

Daniel 11:4–19.

“I have seen that the 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord, and that it should not be altered; that the figures were as He wanted them; that **His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures**, so that none could see it, until His hand was removed.” *Early Writings*, 74.

“I saw the people of God joyful in expectation, looking for their Lord. But God designed to prove them. **His hand covered a mistake in the reckoning of the prophetic periods**. Those who were looking for their Lord did not discover this mistake, and the most learned men who opposed the time also failed to see it. God designed that His people should meet with a disappointment. The time passed, and those who had looked with joyful expectation for their Saviour were sad and disheartened, while those who had not loved the appearing of Jesus, but embraced the message through fear, were pleased that He did not come at the time of expectation. Their profession had not affected the heart and purified the life. The passing of the time was well calculated to reveal such hearts. They were the first to turn and ridicule the sorrowful, disappointed ones who really loved the appearing of their Saviour. I saw the wisdom of God in proving His people and giving them a searching test to discover those who would shrink and turn back in the hour of trial.

“Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with sympathy and love upon those who had with sweet expectation longed to see Him whom their souls loved. Angels were hovering around them, to sustain them in the hour of their trial. Those who had neglected to receive the heavenly message were left in darkness, and God’s anger was kindled against them, because they would not receive the light which He had sent them from heaven. Those faithful, disappointed ones, who could not understand why their Lord did not come, were not left in darkness. Again they were led to their Bibles to search the prophetic periods. **The hand of the Lord was removed from the figures, and the mistake was explained**. They saw that **the prophetic periods reached to 1844, and that the same evidence which they had presented to show that the prophetic periods closed in 1843, proved that they would terminate in 1844**. Light from the Word of God shone upon their position, and they discovered a tarrying time—‘Though it [the vision] tarry, wait for it.’ In their love for Christ’s immediate coming, they had overlooked the tarrying of the vision, which was calculated to manifest the true waiting ones. **Again they had a point of time**. Yet I saw that many of them could not rise above their severe disappointment to possess that degree of zeal and energy which had marked their faith in 1843.” *Early Writings*, 235, 236.

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among **Seventh-day Adventists**, and that this reformation would consist in **giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization**. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to **the remnant church**, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for **the last fifty years** would be accounted as error. **A new organization would be established**. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. **Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement**. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their **dependence on human power**, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and **storm and tempest would sweep away the structure**.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 205.

## WORK

“Finally my son said to me, ‘Mother, you ought to read at least some parts of the book, that you may see whether they are in harmony with the light that God has given you.’ He sat down beside me, and together we read the preface, and most of the first chapter, and also paragraphs in other chapters. As we read, I recognized **the very sentiments against which I had been bidden to speak in warning during the early days of my public labors. When I first left the State of Maine, it was to go through Vermont and Massachusetts, to bear a testimony against these sentiments**. *Living Temple* contains **the alpha of these theories**. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people. 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. **The scripture used to substantiate the doctrine there set forth, is scripture misapplied**.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 204.

### “Meeting Fanaticism

“As I returned to Portland, there were evidences of the desolating effects of **fanaticism**. Some seemed to think that religion consisted in great excitement and noise. . . .

“We trembled for the churches that were to be subjected to this spirit of fanaticism. My heart ached for God’s people. Must they be deceived and led away by this **false enthusiasm**? I faithfully pronounced the warnings given me of the Lord; but they seemed to have little effect, except to make these persons of extreme views jealous of me.

### “A FALSE HUMILITY

“There were some who professed great humility, and advocated creeping on the floor like children, as an evidence of their **humility**. . . .

“A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which elevate and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world.

## “THE ‘NO WORK’ DOCTRINE

“There were some in Paris, Maine, who believed that it was **sin to work**. The Lord gave me a reproof for the leader in this error, declaring that he was going contrary to the word of God in abstaining from labor, in urging his errors upon others, and in denouncing all who did not receive them. He rejected every evidence which the Lord gave to convince him of his error, and was determined to make no change in his course. . . .

“I saw that God would work for the salvation of His people: that this misguided man would soon manifest himself, so that all the honest in heart would see that he was not actuated by a right spirit, and that his career would soon close. Soon afterward the snare was broken, and he had but little more influence over the brethren. He denounced the visions as being of the devil, and continued to follow his impressions, until his mind was deranged and his friends were obliged to confine him. At last he made a rope of some of his bed clothing, with which he hanged himself, and his followers were brought to realize the fallacy of his teachings.” *Christian Experience and Teachings*, 73, 74.

“At Thessalonica Paul had met those who refused to work with their hands. It was of this class that he afterward wrote: ‘There are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.’ While laboring in Thessalonica, Paul had been careful to set before such ones a right example. ‘Even when we were with you,’ he wrote, ‘this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.’ Verses 11, 12, 10.

“In **every age** Satan has sought to impair the efforts of God’s servants by introducing into the church **a spirit of fanaticism**. Thus it was in **Paul’s** day, and thus it was in later centuries during the time of the Reformation. **Wycliffe, Luther**, and many others who blessed the world by their influence and their faith, encountered the wiles by which the enemy seeks to lead into fanaticism overzealous, unbalanced, and unsanctified minds. Misguided souls have taught that the attainment of true holiness carries the mind above all earthly thoughts and leads men **to refrain wholly from labor**. Others, taking extreme views of certain texts of Scripture, have taught that it is **a sin to work**—that Christians should take no thought concerning the temporal welfare of themselves or their families, but should devote their lives wholly to spiritual things. The teaching and example of the apostle Paul are a rebuke to such extreme views.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 347, 348.

“By invitation of Brother and Sister Nichols, my sister and myself again went to Massachusetts, and made their house our home. There was in Boston and vicinity a company of fanatical persons, who held that it was a **sin to labor**. Their principal message was, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms.’ They said they were in the jubilee, the land should rest, and the poor must be supported without labor.” *Life Sketches* 1880, 231.

“At this time there was fanaticism in Maine. Some **refrained wholly from labor and disfellowshipped all those who would not receive their views on this point**, and some other things which they held to be religious duties.” *Early Writings*, 22.