

A golden crown of roses is positioned at the top left, and a crown of thorns is at the bottom right. A dark, textured, triangular shape is placed between them, containing text. The background is white with some dark splatters.

Mock-up Only!
Use real artwork

TACTICS

"I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH"
Lucifer's Rebellion and Christ's Response

DAVE FIEDLER

Now I know where this evil work originates: in every instance almost I have been able to trace it to one place.¹² Letters and statements are continually going out calculated to arouse suspicion and bring unbelief and rejection. This work is going on all the time, and is reaching out to the ends of the earth.¹³

Daniells wanted something done, had wanted it for months, but Ellen White urged discretion in dealing with the Doctor. She did more than that, of course, and she wasn't blind to what was going on. In fact, she was keeping a close eye on many details of the devil's effort.

When the "Battle Creek Schools" issue started heating up again, Elder Daniells was getting desperate:

I have good reason to believe [these "Battle Creek schools"] are designed for a great drag-net with which to catch our young people. The thing is already beginning to work, and unless something decided is done to counteract the movement, we shall lose hundreds of the very flower of our young people....

I believe that our whole denomination must be more clearly and fully informed of this dangerous movement at Battle Creek. The Lord has given you [Ellen White] volumes of instruction. What has come to me has informed and aroused me regarding the crisis we are in. I feel sure that if our brethren and sisters knew the facts one half as fully as they have been revealed to you, they would stand as one man against this evil thing. But as it is at present, thousands know but little about it. We say nothing, or speak with whispered breath; and all the while the enemy is at work gaining sympathy, influence, and souls.

I confess to you that this is the greatest sorrow of my life. I have no desire to make war on Dr. Kellogg. I do not care what fame he gets, nor how many worldly people go to Battle Creek; but it breaks my heart to see our young people go there, to be poisoned against the ministry that brought their parents into the truth, and against the message for which their parents have stood and sacrificed so loyally. No one need say that they are not thus influenced. I know better. When a father tells me that his son has become an infidel at Battle Creek, and declines to recommend him to his Conference for an honorable medical position, I know there is more than imagination on my part regarding the character of the influence there.

I seriously fear that for some months we have been losing ground in this controversy. While we have been silent, they have been aggressive; their efforts have not been open and frank. They are moving under cover, and are gaining ground....

They press their warfare untiringly in all directions. Everywhere we go we run onto it. Now and then some one sends us letters or copies of letters sent out from Battle Creek, which are absolutely untrue, and altogether deceiving and undermining in their character. And from all sources we learn of our young people going there.

These things force the issue upon us. The Spirit of Prophecy has warned our young people not to go to Battle Creek. Dr. Kellogg has determined that they shall go there, and they are going. For one, I feel that this denomination ought to rise up in the name of God, and stop this thing.¹⁴

Elder Daniells was feeling the stress. The same day he wrote to Ellen White, he also wrote a long letter on the same topic to Willie. And then another long

12. This "one place" was clearly Battle Creek, or the Sanitarium, or Dr. Kellogg, depending on how specific one chose to be.

13. A.G. Daniells, Letter to W.C. White, October 3, 1905; Title 18923

14. A.G. Daniells, Letter to Ellen White, October 11, 1905; Title 18924

letter the next day. Ellen White read his letter to her on the twenty-second of October. The next morning she wrote:

I have not had a night of sleep, but a night of much prayer. The cause of God is in peril as Dr. Kellogg and those who are deceived with him are prompted by the same spirit which led to rebellion in the heavenly courts and is very active now in them, working out the plans of the fallen foe. I have special instruction what I shall do, and the Lord has given me light and strength to do this very work.¹⁵

And yet—probably to Elder Daniells’ dismay—that “very work” did not yet include confronting Kellogg and his allies directly. Instead, Ellen White wrote a letter to “Brethren Daniells and Prescott and their associates” that said:

I have light from the Lord that at this time we must act with great caution; for the enemy is watching our every movement. At times I have been ready to take steps that would be called aggressive.... I would read over the letters containing warning and caution that I have had from the Lord for several in Battle Creek. At times I have felt that I must print all the warnings given me for Dr. Kellogg.... But I have not yet done this because I have been impressed to wait. If I should make a strong move in this direction, the battle would be on. Those who are opposing the light God has given would feel that they had been attacked and would claim that they were compelled to make moves that otherwise they would not have made. And it would take much of our time to meet the issue.

Let us hold on patiently for a little while, and let the elements break forth that are struggling into life. Let not too many articles be published in the *Review and Herald* that are of a character to stir up strife....

Hold it! What kind of a war is this? The enemy is killing us; our church members don't even know what's going on! And we're supposed to wait?

Welcome to the *polemos*. There’s a reason for reading *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy*. And there was a good reason for waiting:

Some who have been deceived by men in responsible places will repent and be converted. And in all our dealings with them, we must remember that none of those who are in the depth of Satan’s snare know that they are there.¹⁶

But how long do you wait? God didn’t wait forever before He dealt with Lucifer. There’s obviously a time to act... but when is it?

As any cook, artisan, or agriculturist knows, there is more than one way to measure time. Sometimes the exact minutes or seconds, days, weeks, or months can’t be specified; in one sense, those details don’t even matter. What does matter is the progress of a particular process. “Bake until golden brown,” “sand until smooth,” and “let ripen till first frost” all manage to describe a time period without any mention of time measurement. It’s all done by reference to some condition or event.

And that’s what the Lord instructed Ellen White to watch for, a specific event. The best way to understand the tactics here is to jump ahead a few

15. E.G. White, “Diary,” October 23, 1905; Manuscript 177, 1905

16. E.G. White, Letter to Brethren Daniells and Prescott and their associates, October 30, 1905; Letter 311, 1905

months and read a description of how it all played out. For whatever reason, Ellen White seems to have written the story in only four letters, and all four went to Daniel and Loretta Kress, a husband and wife physician team then in Australia. What follows here is a cut-and-paste account drawn from those four letters.

Before the development of recent events, the course that would be pursued by Dr. Kellogg and his associates was plainly outlined before me. He with others planned how they might gain the sympathies of the people. They would seek to give the impression that they believed all points of our faith and had confidence in the testimonies. Thus many would be deceived and would take their stand with those who had departed from the faith.¹⁷

Friends of the Doctor were visiting our churches, acting as spies to work up a sentiment favorable to his interests. They claimed that he was in perfect harmony with the message as we believe it and that he believed the testimonies. A work of deception was being carried on. Many of our people were becoming confused.¹⁸

Long ago, some thought that the time had come when we must take decided action to break the spell¹⁹ [but] in the visions of the night, I was in an assembly of the physicians, and I saw the work that was being planned. Then I said to my son, "I must get everything in readiness; for soon we shall see the necessity of having the armor on, ready for action. In that meeting many things were said which I can and must meet. I must now work." And we did work.²⁰

We had to move, and yet we had to wait until those in error thought they could carry things against the ministers and churches. I was shown their course of action and had everything in readiness for such a movement and labored to defeat their deep-laid plot.²¹

I was to let these men take the aggressive. Had I outlined their future course, they would have denied any such intentions, but I saw that a time would come when they would take a firm position against the testimonies. This was to be the signal for decided action.²²

And thus the matter worked out. When the leaders in Battle Creek made an open raid on the testimonies, then I said, Brethren, we now face the issue. "Meet it" with all the strength and power of God. Then the pitchers were broken, and the light shone forth in clear rays. Some who before had been bewildered now saw clearly and took their position on the right side. Those who had anticipated a sweeping victory met with defeat.²³

After this, some one said that A.T. Jones had lifted the lid too soon and spoiled their game. Had they waited a longer time before taking their pronounced position, they hoped to have many churches on their side.²⁴

Ellen White used some strong terms in describing this episode: "spies," "work of deception," and "deep-laid plot" all emphasize that this was not business as usual, this was deliberate but covert warfare right in the church. "Con-

17. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, October 23, 1906; Letter 328, 1906

18. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, July 27, 1906; Letter 306, 1906

19. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, July 27, 1906; Letter 306, 1906

20. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, January 3, 1906; Letter 14, 1906

21. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, August 1, 1906; Letter 258, 1906

22. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, October 23, 1906; Letter 328, 1906

23. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, October 23, 1906; Letter 328, 1906

24. E.G. White, Letter to Brother and Sister D.H. Kress, August 1, 1906; Letter 258, 1906

spiracy theories” tend to carry a bad taste in polite society, and there is no doubt that some pretty wacky ideas have made the rounds, but in a simpler, more believable vein, its important that we not be fatally gullible. As to the “spy” aspect, there’s a colorful little incident that shows up in the correspondence of the day. One side of the story comes from a letter written by Dr. Kellogg to Elder George Butler:

Dr. Stewart has just returned from the West where he has had an opportunity to see all of our medical people and to visit all our institutions, and has also met many of the conference people. He visited, among other places, the San Jose campground, met Brother W.C. White, had several talks with him; also had an opportunity to meet Sister White and talk with her. They were very nice to him. Sister White urged him very strongly to take charge of the Loma Linda Sanitarium.²⁵

It’s a simple account, though one might wonder how strong that urging really was after reading Ellen White’s version of the event:

On my way from San Jose to St. Helena, I met Dr. Stewart from the Battle Creek Sanitarium and had some conversation with him. He is one of Dr. Kellogg’s lieutenants, and I hope that you will not be deceived by any flattering statements that may be made. I know that Dr. Kellogg is doing a work which is misleading. I am writing now to put you on guard. Dr. Kellogg is sending men all around to encourage those whom they visit to take sides. Do not give the least credence to their words or plans.²⁶

In time of war, we should remember that not every enemy soldier will be wearing an enemy uniform.

Time No Longer

Though Dr. Kellogg certainly knew he was working contrary to Ellen White’s expressed counsel when he set up the “Battle Creek Schools,” we might well ponder whether or not he had any idea how decisive his choice to directly attack the Lord’s authorized channel of instruction would be. A barrier was broken in that act, and no matter how much Ellen White might have wished otherwise, the awaited signal had come, and she knew what she had to do.

Appropriate documents were mailed to the appropriate people, and arrangements made for the public reading of certain Testimonies in the Battle Creek Tabernacle on Friday night, December 15, 1905. George Amadon—a friend and co-worker of Ellen White’s since the early 1850s—wrote to tell her the story:

At 2:30 [Sabbath afternoon] a dense congregation, as many as were out [for the church service] in the morning, came together and listened to the Testimony for the Battle Creek Church. It was a solemn time. Elders Irwin and Daniells read without interspersing any remarks. It was very manifestly accepted by the extremely large audience, judging from the

25. J.H. Kellogg, Letter to G.I. Butler, July 24, 1905; Michigan State University Archives, Collection 13, Box 2, Folder 10

26. E.C. White, Letter to Brother and Sister J.A. Burden, July 10, 1905; Letter 197, 1905

many “Amens” and other responses. At the close, Elder Daniells spoke a little while with great clearness and power.

This is certainly one of the most important meetings held in Battle Creek for years. The power of God’s Spirit was present.²⁷

By that Sabbath evening, Elder Daniells could report that “Nearly all the members of the [Church] Board took an open firm stand on the side of the Testimonies, and pledged to do all they could to carry out the instruction given.”²⁸

That was the Church Board, though, not the Sanitarium leadership. Trouble was brewing, but not without the Lord noticing. A week later, the clash of ideas, of principles, of personal credibility—the *polemos* of Battle Creek—would come to a head.

Then there was the council....

In the first chapter of this book a remarkable Ellen White statement was quoted. It described the conflict in heaven, but it just as truthfully applies to the conflict that was looming before the General Conference president. It’s worth noting that the document in which it appears is titled “A Message to A.T. Jones and Others in Battle Creek.” The comment concerning Lucifer’s rebellion was in fact made by way of explanation of the events in Battle Creek. Here’s what it said: “Then there was the council in heaven—warfare, it is called.”²⁹

The Lord’s tactics had not changed. To stand in opposition to lies, conspiracies, and character assassination required but one response: truth must be revealed. But to do so *effectively*, the error must be allowed to reveal its own true features first. Though thousands might be deceived during that delay, all who retained their faith—or were at least willing that it be revived at the last moment by the Lord’s revelation—would be saved. Now, as then, salvation comes to the soul through faith in Christ, and “whatever is not from faith is sin.”³⁰

27. G.W. Amadon, Letter to W.C. White, December 16, 1905; Title 18146

28. A.G. Daniells, Letter to W.C. White, December 17, 1905; Title 18935

29. This statement was previously quoted on page 27 note 34.

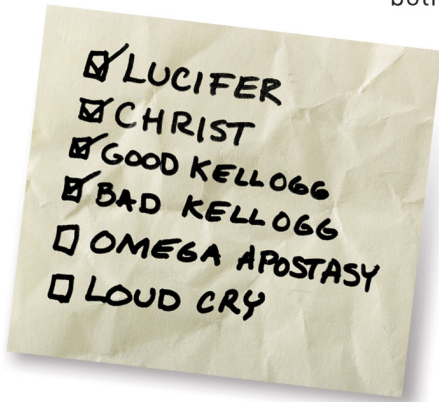
30. Romans 14:23

MAPPING OUT THE METHODS OF LUCIFER'S REBELLION AND CHRIST'S RESPONSE

Soldiers who go to battle without knowing how the enemy fights, don't win wars, and too often end up as casualties. It's called the element of surprise, and Satan has that strategy down to a science. But he's basically used up his playbook, which means that if we understand his past attacks, and God's equally strategic, laser-focused response, there's no risk of being caught catastrophically off-guard.

The original rebellion in heaven and the life of Christ set the principles and tactics for everything of any real importance that has followed in the great controversy. In the 1890s and 1900s, the inspiring and disturbing career of one man provided insight into both the beginning of the loud cry and the

alpha of apostasy. The completion of the controversy hangs on those two movements, and all real advance awaits the "preparation of a people." Till then, God's army will march in place... march in place... march in place....



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave Fiedler lives with his wife, Clarissa, in British Columbia, and enjoys sharing his life-long study of Adventist history and the invaluable instruction of the Spirit of Prophecy wherever he is invited.

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