

“Ellen G. White and True Adventist Theology” was posted on YouTube by HopeLives365 on 3/17/23. Dr. Merlin Burt Ph.D., the director of the Ellen G. White Estate, is the speaker. Some of the discussion about the early part of Seventh-day Adventist history is worth listening to. Sadly, Merlin doesn’t use the real Bible and maybe doesn’t even know there is a real Bible.

Here’s the YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/jHJq-viYnIU?si=d6JKwNN6t9-6JQ9E>

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At 4:28 Merlin says, “Ahm, I was asked by Pastor Finley, to talk with you about the biblical basis for the gift of prophecy and the end of time and also Ellen White’s relationship to Scripture and her work in connection with the development of our, of our doctrines and our faith.”

At 5:02 Merlin says, “and I wanna begin with a text.” He says there is “something very important” in the text. Here is the text Merlin thinks is “very important.” In the video, there is no indication of what bible the text is from but since it’s “very important” Merlin would pick a good one, wouldn’t he?

“So we have a prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your heart. But know this first of all, ...” 2 Peter 19-20 from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

In his quotation that he posted, he has “a prophetic word” and “in your heart” whilst the NASB has “the prophetic word” and “in your hearts.” He did, however, read the passage as in the NASB.

At 6:36 Merlin says, “And in Revelation we have the key to this morning star.” He then posts the following passage.

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” Revelation 22:16 from the NASB.

Merlin emphasizes the bright “morning star.” What is the “morning star?” What star can you see every morning on a clear day? That would be the sun. See how this passage from Merlin’s fake bible fits.

“ ‘How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ‘But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above he stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ‘Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.’” Isaiah 14:12-15 from the NASB.

The “star of the morning” is the same as the “morning star.” If Merlin’s fake bible is to be believed, Jesus has “fallen from heaven” and “will be thrust down to Sheol.”

Do you know who Lucifer is? The only verse in the Bible that names Lucifer is Isaiah 14:12.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” Isaiah 14:12 from the KJV.

At 8:17 Merlin posts part of Hebrews 1:1-2 from the New King James Version; probably because the NASB is a bit incoherent in this passage.

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...” Part of Hebrews 1:1-2 from the NASB.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...”. Part of Hebrews 1:1-2 from the NKJV.

At 8:31 Merlin says, “So when we look at the Bible, we do have the prophetic revelation, but we have, but we have something even more precious than the Bible; we actually have the words of Jesus. Isn’t that right?” Notice that he says “the Bible” twice in one sentence. “The Bible” is singular and Merlin has already used two different “the Bible.” Merlin needs to review English grammar.

At 9:51 Merlin says, “You have in the book of Revelation, ah, this description of the testimony of Jesus.” Guess what. Merlin won’t be able to show this from the NASB. The passage is quoted as follows and isn’t entirely from “Revelation 1:2” since the “John” was taken from verse 1.

“John who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.”

Here is the passage from the two fake bibles Merlin has used so far.

“John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ even to all that he saw.” Revelation 1 with part of verse 1 and all of verse 2 from the NASB.

“John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.” Revelation 1 with part of verse 1 and all of verse 2 from the NKJV.

Thus far there is no definition of what “the testimony of Jesus” is.

Following this, Revelation 22:16 is posted from the NKJV.

At 11:43 Merlin posts, from the NKJV, one of the two verses that are essential to show that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the “remnant” Church and that it must “have” the Spirit of Prophecy.

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”  
Revelation 12:17 from the NKJV.

“So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”  
Revelation 12:17 from the NASB.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”  
Revelation 12:17 from the King James Version (KJV) also known as the real bible.

Notice two things. The word “remnant” doesn’t appear in either the NKJV or the NASB. Also, the NASB doesn’t say “the rest of her children” even “have” anything. The KJV delivers on both requirements. Perhaps Merlin thinks you should learn Greek instead of getting out an English dictionary to learn what “wroth” means in the unlikely event you don’t already know what it means.

After Merlin posted Revelation 12:17 from the NKJV which doesn’t say “remnant,” he said, “went to make war with the rest of her offspring, or the final remnant; the last part.”

At 12:11, Merlin posts part of Revelation 19:10 which is the other verse that’s essential to show the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the “remnant” Church and that it has the Spirit of Prophecy. What he posted reads exactly the same in the NASB and the NKJV and the only difference between them and the KJV is that the KJV doesn’t capitalize “for.” Here’s what he posted.

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of Prophecy.”

The NASB, and it’s not just that one, does not say the remnant church has the Spirit of Prophecy. All it says is that it holds to the testimony of Jesus. That only means “the rest of her children” hold to whatever Jesus said and is no different than what a multitude of denominations claim to believe.

And now comes the tactic commonly used by blowhards to make you think you must believe them. Merlin gives a Greek lesson to explain what the aforementioned verses allegedly say. He posts, “Two use the objective genitive in the Greek which refer to the witness believers have regarding Jesus. Revelation 1:9 and 20:4.” Sadly, he doesn’t mention that his fake NASB doesn’t say the remnant Church has the testimony of Jesus. You don’t need to know what the “objective genitive” is and you don’t even have to know Greek to know what God said in ENGLISH in the real Bible.

At 15:08, and I know this is getting old, Merlin posts “Revelation 12:17 that predicts that at the end of time God’s remnant or final people would ‘have’ the testimony of Jesus” when neither of his fake “the Bible” calls God’s “final people” the “remnant” and one of his “the Bible” doesn’t say they will “have” the testimony of Jesus.

At 16:49 Joel 2:28, 31 is quoted from the NKJV.

Around 18:07, Merlin begins discussing some interesting facts regarding Ellen G. White's life. Part of that history is when probably around March of 1845 she held an approximately eighteen pound Bible on her extended arm for twenty or thirty minutes while in vision. Try that some time.

At 21:14 Merlin notes that one of the tests of a prophet is that they must speak in harmony with "the Word of God, the Bible." He then quotes part of a very important verse for Seventh-day Adventists. He somewhat paraphrased it but what he said would be consistent with what the NKJV and the KJV say.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20 from the KJV.

If you preferentially use a fake "the Bible" other than the NKJV, you should look that verse up to see if it's recognizable. Also ask yourself, if a "the Bible" is self-contradictory like the NKJV and the NASB are, is it possible for them not to speak contrary "to the law and to the testimony?"

At 21:34 Merlin says, "What's more remarkable is at the very beginning He is trying to emphasize that His work, through Ellen White, is to take us to Scripture. Don't miss that point." He then says, "I have spent for a number of years time looking at this issue of how we should, um, understand and read Ellen White. And lemme just tell you something that I am totally settled on, and if we had time I could do ten sessions on this to. And that is, for Ellen White there are two foundational, motivating, influences and orientations that she has. Now you can add a third and I'll mention that one because we don't wanna to overlook it but the third flows out of the first two. And that is, she is focused and passionate about and constantly focused about the love of God revealed in Jesus and His death on the cross. And if you don't understand that about Ellen White, you will not understand Ellen White. And the second is, she is oriented entirely toward the Bible, toward Scripture."

It is true that Ellen White is passionate about the love of God and Jesus and it is true that she uplifts Scripture but neither of Merlin's fake bibles meet her criteria of Scripture since neither one is infallible. Infallible mean no error at all just like Roman Catholics believing the pope can speak no error at all when speaking ex cathedra. The definition of "infallible" hasn't changed in hundreds of years.

"Man is fallible, but God's word is infallible." *Selected Messages* book one page 416.

"He is to regard the Bible as the voice of God speaking directly to him." *The Acts of the Apostles* page 475.

"He who has a knowledge of God and His word through personal experience, has a settled faith in the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. He has proved that God's word is truth, and he knows that truth can never contradict itself." *The Ministry of Healing* page 462.

Can you always regard the NASB and the NKJV as God speaking? Definitely not. Is either the NASB or the NKJV infallible? No. Is either the NASB or the NKJV all “truth” and never contradicting itself? Once again, no.

At 30:46 Merlin says, “Ellen White’s very clear on the Bible being the foundation of our faith. Um, there are, these are just three of dozens of places and ways that Ellen White actually is very clear on the Bible being our rule of faith and this idea; this Protestant *vu*, understanding of *sola scriptura*. The Bible, she wrote, and the Bible alone is our rule of Faith.” The Bible, and the Bible alone is to be our creed, the sole bond of union.” References for the quotations are given; i.e., *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 84 and the *Review and Herald* of 12/15/1885 respectively. He said he was going to list three places but he only listed two.

The Bible is supposed to be the foundation of our faith and Sister White believed that. It is a mystery to me how a professional, paid, purveyor of “truth” with a PhD doesn’t know that the two fake “the Bible” he has used contain error and poison. If he knows they’re fake bibles, why does he use them? Is KJV ENGLISH too hard for Dr. Burt?

At 31:20 Merlin says, “And she understood herself, yes, to have received prophetic revelation, although she didn’t call herself a prophet.” He then said she called herself the Lord’s Messenger. He then correctly says that the scope of Sister White’s ministry went beyond that of a prophet. He says she didn’t see herself as additional Scripture.

At 50:55 Merlin posts an Ellen White quotation that says in part:

“If you had made God’s word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the Testimonies. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God’s inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies.”

At 1:02:22 Merlin says, “Ellen White’s visions, listen to me, did not originate any Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. Did you hear me? This is testable. You’re in my class. This is testable. A’right? This is something you have to know.”

Actually, there are two generally held beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists that are impossible to sustain using the two fake “the Bible” Merlin has thus far used and are difficult to confirm using the real Bible. Seventh-day Adventists rely heavily on the writings of Ellen G. White to sustain them. One is the teaching of clean versus unclean foods and the other is that of ten percent of increase being biblically required for a tithe to be used to employ ministers in the Christian era. In fact, what the two fake “the Bible” Merlin has thus far used teach regarding unclean foods contradict the Spirit of Prophecy.

“Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only you shall not eat the flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” Genesis 9:3-4 from the NASB.

“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” Genesis 9:3-4 from the NKJV.

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.” Genesis 9:3-4 from the KJV.

“Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.’ Before this time God had given man no permission to eat animal food; He intended that the race should subsist wholly upon the productions of the earth; but now that every green thing had been destroyed, He allowed them to eat the flesh of the clean beasts that had been preserved in the ark.” *Patriarchs and Prophets* page 107.

The context is what God said to Noah right after he came out of the ark after the flood. The NASB and the NKJV clearly say “every moving thing shall be food for you” with NOTHING said about clean or unclean animals whilst Sister White said they were only allowed “to eat the flesh of clean beasts.” You will never find your way out of that dilemma using the NASB and NKJV because the word “food” is used but you can harmonize KJV Scripture with the Spirit of Prophecy because the word “meat” is used that has a broader meaning. All you need to harmonize the Spirit of Prophecy with the real Bible is the real Bible and a good English dictionary. If it interests you, you can work that out for yourself or you can email me.

Here is the coup de grâce.

“And He said to them, ‘Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?’ (Thus He declared all foods clean.)” Mark 7:18-19 from the NASB.

“So He said to them, ‘Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?’ ” Mark 7:18-19 from the NKJV.

“And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?” Mark 7:18-19 from the KJV.

The NASB clearly says Jesus declared “all” foods clean. The NKJV says that anything you put in your mouth and consume goes through the digestive tract and has been purified when it comes out the other end. That means what comes out is clean. Ponder that for awhile. The KJV says what is consumed goes through the digestive tract and is purged, meaning it’s gotten rid of, and goes into the “draught” (in modern terminology, the sewer). Try wiggling your way out of what the NASB and the NKJV say.

I didn't call the advice to not eat the meat of unclean animals a doctrine because in most Seventh-day Adventist churches you wouldn't be disfellowshipped for eating unclean meat. It is, however, a strongly held belief of Seventh-day Adventists.

Regarding tithing, all you need to do is go to the New Testament and find all the places where people in the Christian era (that is after Christ's crucifixion when the followers of Christ were called Christians) where Christians were directed to pay tithes. If you wish to explore this further you can go to [SabbathSchoolGuide.com](http://SabbathSchoolGuide.com) and peruse the review I wrote on the *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for the first quarter of 2023.

Tithing is considered a Seventh-day Adventist doctrine but you won't be kicked out of the church if you don't pay tithes. The princes of our church would have a very difficult time making it a doctrine without the use of the Spirit of Prophecy.

At 1:04:26 the "Significant Seven 'S's'" of Seventh-day Adventist theology is posted one of which includes the state of the dead. Here is a passage from one of the fake "the Bible" Merlin has used.

"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water." 1 Peter 3:18-20 from the NASB.

The NASB says Jesus was "made alive in the spirit" after he was put to death "in the flesh." It then says Jesus' "spirit" "made proclamation" to "spirits" of wicked people that had died in the flood. If you wish to read more about the state of the dead you can visit [DeathConfusion.com](http://DeathConfusion.com) or read my review of the *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for the fourth quarter of 2022 at [SabbathSchoolGuide.com](http://SabbathSchoolGuide.com).

There follows an extended discussion of the heavenly sanctuary doctrine. There is a verse in one of Merlin's fake "the Bible" that contradicts that teaching.

"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." Hebrews 9:12 from the NKJV.

The verse says Christ "entered" the "Most Holy Place" (past tense). That means that according to the NKJV Jesus entered the Most Holy Place prior to the time Paul wrote this and not in 1844 as Seventh-day Adventists teach.

At 1:25:36 Merlin says, "We are a people of the book." That's from a man who has used two "the book" that contain serious errors.

InfallibleBible.com  
AdventistsToday.com