

ANCIENT AND MODERN ISRAEL

"We are repeating the history of that people." 5T, p. 160.

Ellen G. White

Compiled by Neil C. Livingston

[all emphasis supplied]

The Seventh-day Adventist Church Is Modern Israel

"Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan," Ellen White warned. "*We are repeating the history of that people.*" (*Healthful Living*, page 280; ST., No. 31, p. 156).

"The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ," Ellen White warned, "illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ." ("The Modern Church Repeating the History of Ancient Israel," (*ibid.*, *Healthful Living*, page 280; R&H, 1890, No. 7)

Spiritual Condition of Modern Israel

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come," the apostle Paul warned. "For [Christian] men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness [modern Adventism], but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people. Lightness, vanity, love of ease and pleasure, selfishness, and impurity are increasing among us [1896]. There is need now of men who are firm and fearless in declaring the whole counsel of God [the straight testimony]; men who will not sleep as do others, but watch and be sober. Knowing as I do the great lack of holiness and power with our ministers [1896], I am deeply pained to see the efforts for self-exaltation. If they could but see Jesus as He is, and themselves as they are, so weak, so inefficient, so unlike their Master, they would say: If my name may be written in the obscurest part of the book of life, it is enough for me, so unworthy am I of His notice.

Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 160.

"The manifestation of the Lord's glory was needed to quell the mad and blasphemous utterances of the people, and to save the lives of his servants [Joshua and Caleb] from the maddened throng," Ellen White stated, then she asked. "Has there not been seen in modern Israel manifestations similar to this? *Has not the loud, boisterous voice of rebellion been heard in your council meetings and in your board meetings? . . .*" (*Rolling Back the Reproach*, page 29).

Modern Israel in Greater Danger of Forgetting God Than Ancient Israel

I was pointed back to ancient Israel. But two of the adults of the vast army that left Egypt entered the land of Canaan. Their dead bodies were strewn in the wilderness because of their transgressions. Modern Israel are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people. Many idols are worshiped, even by professed Sabbathkeepers. God especially charged His ancient people to guard against idolatry, for if they should be led away from serving the living God, His curse would rest upon them, while if they would love Him with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might, He would abundantly bless them in basket and in store, and would remove sickness from the midst of them.

Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 609.

Modern Israel Fast Following in Footsteps of Ancient Israel

"The sin of ancient Israel was in disregarding the expressed will of God and following their own way according to the leadings of unsanctified hearts," Ellen White wrote. "Modern Israel are fast following in their footsteps, and the displeasure of the Lord is as surely resting upon them." (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 94).

Modern Israel's Great Sin - Turning From God to Idols

"The great sin of ancient Israel was in turning from God to idols," Ellen White stated. "This is also the great sin of Modern Israel." (*Review and Herald*, June 3, 1880).

Modern Israel's Weakness - Neglect to Obey the Divine Law

"The cause of Israel's weakness lay in their departure from God by disobedience to his commandments," Ellen White wrote. "The reason of the weakness and backsliding of modern Israel is their neglect to obey the divine law." (*Signs of the Times*, June 9, 1881).

Exercising Ecclesiastical Authority Is Repeating History of Jewish Nation

Sometimes the case seems hopeless to me, because you have been treading in the very footsteps of the Jewish nation. You are repeating their history. The whole heavenly universe is astonished at the spiritual condition of things at Battle Creek. Now and then there is a comfortable, easy feeling, but this is not the deep moving of the Spirit of God. All heaven sees that if you had a more correct experimental knowledge of the truth, you would never assume jurisdiction and command over your fellow-men as you have done. You would never think that you could take control of the great interests all over the field, nigh and afar off. *It is because of a departure from God that such gross ignorance in regard to the management of his work has come in.*

Ellen G. White, "To Those in Responsible Positions in Battle Creek," *1888 Materials*, pages 1631, 1632. (December 18, 1896).

Backsliding in Health Reform is Repeating History of Ancient Israel

"In this experience of backsliding from the principles of health reform, our people have been repeating the history of the Children of Israel in the wilderness during their forty years of travel," Ellen White stated -- then warned. "Those who continue to follow their own course in this respect, eating and drinking as they please, will gradually grow careless of the instructions of the Lord regarding other phases of the present truth; they will surely reap as they have sown." (*Spalding and Magan Collection*, page 428).

Modern Israel and the Testimonies

"There is a limit beyond which the judgments of Jehovah can no longer be delayed," Ellen White warned modern Israel. "The desolation of Jerusalem in the days of Jeremiah is a solemn warning to modern Israel, that the counsels and admonitions given them through chosen instrumentalities cannot be disregarded with impunity." (*Prophets and Kings*, page 417).

His word will bring as serious consequences upon God's people today as did the same sin upon ancient Israel. There is a limit beyond which He will no longer delay His judgments. *The desolation of Jerusalem stands as a solemn warning before the eyes of modern Israel, that the corrections given through His chosen instruments cannot be disregarded with impunity.*

Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, page 167; *Review and Herald*, June 30, 1885; *Signs of the Times*, February 12, 1880.

Modern Israel and Politics

"This command [2 Corinthians 6:17] is just as valid today as when God gave it to Moses to give to the children of Israel," Ellen White stated. "The sins against which ancient Israel were warned have led modern Israel into byways and forbidden paths. The professed people of God have made those who are trampling under foot His commandments their counselors [Roman Catholic attorney in Perez case]." ("Seventh-day Adventist's and Politics," *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 9, page 130; *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, pages 327, 328).

Modern Israel and the Ecumenical Movement

Satan is continually seeking to overcome the people of God by breaking down the barriers which separate them from the world. Ancient Israel were enticed into sin when they ventured into forbidden association with the heathen. In a similar manner are modern Israel led astray. . . . When Christians choose the society of the ungodly and unbelieving, they expose themselves to temptation. Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded.

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 508.

A Babylonish Garment for Modern Israel

The unbelief and sins of ancient Israel were presented before me, and I saw that similar wrongs and iniquity exist among modern Israel. The pen of inspiration recorded their crimes for the benefit of *those who live in these last days, that we might shun their evil example.* Achan coveted and secreted a wedge of gold and a goodly Babylonish garment that were taken as spoil from the enemy. But the Lord had pronounced the city of Jericho accursed and had commanded the people not to take of the spoil of their enemies for their own use.

Ellen G. White, "Dishonesty in the Church," *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, page 491.

Modern Israel Less Excusable Than Ancient Israel

Had not the Lord been slow to anger, and mercifully considerate of the ignorance and weakness of the children of Israel, he would have destroyed them in his wrath. He exercises the same pitying tenderness toward modern Israel. But we are less excusable than was ancient Israel. We have had every opportunity to elevate and ennoble our characters, which they did not have. We also have their history, recorded that we may shun their example of unbelief and impatient murmuring and rebellion.

Ellen G. White, "Journeyings of the Israelites," *Signs of the Times*, April 15, 1880.

Modern Israel Responsible for Delay of Entrance Into Heavenly Canaan

"For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan," Ellen White stated. "The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan." (*Evangelism*, page 696; *Manuscript 4*, 1883; *Maranatha*, page 61; *Selected Messages*, Bk. 1, page 69)).

"In neither case were the promises of God at fault," Ellen White concluded.. "It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years." (*ibid.*, *Evangelism*, page 696; *Manuscript 4*, 1883).

A Lesson for Modern Israel

"Please read the third chapter [of Jeremiah]. This chapter is a lesson for modern Israel," Ellen White counseled. "Let all who claim to be children of God understand that He will not serve with their sins any more than He would with the sins of ancient Israel. God hates hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong." (*Letter 34*, 1899).

God's people to-day have far greater light than had ancient Israel. They have not only the increased light which has been shining upon them, but the instruction given by God to Moses, to be given to the people. God specified the difference between the sacred and the common, and declared that this difference must be strictly observed. This lesson is given also to modern Israel. That which God has set apart as sacred must ever be respected as sacred. Christ was the foundation of the Jewish economy. When type met antitype in his death, the need for sacrificial offerings ceased. But the lessons regarding practical obedience, given by Christ from the mount of blessing, were still binding.

Ellen G. White, *Rolling Back the Reproach*, page 28.

God's Requirements of Modern Israel

Conviction and thorough repentance was required of ancient Israel in order to meet the standard of God. No less does God require of his people in our day. There must be genuine heart work in repentance and humiliation, in order to come under this covenant care, and protecting love of God. Unmistakable evidence is given that God is a jealous God, and that he will require of Modern Israel as he did of ancient Israel, that they obey his law. For all who live upon the earth is this sacred history traced by the pen of inspiration.

Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, May 27, 1880.

Revival and Reformation in Modern Israel

"Without the grace of Christ the outward forms of religion were valueless to ancient Israel," Ellen White counseled. "They are the same to modern Israel." ("Revival," *Conflict and Courage*, page 145; *Signs of the Times*, January 1, 1882.

Modern Israel and Reform Workers

Envy, jealousy, dishonesty, falsehoods, and evil surmisings have ever had to be met. They existed in the time of ancient Israel, and will ever be found in modern Israel. Some one must meet this element, *and whoever does will displease some*; it cannot be otherwise, for there will ever be those who will sympathize with wrong-doers. Those who have shunned that part of the work which requires anxiety and care, boldness and fortitude, will receive no reward for their silence and their peaceful demeanor; but condemnation will be written against them.

Ellen G. White, *The Judgment*, pages 10, 11.

God's True Remnant of Modern Israel

"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies," the prophet Zephaniah wrote, "neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." (Zephaniah 3:13).

"I was shown that those who are trying to obey God and purify their souls through obedience to the truth," Ellen White stated, "are God's chosen people, His modern Israel." (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, page 109).

God's Appeal to the Remnant of Modern Israel

All the experience of Israel has a lesson for us, who are living in the last hours of time. We should carefully consider their course of action and the dealings of God with them, and then imitate their virtues, while we shun those acts which brought upon them his displeasure. This mighty God of Israel is our God. In him we

may trust, and if we obey his requirements *he will work for us in as signal a manner as he did for his ancient people.* It should be the most earnest study and continual effort of modern Israel *to bring themselves into close and intimate relationship with God.* Then with the mind quickened, the perceptions sharpened, they will discern his infinite power and overruling providence in all his dealings with man, and in all his created works.

Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 11, 1880.