

PART THREE

Sister White's Overt Plagiarism

The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4 (Source)

https://egwwritings-a.akamaihd.net/pdf/en_4SP.pdf

While perusing Advent pastor Walter Rea's expose, *The White Lie*, (which is conveniently posted online),

<https://archive.org/details/ReaWalter.TheWhiteLie1982>

I was struck by the fact that pastor Rea discovered several paragraphs in which Sister White recounted the history of the Waldenses that were, in fact, lifted from J. A. Wylie's classic work, *The History of Protestantism*. The three-volumes were originally published from 1874-77, well before the 1884 date of Sister White's publication of volume 4, leaving little doubt the volumes were included in her extensive 1,200 book library. The section in question concerns the chapter on the Waldenses. She used this material in her signature work, *The Great Controversy*.

It just so happens, I, too, have a photocopy of the Wylie editions. Thus, I began comparing her text with that of Rev. Wylie. What I found was truly shocking. Her plagiarism is much more extensive than Rea realized. Let me begin by citing the Preface of *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4:

"We believe that the writer has received the illumination of the Holy Spirit in preparing these pages." I will now disprove this assertion.

- (1) **EGW:** “In Great Britain a primitive Christianity had very early taken root. Faithful men had preached the gospel in that country with great zeal and success. Among the leading evangelists was an **observer of the Bible Sabbath**, and thus this truth found its way among the people for whom he labored.” **This so-called leading evangelist doesn’t exist, which is why he is nameless.**
- (2) **EGW:** “In lands beyond the jurisdiction of Rome, there existed for many centuries bodies of Christians who remained almost wholly free from papal corruption..... These Christians believed in the perpetuity of the law of God, and **observed the Sabbath of the fourth commandment**. Churches that held to this faith and practice, existed in Central Africa and among the Armenians of Asia.” **There is not one shred of proof for this assertion because they don’t exist.**
- (3) **EGW:** “But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome demanded their submission..... A considerable number, however, refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God, and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Some of the protesters crossed the Alps, and raised the standard of truth in foreign lands. Others retired into

the more secluded valleys among the mountains, and there maintained their freedom to worship God.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, pp. 24-25): “A considerable body of Protesters stood out against this deed of submission. Of these some crossed the Alps...and raised the standard in opposition in the diocese of Cologne.....Others retired into the valleys of the Piedmontese Alps, and there maintained their scriptural faith.... they preserved in its purity and simplicity the faith their fathers had handed down to them.”

- (4) **EGW**: “The religious belief of the Waldenses was founded upon the written word of God, the true system of Christianity, and was in marked contrast to the errors of Rome. But those herdsmen and vine-dressers, in their obscure retreats, shut away from the world, had not themselves arrived at the truth in opposition to the dogmas and heresies of the apostate church. Theirs was not a faith newly received. Their religious belief was their inheritance from their fathers.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, pp. 25-26): “.....as regards their [Waldenses] religious belief.....Or how could these herdsmen and vine-dressers, shut up in their mountains, have detected the errors against which they bore testimony.....If we grant that their religious beliefs were the heritage of former ages, handed down from an evangelical ancestry...”

- (5) **EGW**: “Among the leading causes that had led to the separation of the true church from Rome, was the

inveterate hatred of the latter toward the Bible Sabbath.” This is a great lie. The Waldenses were not 7th-day Sabbath-keepers, as is proved by the numerous existing Confessions and Inquisition transcripts available in ancient and recent publications. Not once did the Roman Church accuse them of denying worship on the 1st-day. Nor did they accuse Catholics of breaking the Sabbath-day. List of heresies are found here:
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/source/waldo2.asp>

(6) **EGW:** “The Waldenses were the first of all the peoples of Europe to obtain a translation of the Scriptures.” This is another lie. Click on link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gothic_Bible

(7) **EGW:** “From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures, and taught to sacredly regard the claims of the law of God. Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore its precious words were committed to memory. Many were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and the New Testament.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, p. 29): “The youth.... used as their text-book the Holy Scriptures. And not only did they study the sacred volume; they were required to commit to memory, and be able accurately to recite whole Gospels and Epistles.....copies of the Word of God were rare.”

(8) **EGW:** “The church of the Alps, in its purity and simplicity, resembled the church in the first centuries.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, p. 29): “The Church of the Alps, in the simplicity of its constitution, may be held to have been a reflection of the Church of the first centuries.”

(9) **EGW:** “On the grassy slopes of the valleys, or in some sheltered glen among the hills, the people gathered about the servants of Christ to listen to the words of truth.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, p. 29): “We can imagine them seated – it may be on the grassy slopes of the valley....”

(10) **EGW:** “It was a law among them that all who entered the ministry should, before taking charge of a church at home, serve three years in the missionary field. As the hands of the men of God were laid upon their heads, the youth saw before them, not the prospect of earthly wealth or glory, but possibly a martyr’s fate.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, p. 30): “It was an old law among them that all who took orders in their Church should, before being eligible to a home charge, serve three years in the mission field. The youth on whose head the assembled *barbes* [pastors] laid their hands, saw in prospect, not a rich benefice, but a possible martyrdom.”

(11) **EGW:** “The missionaries began their labors in the plains and valleys at the foot of their own mountains, going

forth two and two, as Jesus sent out his disciples. These co-laborers were not always together, but often met for prayer and counsel, thus strengthening each other in the faith. To make known the nature of their mission would have insured its defeat; therefore they concealed their real character under the guise of some secular profession, most commonly that of merchants or peddlers. They offered for sale silks, jewelry, and other valuable articles, and were received as merchants where they would have been repulsed as missionaries.”

WYLIE (Volume 1, p. 30): “Their mission field was the realms that lay outspread at the foot of their own mountains. They went forth two and two, concealing their real character under the guise of a secular profession, most commonly that of merchants or pedlars [sic]. They carried silks, jewelry, and other articles.....and they were welcomed as merchants where they would have been spurned as missionaries.”

CONCLUSION: If there were no other plagiarized documents of Sister White’s in existence, this alone would be sufficient evidence to prove her spirit to be that of her father, the Devil, the father of lies. Her spirit guides are adept at plagiarizing religious materials. Sometimes these guides summarize the existing material using different adjectives and verbs. Other times they have no problem lifting entire phrases. Today universities have software programs to detect such deceit. Sister White was unscrupulous in her

unrelenting quest to steal material from those who actually did the years of research and writing.