“**The Restorer of Paths to Dwell In**” – Chapter 4 - The Alpha

Note- Anytime you see GPS it means “God’s Prophet Says”

 **“… and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” Isaiah 58:12**

What a joy to be alive at this time in earth’s history, the closing moments of the final generation. And what a privilege God gives us to be “repairers of the breach” in God’s law to the world and “restorers of paths to dwell in” to God’s church.

We have been starting each chapter by reading this very important S.O.P. counsel which expresses what God needs in His people for this time. It is found in Education, p. 57. (1903) ***“The greatest want of the world is the want of men,--men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”*—**

In these closing moments of the final generation, we must be the ones who cry aloud and spare not, for the attack is on the throne of God, His begotten son and God’s Holy Spirit. It began in the alpha, it is much more multiplied here in the Omega. We previously looked to see that the apostle Paul actually revealed to us what the “Omega of Apostasy” is about.

We read in 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4 **“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”**

In the remainder of this book, we are going to look at a number of things that happened in the alpha of apostasy and what our pioneers believed and taught regarding the throne of God, His begotten son and God’s Holy Spirit, plus things that occurred in the ensuing decades after Ellen White’s death 100 years ago, up until the Omega of Apostasy began some 35 years ago. For the previous two chapters we have been discussing that portion of Paul’s prophecy that says, “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, …”

Our pioneers believed and taught that God and Jesus had a true Father/Son relationship and were not two Gods playing roles in a metaphorical sense. Such a theory defies logic for the simple reason that Sister White told us in RH, June 28, 1906, ***“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine.” If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.”*** — (RH, June 28, 1906)

Our pioneers believed and taught that Jesus was begotten by God way back in eternity, that He was of the same substance as the Father with all the same attributes as the Father. He had and still has Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence. Like the Father He has immortality. He is pre-existent in that at a point in time in eternity when He was begotten by the Father, the personality of Jesus had its beginning, He was given the office of Creator and He therefore had His existence before creation.

 For untold millenniums in eternity Christ had been about the business of creating the multiplied billions of stars and the many unfallen worlds. By the way I am taking a short detour as I know some people have a common misunderstanding in Genesis that I want to clear up for them. In Genesis 1:16 it reads, **“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also.”** It says **“…. he made the stars also.”** The two words **“he made”** are supplied and were added with the intent to strengthen the meaning. Well in this case they should not have been added. Much of the universe already existed when the earth was created. What was created with the earth was the sun, moon and most likely the other 8 planets, but the stars were already there. When you leave out the supplied words it then makes perfect sense, **“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: the stars also.”** You see the stars, along with the moon were to rule the night.

 Continuing on, one other important thing we need to understand about Jesus having the attributes of the Father. The Father’s life is original, unborrowed and underived. The life of Christ is also original, unborrowed and underived as it was given to Him by His Father, as it says in John 5:26, **“For as the Father has life in Himself; so has He given to the Son to have life in Himself;”** It is also worth noting at this point that since Christ has been given the life of His Father, then He is also self-existent.

There are those in leadership that say the pioneers were in error. Listen to what Ellen White describes about how much of what our pioneers believed came about. GPS, ***“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce,*** [OLDER BRETHREN AMONG THE PIONEERS ARE HERE THUS REMINISCENTLY REFERRED TO. "FATHER PIERCE" WAS STEPHEN PIERCE, WHO SERVED IN MINISTERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IN THE EARLY DAYS. "FATHER ANDREWS" WAS EDWARD ANDREWS, THE FATHER OF J. N. ANDREWS.--COMPILERS.] ***Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.”*** {1SM 206.4}

Besides that portion of Paul’s prophecy regarding “another Jesus,” he also talked about “another spirit” and “another gospel.” We are going to come back to these two areas of study, which have a great bearing on the Omega, but before we do, it is now time to do a historical examination by going back to the period of time in our denomination that Sister White called the Alpha of Apostasy. When we’re talking about the Alpha and the Omega we’re talking about a deadly heresy. That is very serious. Now Sister White tells us that the Omega will be received by a certain class of people who neglect to do something. They will neglect to heed the warning that God has given.

1SM 200.1 - GPS, ***“In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given.”***

To avoid the Omega we need to examine what the warning was that God gave in regards to the Alpha? Once we understand the warnings that God gave regarding the Alpha, then we will be in a better position not to fall and be deceived by the Omega. Doesn’t that make sense?

So now we’ll look at what the Alpha was all about, and we’ll see what Sister White said, and then we’ll see what warnings God has given us. The Alpha occurred in the early 1900’s in our church, when a very prominent physician, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, wrote a book entitled “The Living Temple,” which Mrs. White just mentioned in the quote we’ve just read.

Kellogg wrote some theology which contained things that Sister White strongly objected to and identified as being the Alpha of deadly heresies. The reason for Kellogg writing the book was that the Battle Creek Sanitarium had actually burned to the ground the year before and Dr. Kellogg felt that his book would be an excellent fundraiser to rebuild.

Our goal is to become restorers of paths to dwell in, and therefore we need to know what those correct paths were that our pioneers dwelt in. It is in discovering those paths that we will learn if we are traveling in correct paths today and we must also learn what we need to avoid whatever would cause us to deviate from the correct paths.

Since we are dealing with deadly heresy we need to pay careful attention and proceed with revealed information only, keeping Deuteronomy 29:29 in mind, “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.”

Also this from God’s prophet, ***“The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate.”***Ministry of Healing, 429.1.

This statement was most important because Kellogg was seeking to go beyond that which was revealed and as we will see in the chapters coming, that is exactly what respected theologians have done that has brought on the Omega of apostasy. But it’s also interesting that in that same statement she says that the things that God has given us in His Word are for our study and this we are to seek to understand.

So here Kellogg was venturing on a ground beyond what revelation had given us. And Sister White continues, in Loma Linda Messages, page 253, where she is a bit more specific. GPS, ***“The teaching regarding God that is presented in Living Temple is not such as our students need. …Those who express such sentiments regarding Him show that they are departing from the faith.”*** Loma Linda Messages, p. 253.

Wow! Here is a very big clue that is an important piece of the puzzle. This is very strong wording. Kellogg inserted something that caused God’s prophet to say that those who express such sentiments, show that they are departing from the faith.

What topic is the certain theology that Kellogg had inserted that Sister White has identified as the alpha of deadly heresy? She says the issue “regarding God.” Kellogg was teaching or promoting something about God that Sister White identified as the Alpha of deadly heresies. And she said: it’s a “departure from the faith.”

So what was Kellogg’s belief in regards to God that he was trying to promote? Arthur G. Daniells, pioneer and General Conference president from 1901-1922, can give us some insight. He had a conversation with Dr. Kellogg and the conversation was so alarming to brother Daniells that he decided to write a letter to Willie White, Ellen White’s son, and share his concerns about what Kellogg had told him, because the issue was regarding the book that he wrote and the things that Ellen White said about it.

Here are a few of the most important parts of that letter, Elder Daniells speaking: ***“Ever since the council closed I have felt that I should write you confidentially regarding Dr. Kellogg’s plans for revising and republishing The Living Temple…”***

Now Ellen White had spoken against the original issue as pantheistic in nature, as Kellogg intimated that God the Father was present in everything that existed. She was against SDA’s purchasing and reading it, as the book had heresies in it. So Kellogg said, “OK, I’ll rewrite it, I’ll revise it.”

The letter continues, ***“...He [Kellogg] said that some days before coming to the council, he had been thinking the matter over, and began to see that he had made a slight mistake in expressing his views… He then stated that his former views regarding the trinity had stood in his way of making a clear and absolutely correct statement; but that within a short time he had come to believe in the trinity and could now see pretty clearly where all the difficulty was, and believed that he could clear the matter up satisfactorily.***

***“He told me that he now believed in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost; and his view was that it was God the Holy Ghost, and not God the Father, that fills all space, and every living thing. He said if he had believed this before writing the book, he could have ex-pressed his views without giving the wrong impression the book now gives.***

***“I placed before him the objections I found in the teaching, and tried to show him that teaching was so utterly contrary to the gospel that I did not see how it could be revised by changing a few expressions.”***Letter, A. G. Daniells to W. C. White, 10/29/1903, pp. 1, 2.

Now it’s interesting that Kellogg said that he had come to believe what doctrine? The doctrine of the trinity. And specifically said he now believed in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Does that sound familiar to anyone?

The General Conference president at that time did something in that last paragraph of his letter. He said: ***“I placed before him the objections I found in the teaching.”***

Now what did Mrs. White think about that when Kellogg said, “I’m going to revise my book… what I really believe in is the trinity… I’m trying to say basically I believe in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.” And he wanted to revise the book.

Well, let’s see what Sister White said regarding that. Selected Messages, book 1, page 199. She says, ***“It will be said that Living Temple has been revised, but the Lord has shown me that the writer has not changed, and that there can be no unity between him and the ministers of the gospel while he continues to cherish his present sentiments. I am bidden to lift my voice in warning to our people, saying, ‘Be not deceived; God is not mocked’* (Gal. 6 :7).**1SM 199.She said: ***“the writer has not changed.”*** And what should the ministers of the gospel do? There should be no unity between the ministers of the gospel and Kellogg while he had his present sentiments.

What were his present sentiments according to the admission of the General Conference president at that time? That he [Kellogg] believed in the trinity — that he believed in God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Sister White said ministers of the gospel should have no unity with Kellogg when he had his present sentiments. She says this is actually a mockery of who? Of God. She says: ***“be not deceived; God is not mocked.”***

This is a letter she wrote to Kellogg. ***“You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.”*** Letter 300 from Ellen White to Kellogg, 1903.

What we are doing here is just reading what we have from our past history and examining the facts, because Ecclesiastes 1: 9, 10 tells us that we need to look in the past to learn what’s happening today. Here is that scripture:

**“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything whereof it may be said: ‘See, this is new’? It hath been already of old time which was before us.”** Ecclesiastes 1: 9, 10

So the Bible tells us that certain things have a habit of repeating themselves. And, in order to understand some of the things that are happening today, a historical examination into the history of our church is a necessity.

Sister White said in the last quote, ***“You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.”***That is a most serious charge and has revealed two huge clues. #1. Not clear on the personality of God; #2. Virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.

Kellogg believed in the trinity; God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. But this is what is now in the Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists since 1981 and Sister White says it is #1. Not clear on the personality of God; #2. Virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.

GPS in 1SM 203: ***“In the controversy that arose among our brethren regarding the teachings of this book, (Living Temple) those in favor of giving it a wide circulation declared: ‘It contains the very sentiments that Sister White has been teaching.’ This assertion struck right to my heart. I felt heartbroken; for I knew that this representation of the matter was not true.”*** 1 Selected Messages, 203.

The fact is that Sister White very clearly rebuked Kellogg for what he really believed. What was he trying to teach in his book that Ellen White said, ***“it’s a deadly heresy;” “it’s a departure from the faith;” “the ministers of the gospel should not be united with him when he has his present sentiments”?***

Well, let’s see what Kellogg said. He wrote a letter to G. I. Butler and this is what he said. Kellogg speaking: ***“As far as I can fathom, the difficulty which is found in The Living Temple, the whole thing may be simmered down to the question: Is the Holy Ghost a person?”*** Letter of J. H. Kellogg to G.I. Butler, October 28, 1903. From his own admission, he said, everything I’m trying to say basically comes down to this: Is the Holy Ghost a person?

He continues: ***“You say no. I had supposed the Bible said this for the reason that the personal pronoun ‘he’ is used in speaking of the Holy Ghost. Sister White uses the pronoun ‘he’ and has said in so many words that the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Godhead. How the Holy Ghost can be the third person and not be a person at all is difficult for me to see.”*** Letter, Kellogg to Butler, 10-28-1903.

So what was the Alpha all about? Is the Holy Ghost a person? That question sounds ironically familiar today. Now what was the argument that Kellogg was trying to use to support this doctrine? He went to the Spirit of Prophecy and specifically what statement was he using? That Sister White says the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. Sister White’s statement is true, the problem today comes in when people make the following statement, which she never made: They say “Sister White says the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead; that means that the Holy Spirit is a person just like the Father and the Son.” Sister White did not say, that means that the Holy Spirit is a person just like the Father and the Son.” But that is and assumption and is what Kellogg was teaching and many are teaching today.

This is a critical point in the study and we will continue this in chapter 5. I would caution you not to make any conclusions or hasty assumptions, since there are many things our pioneers have told us, as well as the fact that there are neglected and misinterpreted SOP quotes that make it clear as to what the true faith was at that time. We have much more digging to do on this Alpha of apostasy and we will see what makes the Alpha heretical.

Let us close chapter 4 with a prayer … Eternal Father we see that in the alpha of apostasy that Dr. Kellogg was rebuked by your prophet for his teaching and she clearly stated that he was not clear on the personality of God, and that his teaching virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself. We do not want to be like guilty. Teach us what we need to know in the name of your begotten Son we do pray, AMEN.