M05A1 Revelation: Word of God, Part 3

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Initially, the Bible was written by men from among God’s people of Israel and Judah, inspired by God. After the cross the remainder of the 66 books of the Bible were written by believers contemporary to Jesus. Other people write religious books claimed by some to be inspired and equal to the Bible. Some of these seem to be inspired by the devil. I occasionally hear claims for dubious sources on twitter.

I would imagine there might be more visibility to demon inspired works claiming inspiration from God in India than in America. The most prominent Left Behind series of books by Tim LaHaye I’d consider loosely related to demon inspiration have been popular in America. It seems a cruel god who would rapture pilots in the middle of a flight. If I understand correctly, which I admit to being only lightly knowledgeable, Left Behind is related to a premenialistic, futurist understanding of Revelations. Jesuit Francisco Ribera, a contemporary of Luther I believe, proposed futurism to exempt the pope or papacy from being identified as the antichrist. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Ribera>

The lecture/article points to the Theosophical society and Dhwaj Khul as publishing demon inspired writings. I’m unfamiliar with them. Apparently they contain sayings resembling scripture but we must judge from the whole book. Good can’t provide cover for evil. We aren’t to quote from demons. (Exodus 23:13, I Tim. 4:1) We must not lend in the slightest way any credence to false gods. “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (1 Corinthians 8:5-6)

Sages and philosophers might stumble upon some truths that match words of God in the Bible. We should remember though that errors always accompany men’s imagining, evil accompanies what little might be good. “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:14) “GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually". (Genesis. 6:5)

“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, … They are all gone aside, they are [all] together become filthy.” (Psalm 14:2-3) It is tempting to compromise with unbelievers, maybe even get them into our churches if we just wink here and there. I dare say we already wink with our nominal members. But truth mixed with error is 100% error. This compromise misrepresents God to others. Our imperfect lives subject to temptations of the world and misunderstandings already too much misrepresent God. He looks down and finds we “all together become filthy.” Compromise makes it difficult to see God and we already “see through a glass, darkly.” If we endeavor to remain steadfast to truths we shall someday see “face to face.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Addendum

Even books written by Christians about the Bible are written under human inspiration. They may help the reader to better understand scripture but they are not part of the canon. We as Seventh-day Adventists believe that God spoke with Ellen White, an early church founder. However, Ellen White viewed inspiration in harmony with the high view of inspiration held by the Protestant Reformers who taught that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the only infallible authority for faith and practice. One of the marked signs of the last days," She asserts that "human reasoning and the imaginings of the human heart" are "undermining the inspiration of the Word of God." As a result "that which should be received as granted, is surrounded with a cloud of mysticism. Nothing stands out in clear and distinct lines, upon rock bottom." (Selected Messages, 1:15. See also The Faith I Live By, p. 13.) <https://www.andrews.edu/~damsteeg/Inspir.html> This article concedes that even within our own church, some publishers muddy the waters about inspiration, leading to confusion and doubt.

Fundamental belief #1 for Seventh-day. Adventists: (<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1983/02/the-inspiration-and-authority-of-the-ellen-g.-white-writings> )

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.)

Fundamental belief #17

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.)

The ministry Magazine article sourced for these fundamental beliefs goes on to state many conclusions or implications regarding these fundamental beliefs. I quote only four of these.

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2. We do not believe that the writings of Ellen White are an addition to the canon of Sacred Scripture.

3. We do not believe that the writings of Ellen White function as the foundation and final authority of Christian faith as does Scripture.

4. We do not believe that the writings of Ellen White may be used as the basis of doctrine.

5. We do not believe that the study of the writings of Ellen White may be used to replace the study of Scripture.

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I present further quotes from Ellen White from <https://whiteestate.org/legacy/issues-scripegw-html/> .

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The Primacy of the Word

Relation of E. G. White Writings to the Bible Recognized in First Book: I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "last days"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. (A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White, p. 64 [1851]. Reprinted in Early Writings, p. 78.)

Not to Take the Place of the Word: The Lord desires you to study your Bibles. He has not given any additional light to take the place of His Word. This light is to bring confused minds to His Word, which, if eaten and digested, is as the lifeblood of the soul. Then good works will be seen as light shining in darkness. (Letter 130, 1901.)

Get Proofs From the Bible: In public labor do not make prominent, and quote that which Sister White has written, as authority to sustain your positions. To do this will not increase faith in the testimonies. Bring your evidences, clear and plain, from the Word of God. A [p. 30] "Thus saith the Lord" is the strongest testimony you can possibly present to the people. Let none be educated to look to Sister White, but to the mighty God, who gives instruction to Sister White. (Letter 11, 1894.)

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I share the understanding of SDA’s to point out that yes, we believe in visions during last days. Acts 2:17 quotes Joel 2:28 saying “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” But we also staunchly adhere to *sola scriptura*. We depend in Isaiah’s words in chapter 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

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