

Ellen White.
Visionary
for Kids

Fourth Quarter 2012

There's a War Going On



HE'S A SINNER!
HE'S MINE!

I DIED FOR HIM!
HE'S MINE!

Ellen White's book
The Great Controversy
gives us the inside scoop.

◀ Pull out and save



Visionary

V2

KTW



The Book on the Bottom Shelf

Mary's gift to David almost ended up in the trash.

BY DAVID ASSCHERICK • ILLUSTRATED BY KYLE T. WEBSTER

This book has been a tremendous blessing to me, and I think you'll like it too," Mary said sweetly yet matter-of-factly as she placed it in my hands. I took the book, mainly out of politeness. Mary was a friend, after all, even if her religious views struck me as, well, a little weird! At the time I was a 23-year-old vegan punk rocker, complete with wild hair and tattoos. I had no idea how big an impact that book would have on the course of my life.

The book almost went in the trash that night. Instead it ended up on the shelf, where it sat collecting dust for many months. Then something terrible happened. At least it seemed terrible at the time. My longtime girlfriend broke up with me, sending me

into an emotional nosedive. I was a wreck, and all of my friends could see it. They worried about me, but I would just sit in my room moping.

Then it happened.

I remember it as if it were yesterday. I was sitting in my room on a cold, wintry day in October. As a university student, I owned and read many books, and on this particular day I was listlessly staring at my bookshelf. One book above all the others caught my attention. It was Mary's book. A struggle ensued in which I wrestled internally about whether or not to get up, walk across the room, and take the book from the shelf—the *bottom* shelf, of course.

And then, suddenly, I did it. I rose, walked over to the shelf, and took the book from its long-standing place of rest. Staring intently at the cover, it occurred to me that I'd never even noticed the title before—*The Great Controversy*.

What an interesting title, I remember thinking.

I sat down and began to read.

That was 15 years ago.

Today I've dedicated my life to teaching others what I've learned in those pages. By far the most important thing I've learned isn't a "thing" at

all. It's a who! And the "who" is Jesus Christ!

The opening scene in *The Great Controversy* finds Jesus crying over the city of Jerusalem because of the people's unbelief (Luke 19).

As someone who'd spent many days in the previous several months crying, I could relate. Or at least I thought I could. I was crying for myself, but Jesus was crying for others. I immediately thought, *Who is this Man?*

Why is He crying for others? Why do I feel drawn to Him?

I met Jesus Christ in the pages of *The Great Controversy*. And that is exactly why Ellen White wrote the book more than 150 years ago!

The Great Controversy traces the conflict between Jesus and Satan throughout the church's history right down to the victorious climax of the Second Coming. First published in 1858 as part of the *Spiritual Gifts* volumes, the book began with a vision Ellen White received in Lovett's Grove, Ohio, that same year. That first version was written primarily for the encouragement of several thousand Sabbathkeeping Adventists scattered across the eastern United States. Soon Adventists were sharing it enthusiastically with their friends and neighbors,

**I met
Jesus Christ in
the pages of
The Great
Controversy.**

just as Mary would share it with me more than a century later!

Ellen White, who continued to receive visions revealing the conflict between Jesus Christ and Satan, felt impressed that a version of

The Great Controversy

should be produced

that could be

sold door to

door. When

she traveled to

Europe for two

years beginning

in 1885, she

visited many of

the places she had

been shown in vision.

This made the history come

alive in a new and urgent way. She

must write, and fast!

In 1888 the expanded book rolled off the press by the tens of thousands. Seventh-day Adventists began sharing the book widely, and as a result many new members were baptized. No one was happier than Ellen White. Because of *The Great Controversy* people by the thousands were coming to Jesus and His church!

So many books were printed that the printing plates wore out! By 1909 it became clear that new printing plates would need to be made. This gave Ellen White the opportunity to make a few additional changes to the book that made it easier to understand. In 1911 the project was complete, and the latest edition was soon rolling off the presses and into eager hands.

In 1858, when she received the vision at Lovett's Grove, Ellen White was 30 years old. In 1911, when she held the revised edition fresh in her hands, she was 83. She had given her

whole life to Jesus and to spreading the truth of

the great war raging

between Christ

and His angels

and Satan and

his angels.

This war will

soon come to

an end! Jesus,

the King of kings

and Lord of lords,

will be crowned trium-

phant.

I'm so glad someone shared this amazing book with me.

Why not read the book yourself, discover the future, and share it with a friend?

**The war
between Jesus
and Satan will
soon come to
an end.**



David Asscherick today



Ask Cindy

Q. I'd like to read *The Great Controversy*, but it's kinda over my head. Anything easier?

A. I'm so glad that you want to read *The Great Controversy*! Ellen White wrote many books, but she felt that *The Great Controversy* was her most important book.



She believed that this book would help people understand events in the world that would signify Jesus' soon coming. It would help them be ready for that grand event.

However, many kids find *The Great Controversy* difficult to read. I have good news to solve that problem! Here are three new ways to discover what Ellen White's book is all about.

1. *Guide* magazine has recently produced an illustrated introduction to *The Great Controversy*, titled *Trouble on the Blue Planet*. This book is not just captivating—it also introduces the important messages of *The Great Controversy*. You're going to love it!



2. The White Estate (this is the organization that takes care of Ellen White’s writings, copyrights, and heritage) has produced an adapted version of *The Great Controversy* titled *Love Under Fire*. It’s shorter than the standard *Great Controversy*, and the words are easier to understand.

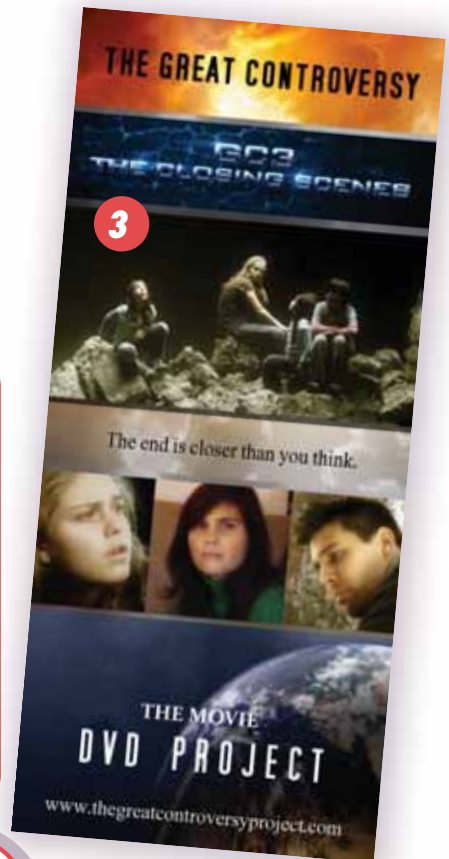
3. Oh, and one more thing! You can watch an exciting movie about the great battle between Christ and Satan in the last days of earth’s history. It’s titled *The Great Controversy: The Closing Scenes*. The lead supporting actress is a teen.

You and your parents can find all these products at Adventist Book Centers or online at adventistbookcenter.com.

Cindy

What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter’s *Visionary* topic: “Standing Strong for God.” Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!



Just for Fun

BY HELEN LEE ROBINSON

Hats Off to You

Do you know what Ellen White used to write her earliest drafts of the book *The Great Controversy*? To find out, use the hat code below. The numbers indicate which letter to use in the group of letters.



ADHT



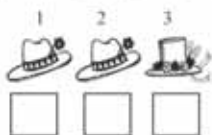
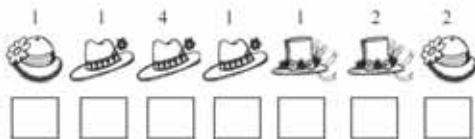
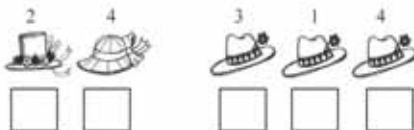
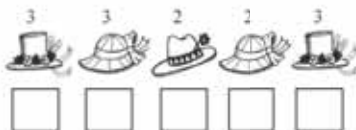
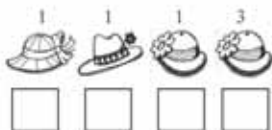
BEIF



CGK



LOS



3 in a Row

Ellen White wanted many people to read the book *The Great Controversy*. In the book, she said, they would find “the story of the _____, the _____, and the _____” (from Ellen G. White letter 281, 1905, quoted in *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 127).

To fill in the blanks, start at the bottom of each column and work your way up. When you find three letters in a row alphabetically, stop and select the first of the three. The first one is done as an example.

1.

T	C	U	N
R	N	T	E
Q	K	S	V
P	C	X	U
W	B	P	T
R	A	S	M
A	O	M	E
G	Z	R	H

2.

O	T	B	P	C	P	J
F	S	G	N	Q	O	V
X	R	F	E	G	N	U
R	O	E	J	F	A	T
Q	A	T	L	E	V	W
P	D	Z	U	K	E	E
E	N	W	T	H	X	V
M	I	R	S	B	T	I

3.

E	W	N	J	T	R
X	V	I	H	S	E
H	U	M	W	R	V
G	D	S	V	C	B
F	R	V	U	A	I
N	B	U	L	X	G
P	J	T	G	E	F
A	C	W	Q	L	E

All answers on p. V10

?

You've Got Issues

“Does The Great Controversy say that only Adventists are going to heaven?”

No. Ellen White, the author of *The Great Controversy*,¹ says there are true Christians in every church.² Seventh-day Adventists deeply respect members of other faiths and the right of every person to worship God according to their conscience. The Bible teaches that God “has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26, NKJV),³ and that in Jesus all are equal (Galatians 3:28). Adventists also believe that truth matters and that the Bible reveals God’s truth. Everyone must compare his or her beliefs with the teachings of the Bible.

The Great Controversy explores the history of the Christian faith, looking especially at where it has strayed from the principles of Christ. The book calls on people everywhere to follow the Bible’s teachings wholeheartedly.

During the Middle Ages, Christians were persecuted and even killed for following the teachings of Jesus as found in His Word. Bible prophecies predict that religious intolerance will come back in even greater ways shortly before Jesus returns. In some places Christians are even now being persecuted or martyred. *The Great Controversy* tells the story of the Reformers, who stood up bravely for Jesus and the teachings of Scripture, even though in some cases they paid for their courage with their lives. The book encourages us to “be faithful, even to the point of death” (Revelation 2:10), just as they were.

The reward of such courage is seeing Jesus and living with Him in heaven forever. We hope you will read *The Great Controversy* or one of its adaptations and be encouraged to live bravely for Jesus as the Reformers did.

¹ Sometimes you will see an adaptation of this book with the title *The Great Hope*.

² *Evangelism*, p. 234.

³ Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



WELCOME

~ **TO** ~

HEAVEN!



About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in such Bible passages as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

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