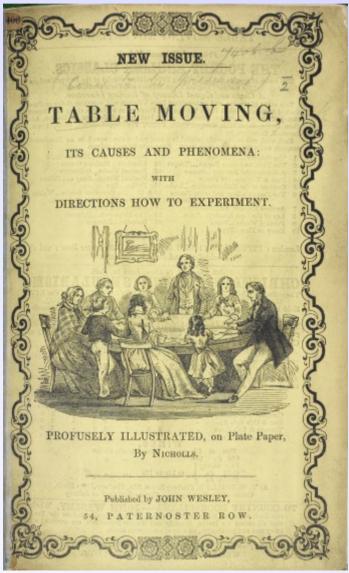
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labors to payments their mental excitement in very possible means, and to rease the imagination to the highest pitch of energy, while his wild declamation silvaces produces spectral chargens, while the paralyzed sensors and

A THOUGHT FOR ATHEISTS As he who demonstrates, to his own consciousness, the exintence of a God, demonstrates or for existence of a God in shouldes sungingy scores, looks also as if beloiding gods lags forkly descentions second take perceptions of another, and angels coming down in the clearly, and thus, with ron- by any attempt to image the priorities and preserved God. values energy, renew that withness at surgestion which Yet as water, had it scenarios ind I know not but it has

pecies, the contaction of broken bones, etc., ste., are the of its re-creation, to develop each its addets of vital result solely of unconscious " principles," or undesigning and eccountees, higher and higher to grade, this would only in menselide * laws of Nature ** For, if either of these opera- crease my conception of my own indenses, and of the low and mean. He paints the vast parsonant of hearen and hell, southy, but only puts forth a fried support of Astrody, and taken and fried support of God ; for I means had the vasity to support ave performed without an intelligence or will, then has ensu that man, that vibret compact of all surthly things, if still the arefler intelligence, will, nor affections, nor does even ideality must intelligent, had ever the right to enclaim, "See Gol exist, and curvations, our accountions, and every thing we im- for me, and all things for my me ?" Bouides this, the point model have more conservations of the enterior dimensional lights, are but idealities, nonexistives - archings." But we have "suggested by " Plate," and sensed by prologists in general





Moses Hull



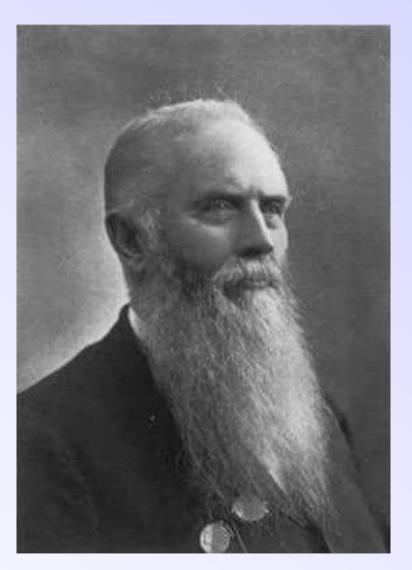
John Harvey Kellogg, M.D.



Ella Eaton Kellogg



Abram Herbert Lewis, D.D., LL.D.



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky



The Alpha

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger."

The Alpha

"I am instructed to speak plainly. 'Meet it,' is the word spoken to me. 'Meet it firmly, and without delay.' But it is not to be met by our taking our working forces from the field to investigate doctrines and points of difference. We have no such investigation to make. In the book *Living Temple* there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies."

The Alpha

"I recognized the very sentiments against which I had been bidden to speak in warning during the early days of my public labors.... *Living Temple* contains the alpha of these theories.... I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God. The statements made in *Living Temple* in regard to this point are incorrect."

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"The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given."

"I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people."

-Selected Messages, Book One, 197, 200, 203

The Relationship

- Opposites—alpha at one end of the alphabet, omega at the other
- Progression—alpha is the beginning, omega is the full development
- Like an acorn and an oak tree
- "Living Temple contains the alpha of a train of heresies."

-Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, 315

Most obvious problem was pantheism, the belief that God is not a specific "person," but some sort of allpervading non-entity.

The heavenly sanctuary became "wherever God is."

But there were also clear indications of direct supernatural involvement:

"When you wrote that book you were not under the inspiration of God. There was by your side the one who inspired Adam to look at God in a false light.

"The developments of these last days will soon become decided. When these spiritualistic deceptions are revealed to be what they really are—the secret workings of evil spirits—those who have acted a part in them will become as men who have lost their minds....

"As I am shown special things of Satan's science, and how he deceived the holy angels, I am afraid of the men who have entered into the study of the science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven. How I have longed to be where I should not be compelled to see the same science practiced on this earth....

"When [people] accept the bait, it seems impossible to break the spell that Satan casts over them, because the enemy works out the science of deception as he worked it out in the heavenly courts.

"If permitted, the evil angels will work the minds of men until they have no mind or will of their own. They are led as the angels cast out from heaven were led....

"Let the world go into spiritualism, into theosophy, into pantheism, if they choose. We are to have nothing to do with this deceptive branch of Satan's work."

-Battle Creek Letters, 109

What was this "science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven"?

"Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide."

—Patriarchs and Prophets, 37

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Pantheism, Theosophy, and the mysticism that comes under a dozen or more names today, all promote the concept of a "Divinity Within."

Spiritual progress is thought to be a matter of developing the goodness within ourselves, rather than seeking the righteousness of Christ.

Once this "bait" is taken, there is no reason to listen to any outside source that conflicts with our internal "divinity."

No need for the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy.

"Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that 'men are unfallen demigods;' that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin."

-Patriarchs and Prophets, 688

"The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true...."

The true what?

"The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true medical missionary work, a work that has the great Physician to dictate and preside in all it comprehends."

-Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, 1710

"God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will...."

Will what?

"God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ."

The Omega

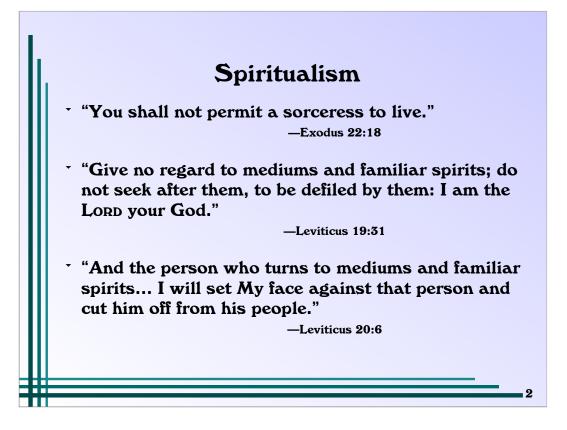
What will it be? What will the oak tree look like?

Only time will tell for sure, but we've been told that there is a "warning that God has given."

Let's not fail to "heed" it.



...a whole new word. The idea is to focus on lessons from the past that are good for the future.

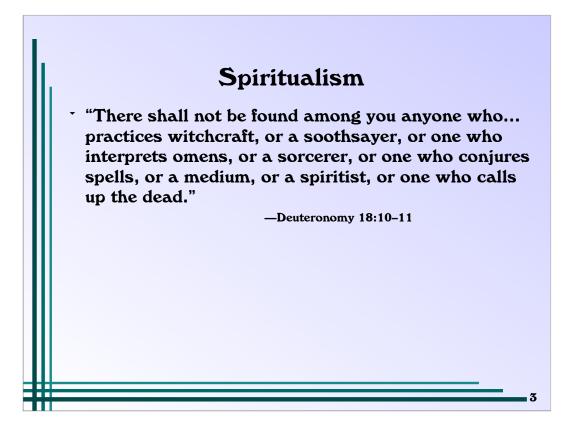


Here's another important topic to keep in mind— Spiritualism.

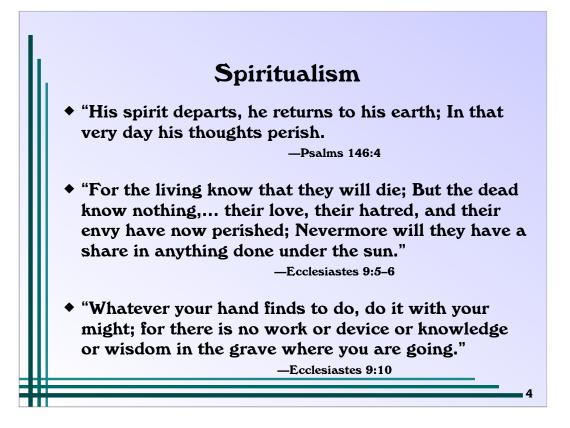
This is the story of the devil's attack, and the Lord's defense of His church. The foundational defense, of course, is Scripture:

Here are just a few of the more important verses that tell us there is an issue here:

CLICK for three items:

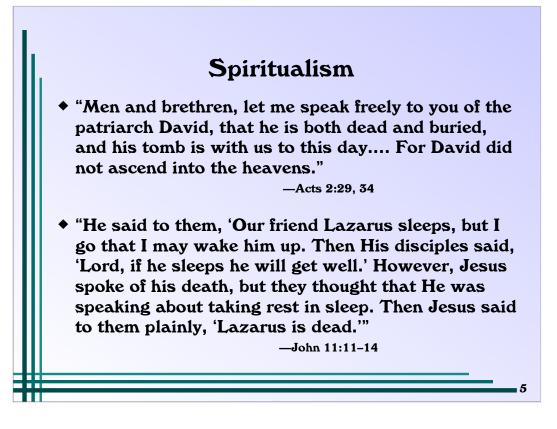


- If God tells us to stay away from something, that really ought t be enough to keep us away from it.
- But God usually goes beyond "just because I said so," and gives us at least a partial explanation of the situation. In other words, God wants us to understand things, to know the reasons for what He asks. It's sort of like the difference between having an employee who just does everything he's told to do, and having an employee who knows what the boss is trying to get done, understands how to do it, and just sort of naturally works along with him.



So here are some of the verses that help explain the background situation:

CLICK for three items:

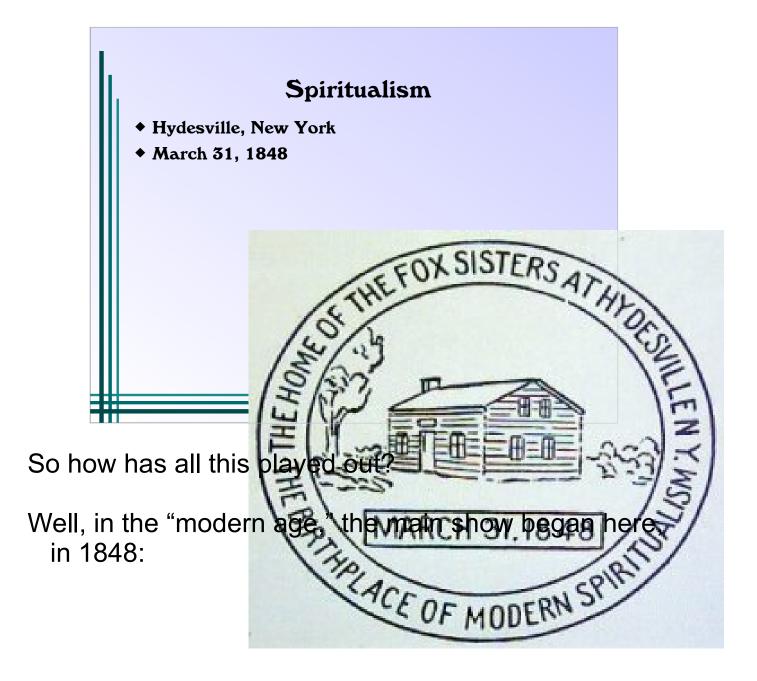


- The idea is simple, really. When someone dies, they are asleep. They don't know anything until the resurrection.
- So why is that important? If we can shift for a moment to a military analogy, it can be simply explained as the preservation of a secure command and control structure.
- In any war, the best thing a general can ask for is the opportunity to send orders to the enemy forces, and have them think they come from their own commanders. That's what spiritualism is: the devil's channel for counterfeit communications. If God's people listen to the wrong orders, the war is pretty much lost.



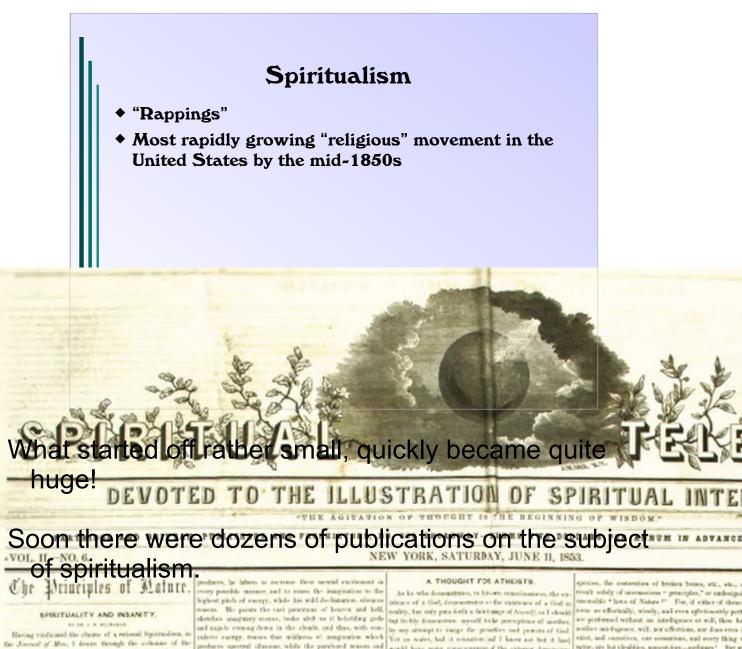
And then, of course, there are the verses that are nothing but a flat-out warning.

CLICK for three items:



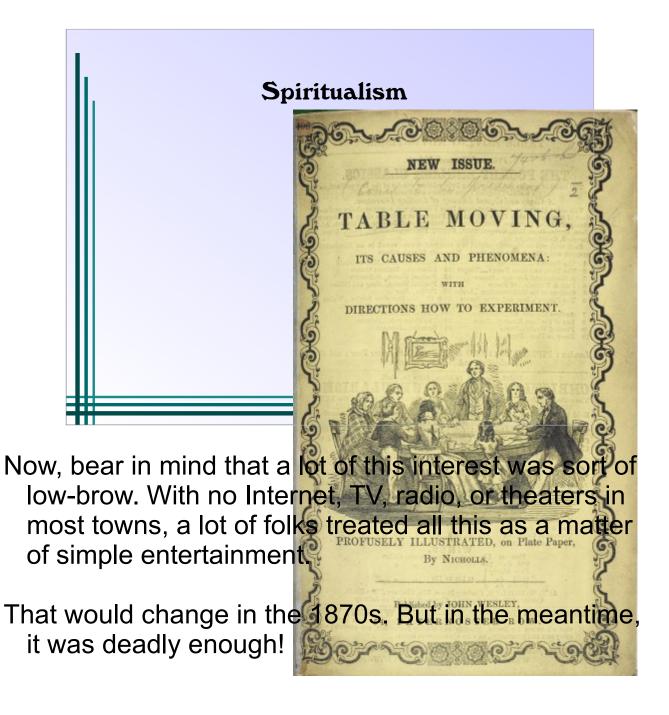


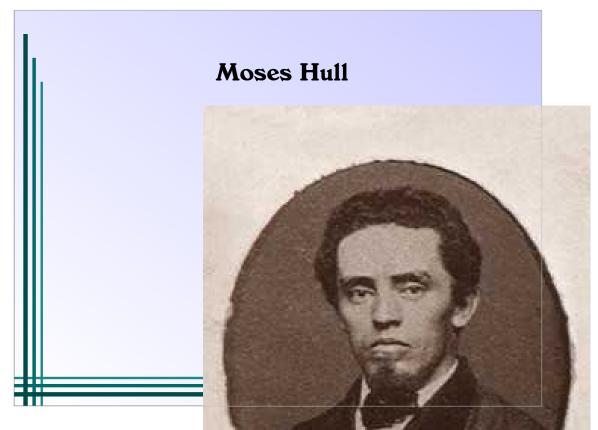
- So how has all this played out?
- Well, in the "modern age," the main show began here, in 1848:



Having vindicated the choice of a retional Spiritualieta, inthe Journal of Men, I deare through the columns of the

produces spectral through while the paralyzed reasons and would have some concentration of the enterior dimensional lights, are buildedilies, nonestation-andrings





Early 1860s—powerful evangelist

Michigan Tent with John Loughborough

At Charlotte—debate with Methodist minister

Ionia & Lowell—debate with spiritualists

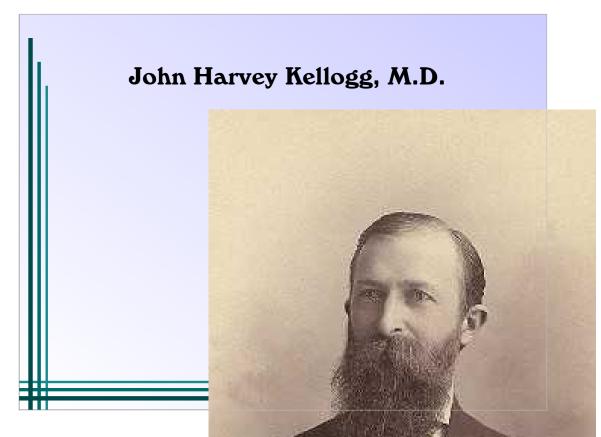
At Lowell—S.P. Leland—became Christian

Pride at Paw Paw—"bring on your devils"

Alone against Jaimeson and circle of mediums

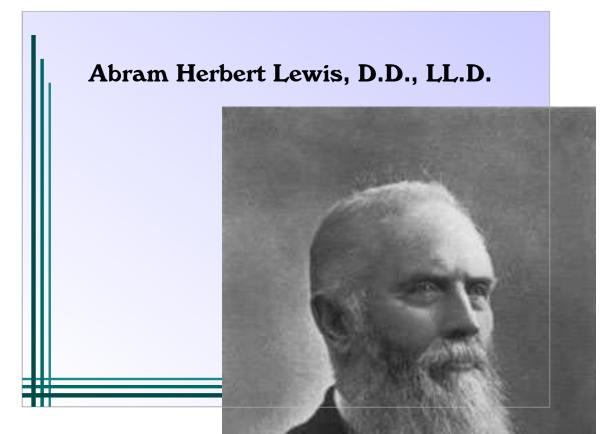
Second speech—tongue thick as hand, arguments foolishness; ready to preach Spiritualism

Jaimeson—"You're mesmerized. You don't know what you're doing. You'd better go home and think "

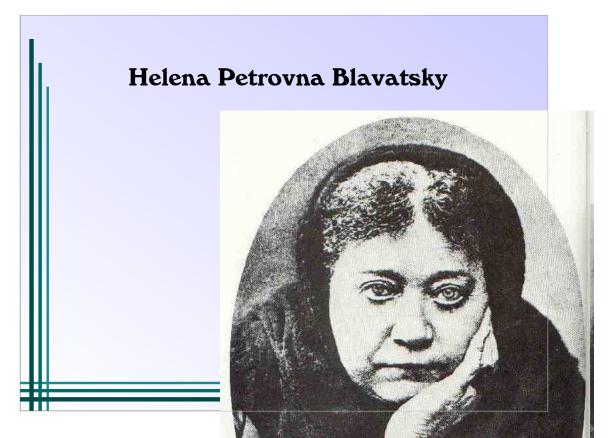


- The next time Spiritualism had a major impact on the Seventh-day Adventist church was in the early 1900s.
- Dr. Kellogg was the medical director of the world famous Battle Creek Sanitarium. Very talented, but unfortunately he ran into trouble by way of marriage.

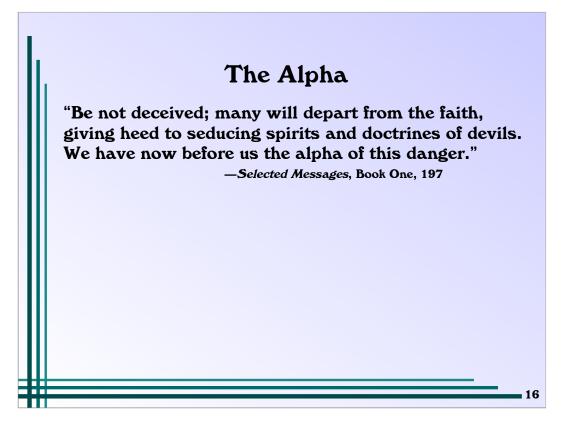
Ella Eaton Kellogg Married Ella Eaton in 1879-talented, educated, gracious. Graduate from Alfred University (Bachelors, 1872) But she was a Seventh Day Baptist, and her major professor was this gentleman... Continued



- And because he was a family friend of Mrs. Kellogg, he became a frequent guest in the Kellogg home
- Chairman of Church History and Homiletics dept at Alfred University (SD Baptist)
- Testified against the Blair Sunday Law Bill before congress in 1889, along with A.T. Jones
- Ardent proponent of ecumenicism. Editor of the SDB Sabbath Recorder.
- Formerly a spiritualistic medium and, at the time, something of a pantheist. Seems like he was influenced by...



- Madame Blavatsky had visited America at the height of early spiritualism's popularity. But no one was interested in her more philosophical approach to Eastern mysticism.
- In America, at the time, spiritualism was often more of a (misguided) recreational activity—no T.V. back then.
- So Blavatsky spent several years in India studying at an ashram. Then she came back to the States. Finally finding enough interested people, she formed the Theosophical Society of America. That's sort of the Great-grandaddy of the New Age Spiritualism of more recent years.
- And she seems to have spread her influence to Dr. Kellogg.

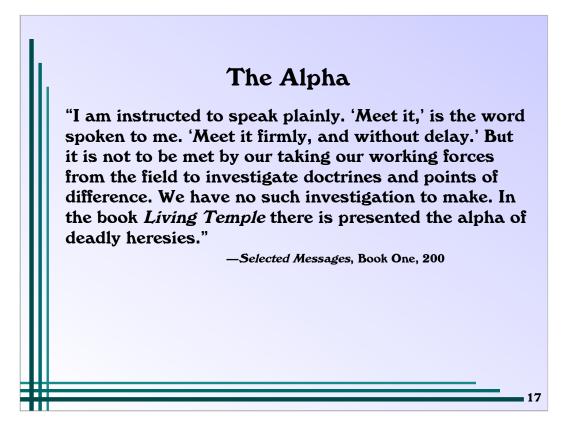


Kellogg drifted into pantheism, which led to problems with a book he wrote, entitled *The Living Temple*.

In this context, EGW spoke of the "alpha and omega of apostasy"

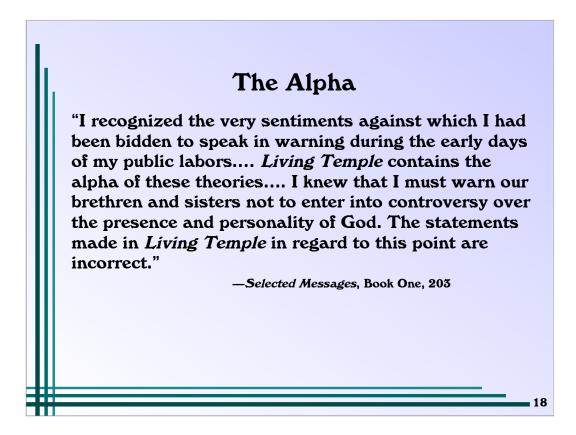
Ominous

CLICK FOR QUOTE

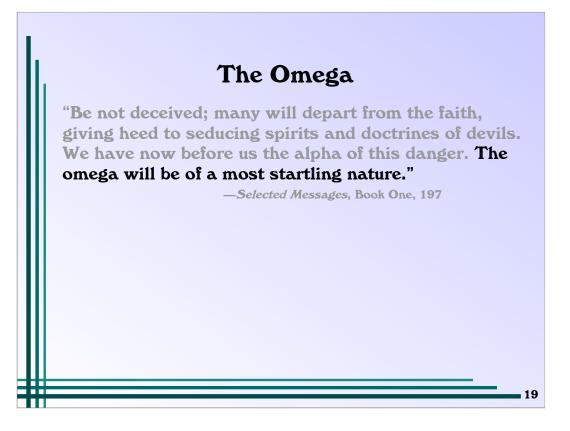


The "alpha" was contained in the Living Temple.

This quotation comes from the famous "Iceberg vision." (More on that in another session.)



One last quote.



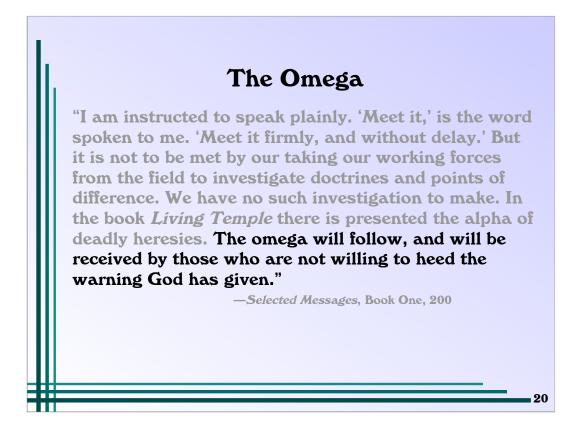
OK, that was the alpha. So what? It's history, as they say.

We want to know about the omega.

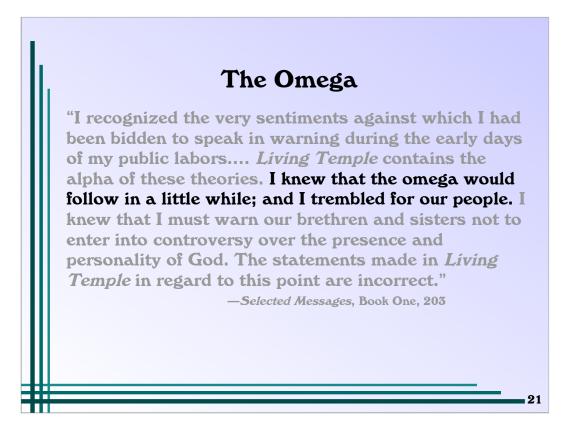
But there's not all that much to know...

CLICK FOR QUOTE

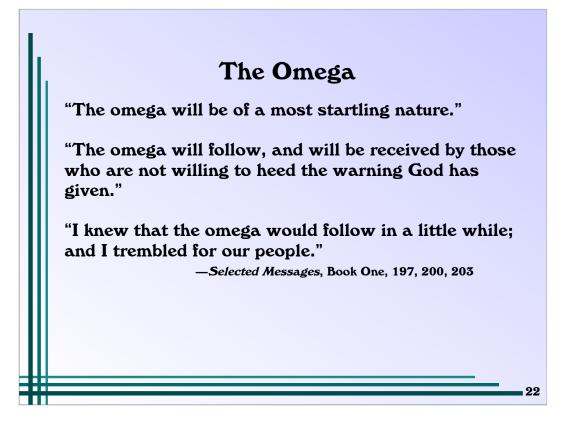
Notice that this comes right after what we just read about the alpha.



Here's another one.



And this one comes in the middle of another of our quotations.

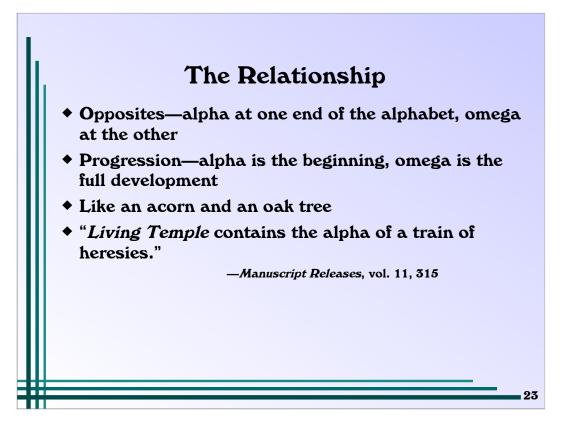


Here are all three. And that's about all Ellen White said directly about the omega

Pretty scary, but not much info

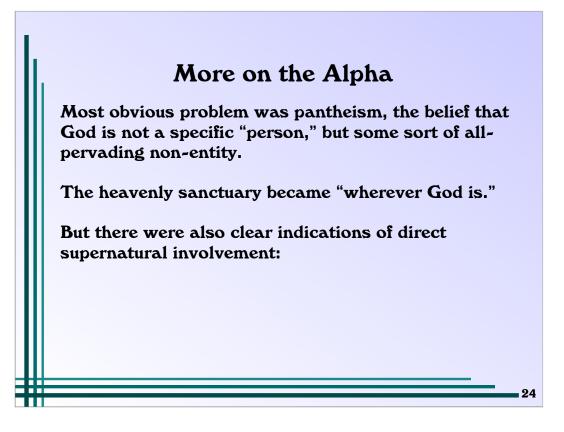
Fortunately there is another way to understand the omega

And that would be...



CLICK FOR EACH ITEM

- Quite a number of people have thought that the alpha and omega were logical opposites. But now that we can search the Spirit of Prophecy on a computer, that just doesn't work. A "train" doesn't have an opposite.
- Here are two more quotations from Ellen White that show how she used the terms.
- "Christ is the Alpha, the first link, and the Omega, the last link, of the gospel chain, which is welded in Revelation."—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, 171
- "We have a Bible full of the most precious truth. It contains the alpha and omega of knowledge." —*Testimonies*, vol. 8, 299



Since there isn't all that much direct information about the omega, we want to learn more about the alpha...

Unfortunately, it's not good. Pretty ominous, in fact.

CLICK FOR EACH ITEM

More on the Alpha

"When you wrote that book you were not under the inspiration of God. There was by your side the one who inspired Adam to look at God in a false light.

"The developments of these last days will soon become decided. When these spiritualistic deceptions are revealed to be what they really are—the secret workings of evil spirits—those who have acted a part in them will become as men who have lost their minds....

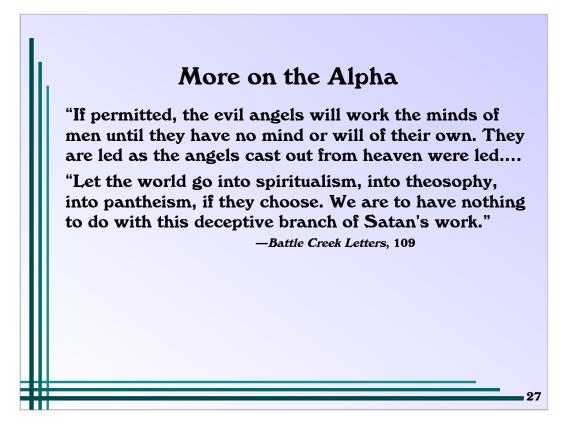
25

More on the Alpha

"As I am shown special things of Satan's science, and how he deceived the holy angels, I am afraid of the men who have entered into the study of the science that Satan carried into the warfare in heaven. How I have longed to be where I should not be compelled to see the same science practiced on this earth....

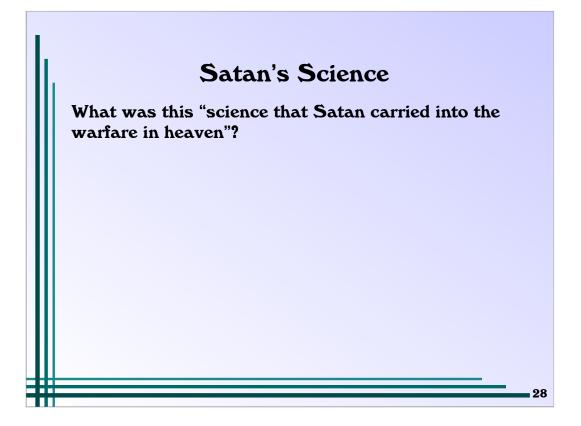
"When [people] accept the bait, it seems impossible to break the spell that Satan casts over them, because the enemy works out the science of deception as he worked it out in the heavenly courts.

26



- "Theosophy," remember, was Madame Blavatsky's contribution to the world.
- Notice the list—"spiritualism, theosophy, pantheism" but then she calls it "this (singular) deceptive brance of Satan's work."
- OK. Spiritualism is bad. Stay away from Ouija boards and seances. We already knew that.

But...



Satan's Science

"Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide."

-Patriarchs and Prophets, 37

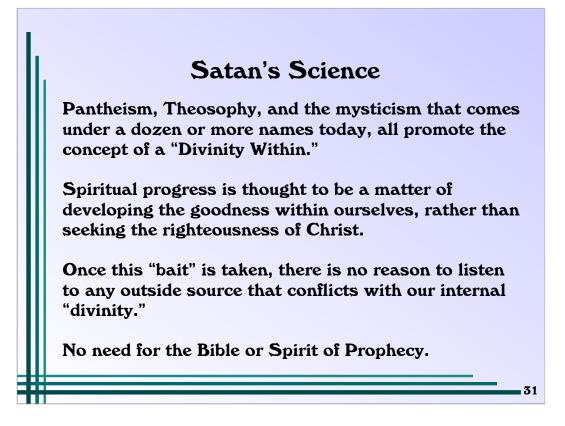
29

Satan's Science

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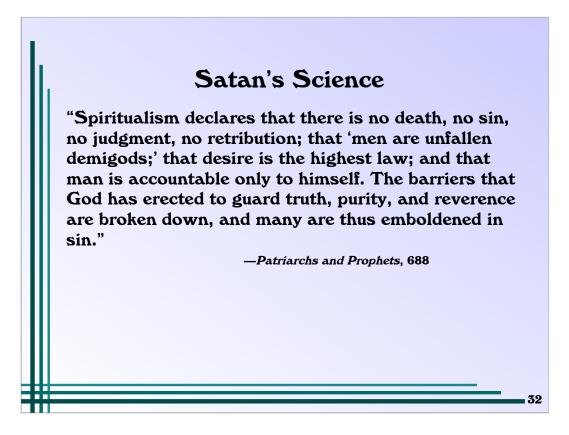
—Patriarchs and Prophets, 37

30



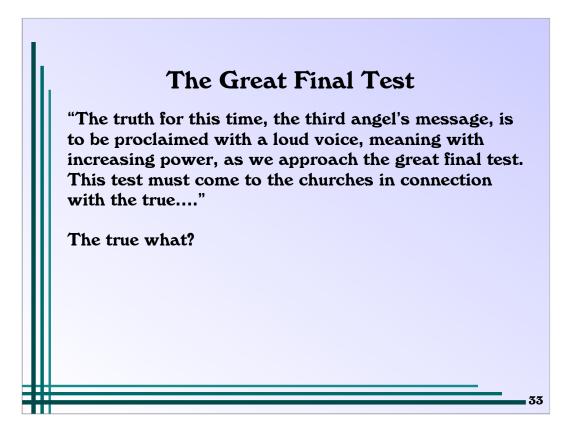
CLICK for four items:

But don't we do the same thing—to a degree—every time we ignore Scripture or Inspiration? Or just decide that we're smart enough to figure life out for ourselves?



And it's still true.

Introduce and play video clips

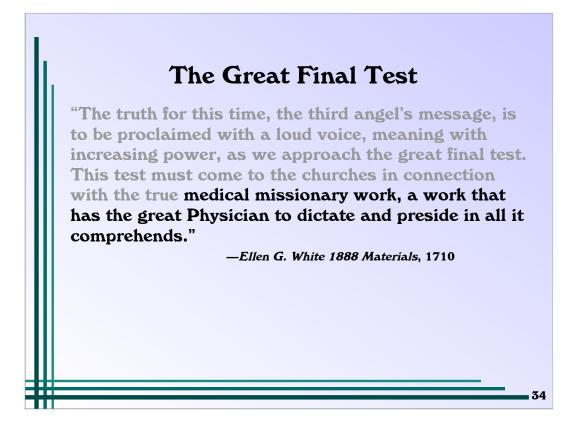


Here's a jump.

- I suspect it's a valid jump—omega at the end of time: Great Final Test—seems like they should go together.
- I think they go together, but this particular statement isn't in the same immediate context as the others. This one was written in 1900, before there had been much agitation on pantheism
- But, I guess it wouldn't be the first time God brought up an item that was still in the future, would it?

Anyway...

CLICK FOR ITEM



- Not the true Sabbath, this time. Not that the Sabbath won't be involved at the end of time.
- But here's a question—what "churches" is this talking about. Catholic churches? Baptist, Methodist, Mormon churches? Adventist churches?

But how can medical missionary work be a test?

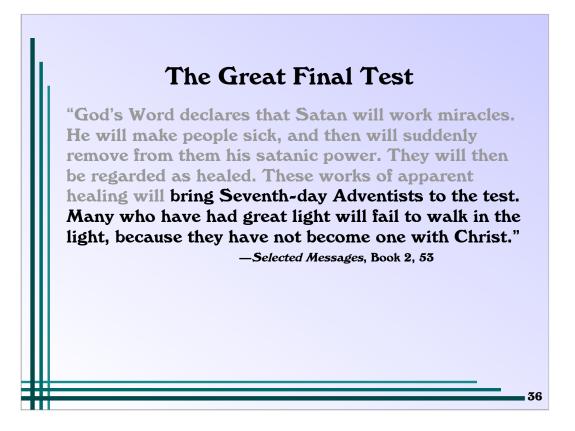
Let's look at another statement. If these two go together, this next one should help explain the question.

The Great Final Test

"God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will...."

Will what?

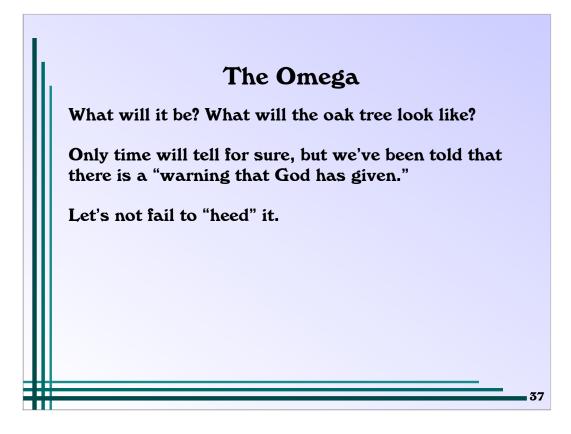
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Here's a test—this one definitely for Adventists.

I don't claim to have all the pieces of this puzzle, but just stop for a minute and remember that spiritualism is at it's most influential when it promises to solve our problems, especially *health* problems. That connection has been strong for a long, long time.

Ever hear of a "witch doctor"?



Click for two items