

## THE GREAT DECEPTION

# The Omega – the giving up of the Pillars of our Faith, Part 1

*In describing what would befall the Third Angel Movement in a short while after what she termed the alpha said, “Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature.”*

### **ISM 197.4**

*The alpha doctrine is pantheism which says that God was in all things in nature, in trees, grass etc. It is of course the old pagan doctrine of the worship of the things of nature above the Creator of nature. “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever.” Amen. Rom. 1:25*

The chief proponent of this alpha theory was Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. Following is a sample of an interview with Dr. John H. Kellogg, the author of the pantheistic book *The Living Temple*, by W.A. Spicer then secretary of the Mission Board of the General Conference.

*“Sitting down with no thought that there could be any differences of a really controversial nature, and with the heartiest of friendly feelings, personally I was at once in the midst*

*of a discussion of the most controversial questions. Instead of things in the book being inadvertently overdrawn because of employment of scientific terms, unfamiliar to most of us, I learned that the teaching was conservatively stated in the book; that the teaching was really of intent to signify that God was in the things of nature. “Where is God?” I was asked. I would naturally say, He is in heaven; there the Bible pictures the throne of God, all the heavenly beings at His command as messengers between heaven and earth. But I was told that God was in the grass and plants and in the trees (with motions to the grass and trees about us, as we sat on the open veranda.) Where is heaven? I was asked. I had my idea of the center of the universe, with heaven and the throne of God in the midst, but disclaimed any attempt to fix the center of the universe astronomically. But I was urged to understand that heaven is where God is, and God is everywhere in the grass, in the trees, in all creation. There was no place in this scheme of things for angels going between heaven and earth, for heaven was here and everywhere. The cleansing of the sanctuary that we taught about was not*

*something in a far-away heaven. The sin is here (the hand pointing to the heart), and here is the sanctuary to be cleansed. To think of God as having a form in the image of which man was made, was said to be idolatry.” This is the old paganism against which Israel was warned. Jeremiah 44:14, 15; Rom. 1:20-25.*

The concepts presented in the extract from the interview is what E.G White termed the alpha of deadly heresies. Understanding what she meant by the alpha we shall examine her writings to determine what she means by the omega which she says will be of a most startling nature.

She speaks of it on this wise.

*1. Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature. 1 SM 197.4*

*2. 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. 1 SM 200.1*

*3. 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. 1 SM 203.2*

The alpha refers to the theory of pantheism, the omega being also the doctrine of devils will be more deceptive, and startling, and caused the prophet to tremble for the church. What could this be?

*“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. Was 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. Letter 242, 1903 par. 13 (1 SM 204.2)*

*We are God’s commandment-keeping people. For the past fifty years every phase of heresy has been brought to bear upon us, to becloud our minds regarding the teaching of the Word—especially concerning the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, and the message of Heaven for these last days, as given by the angels of the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. 1 SM 208.2*

In the books Question on Doctrines (QOD) and Movement of Destiny we see books of a different order written, the discarding of principles of the

truth given to the remnant church, a changed religion, and fundamental principles counted as error.

The following important statement in the introduction to the book makes it clear that this work is an official document of the SDA church.

*“The writers, counselors, and editors who produced the answers to these questions have labored conscientiously to state accurately the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists. But because of the very nature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization no statement of Seventh-day Adventist belief can be considered official unless it is adopted by the General Conference in quadrennial session, when accredited delegates from the whole world field are present. The answers in this volume are an expansion of our doctrinal positions contained in the official statement of Fundamental Beliefs already referred to. Hence this volume can be viewed as truly representative of the faith and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”*

The following is an extract from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA relative to the said book.

*“No other book has aroused so much controversy in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine. Published in 1957 as a direct result of the dialogues between evangelicals Walter Martin and*

*Donald Grey Barnhouse and a select group of Adventist leaders, Questions on Doctrine was hailed initially as the apology par excellence of Adventism by its writers and promoters. However, when the book came out, it created great uproar among Adventists who questioned whether it accurately represented Adventist theology and the writings of Ellen White, in particular.*

*For Leroy Edwin Froom, one of the authors of Questions on Doctrine, the book “completed the long process of clarification, rectification of misconceptions, and declarations of truth before [the Christian] Church and the world.” But M. L. Andreasen, a theologian and author on the sanctuary doctrine, saw the book as “the most subtle and dangerous error” and “a most dangerous heresy.”*

*Hence, historian George Knight has noted that Questions on Doctrine “easily qualifies as the most divisive book in Seventh-day Adventist history over the past fifty years” while theologian Herbert Douglass has observed that “most, if not all, of the so-called ‘dissident’ or ‘independent’ groups of the last 45 years are direct results of the explicit and implicit positions espoused by [Questions on Doctrine] on the atonement and the Incarnation.”*

*On October 24-27, 2007, 50 years after the publication of Questions on Doctrine, scholars, church leaders, and pastors across*

*the theological spectrum of Adventism, along with guest scholars from the evangelical world, who have given careful study to the theology of Questions on Doctrine and Adventist history of the past half-century, will convene at Andrews University for an engaging, reflective, scholarly dialogue.”*

*A write up on the book states, “Soon after Questions On Doctrine came out, however, a retired SDA educator who had not been consulted on the book opposed it publicly on the grounds of his understanding of some of the things said about certain aspects of the sanctuary and the nature of the human nature of Christ. As a direct result of the controversy thus stirred up, the book was not reprinted and most persons have had no opportunity to examine it for themselves but are acquainted with it only through quotations and criticisms.*

*It is, however, still used and valued by many SDA scholars, educators, administrators, and pastors, as well as by those laymen fortunate enough to have a copy of their own, and we have had many requests to make it available to online readers. We believe that it will be especially valuable to any who wonder about some of the differences (or perceived differences) between SDA thought and that of other conservative Christians ... Questions On Doctrines has been since reprinted.”*

*M.L. Andreason’s objection referred to was*

*on the grounds that Christ was “exempt from inherited passions and pollutions that corrupt the natural descendants of Adam.” Found on page 383 of Question on Doctrines. Were his objections valid, if not how could such objections cause such a fire storm to the extent that the book was not reprinted for several years? One only has to consult the Bible, the writings of E.G. White, the prophet to the Third Angel Movement, A.T. Jones and E.J. Waggoner, the men who brought “the most precious message” to determine if Andreason’s objection was indeed valid.*

**Yours in the Service of God**

*Elder W. Austin Greaves*