

What Do We Mean By the Blueprint?

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Study Given by W.D Frazee—December 11,

God often uses illustrations to bring us a lesson and here we have a vivid and graphic illustration:

“Thus he showed me and behold the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumb line with a plumb line in his hand and the Lord said unto me what seest thou? And I said a plumb line then said the Lord behold I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel. I will not again pass by them anymore”
Amos 7:7-8.

I ask one of my friends to lend me his plumb line tonight so that we could get it vividly before us. What’s it for? Its to see whether a wall is straight enough, is that right?

You know there is an interesting thing about a plumb line, no matter what the man using it thinks or the people who have something to gain or lose the plumb line always points straight up and down right? That’s why it’s used. There are other instruments that can get out of quack as we say, the square we depend upon for somethings can get warped or twisted. But a plumb line it’s just straight.

A friend of mine who’s a builder was telling me about an experience that he witnessed. A church was being built and there was a general contractor in charge but certain parts of the building had been ‘let out’ to various ones. And the men that were putting up the blocks and the bricks they were doing that masonry and one morning the general superintendent came on the job and he looked at that wall. And he said to himself, “I don’t think that is straight.” Pretty soon the foreman for the masons came and he said the man that was looking after the masonry:

“What about that? That doesn’t look straight to me.”

What’d you suppose they did? The fellow said,

“Well, let’s get the plumb line.”

And so they got the plumb line and put it on and there it was sure enough it was out of

tune. Now the wall was up so high and what did they say? Did they say “Oh well it’s not so awfully much out and after all there’s been a lot of time and money put into it and so we just have to do the best we can from there on up.” Did they say that? No they didn’t. No there was only one thing for them to do, what was it? Tear down and start over again and use the plumb line more often and more carefully.

Now the strange thing is this dear friends, in material things nobody has any question about what to do in a case like this. But this isn’t exactly what God is talking about in our text is he? No, he’s talking about something infinitely important. One of the other translations puts it this way:

Amos what do you see? A plumb line I replied, the Eternal said with a plumb line I cast my people.

Now brothers and sisters let me ask you something. You’ve been reading the *Review and Herald*, the *Ministry Magazine*. You heard the leaders of this denomination and read their messages at Fall Council and General Conference and I want to ask you something. Is it true that the leaders of the people have set before us the fact that we’re out of plumb? Now what are we going to do about it? That’s the question, that’s the question with the plumb line I cast my people. And I want to tell you something no matter how much time and money that we have spent in building something either literally or symbolically that is not straight unless our lord will accept it what, what profit is it to keep on?

Wouldn’t it be passing strange to argue that after all that’s been going on so long and that maybe if it had been done according to the blueprint in the first place it would’ve been a good thing but times have changed and it’s too late to go back. But do we hear any such thoughts expressed do we? Yeah.

But the fact that our Lord has waited so long convinces me that he’s going to wait until he gets what he’s been waiting for. And this denomination is unique it isn’t just some sect, it is a God given movement with a God given message. And our destiny is to prepare a people to let God use us to prepare a people, to let God prepare us to be that people that are ready for his coming.

In Daniel 8:14 we have the text which is the keynote of this message, the foundation and the central pillar of the Advent movement. Will you repeat it with me Daniel 8:14?

“And he said unto me unto 2,300 days then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” Daniel 8:14.

This is what made us a people this is what will keep us on our job. There are 3 things about this text, one is the time and you know the time according to Daniel's prophecy that *great* period that began 457 B.C. and reaches down to the autumn of 1844. That time is what makes us a people our birthday, our spiritual birthday is October 22, 1844. And what was to take place then? The sanctuary was to be cleansed, where is the sanctuary? In heaven. What's it cleansing? The cleansing is the blotting out of the sins of Gods people.

But let's face it God will never enter a false record in his book keeping in heaven, he never will do that. And when he says that he's going to cleanse the sanctuary in heaven there must be accompanying it a work of cleansing in his church on earth. Is that right? Is that what this message teaches? And so as the investigative judgement continues in the most holy place in the sanctuary above, as the lives of men are being measured by this Ten Commandment Law. God wants us to be measuring our lives by the same plumb line, the same plumb line. And are we straight? Are we true?

Now we very properly quote James 2:10-12 when we're dealing with a non-Adventist audience. You can probably quote that will me let's start at least the beginning altogether:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point he is guilty of all" James 2:10.

That's James 2:10 and when we read that text nine times out of ten you and I are thinking about what commandment? The Fouth Commandment, that's right, and there are how many? Ten and back of those are the two great commandments. Love to God and love to fellow man and on these two hang all along the prophets.

My point is this friends, the Sabbath while it is the seal of the law and the seal of God's work in the hearts of his people is the sign of a completed work in which all his people have all the law written in their hearts and reveled in their lives is that correct? And this is why that we have health reform and medical missionary work in this movement, it is to bring that about. I'll say more about that tomorrow night when we speak on the subject of physiology and the latter rain. But let us look at it tonight, in order to have a people in whose hearts and lives these 10 commandments are fully revealed. In order to have that God has given us a message of physical healing, physical restoration so that our blood streams may be pure, our brain thinking may be straight. I'm so thankful for that and I repeat this why we have a health reform and medical missionary work. God has chosen this means along with others for developing a people in whose hearts his law is written from one to the beginning to the end *all* of the commandments.

Now in order that we might know what this law reveals, God gave us in the bible a set of lenses the old and new testaments which magnify the Law. And because some of us down here in this last generation have such poor eyesight, He's given us along with His Law and the Bible to magnify it a great magnifying glass in the Spirit of Prophecy. The Spirit of Prophecy magnifies the Bible, the Bible magnifies the Law and thus we can see the whole beauty of man. Is that correct? Is that the way you believe it? Alright, now why is this Law so important? It is the revelation of God's will, God's character. He spoke it with His lips, He wrote it with His finger, it's the only part of the Bible thus given to us.

In the Bible we have this same creator who wrote His will on the tables of stone, speaking to us through the prophets and apostles. Telling us in simple language what He means by every precept of His Law, is that right? And so we call this Bible the word of what? The word of Whom? The Word of God, alright now in this word the one who gave it promises that in the last days He will have a remnant church that keep the commandments of God, all 10 of them and have something. What do they have? The testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy, do they have it? Do they?

Alright, now if we have it dear friends, if in the Spirit of Prophecy we have the testimony of Jesus. Then who is speaking to us as we read *Ministry of Healing, Counsels on Diets and Foods, Counsels on Health, the Testimonies* and all the rest. Who's speaking? Is Jesus? I want to ask you something. Have you ever heard that these things are out of date? Whenever I hear that I think that it's strange that somebody who could give us 2,000 years ago and book which is still up to date. Couldn't give us 100 years ago book that are still up to date. I don't believe it do you? In other words I *do* believe that the one who in the Bible gave us light which would *always* be light. Gave us in the Spirit of Prophecy the testimony of Jesus, light which would help us and guide us and bless us clear through to the end. Is that what you believe? Well then you're a Seventh Day Adventist and if you don't maybe you're a Seventh Day Baptist. They keep the Sabbath but they don't know about the testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy that's the difference. And neither do they know about the Sanctuary and the work of Jesus in the Most Holy place and that's the *basic* difference my friends.

Now we have titled the subject this evening 'What do we mean by the Blueprint.' There are those that believe in the writings of Ellen G White when it comes to *Desire of Ages, Patriarchs and Prophets, Steps to Christ, Christ's Object Lessons*. But they find it difficult to attach the same inspired authority to the details dealing with physiology and dietetics and nutrition and medical practice and sanitariums and hospitals and all that sort of thing. You know what I mean don't you?

And so the question we're raising tonight is what do we mean by the blueprint? And I'm not telling secret when I say that in this denomination we have men, good men who believe in the writings of Ellen G White we have good counsel, but that at least a number of the things which she wrote were relevant to her time and not relevant to our time. And I don't believe that they are devil possessed, I believe that they're sincere but with all my heart my friends I believe they're mistake. I do not believe that we can treat these writings of the Spirit of Prophecy as guidance for a bygone age, the horse and buggy days. And think that now because we're in the jet age we must jettison these inspired writings and so far as they give us specific council.

No, the truth of the matter is friends, the faster we're going the more sure we need to be that we're going right. The higher the wall, the more important it is that the plumb line be used to keep testing. And if in our ignorance or in our carelessness or in our desire to keep up with the Joneses, either out in the world or within the denomination we have built different from the blueprint and contrary to the plumb line. Let us repent and start over again individually and in our work for God shall we friends? I can tell you this, God's patience has waited far more than a century already and he's going to wait until he gets what he wants. And no matter how high we build our walls if we build them as high as the Babel builders built. Unless God's accepts our work what profit is it friends, what profit is it?

On this point of just what we mean by the blueprint, I'd like to read a classic statement from the book *Education* page 260. This statement relates to the Bible, but it is equally applicable to the inspired instruction which is been given to us through the Spirit of Prophecy.

"It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral and instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of our times and our position in our world. It is another thing to regard it as it really is the word of the living God. The word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words and our thoughts, to hold God's word as anything less than this is to reject it. This is why so many young people have rejected the Bible is because of the older people have kept it just as a book of moral instruction to be followed in so far as is consistent in our times" *Education*, page 260.

Oh friends, aren't the writings of the Bible and the writings of Ellen G White are they the blueprint for our work or are they merely some guiding principles for us to apply as we think then. Which is it? This is the question and on this issue will come a confrontation in this denomination that we have yet to meet my friends. It was met 70

years ago in the alpha of apostasy, the omega hastens on a pace and it is on this question, believe me.

Our controversy in the world is over the Sabbath, the keeping of the 10 commandments. But the *great* controversy within this movement in the coming days is over the Spirit of Prophecy. Some of you know that there are already books being written, one soon to be published. Having as it's objective the debunking of the authority of Ellen G White and as the prophet was told 70 years ago when she was given that vision of the iceberg. When the people in Battle Creek made there open attack on the Spirit of Prophecy God said the time has come meeting. And when those who have secretly or at least in a more quiet way dropped their doubts concerning the authority of the Spirit of Prophecy come out in the open and publish their doubts. Then it is time for those who believe the Spirit of Prophecy to be counted on. To stand up for Jesus and his testimony what do you say? The Lord grant it friends that everyone here.

But you know we vote with our actions more than we do with our hands or our words don't we? Let me illustrate what I mean in this matter of whether we have implicit faith in the writings. In the United States news and world report there is occasionally a page on the latest in health and medicine. Some of you probably notice this, one on alcohol's link to cancer, government research has shown, this was reported to congress. That there is now evidence from science that the heavy use of alcohol brings and added risk of cancer.

"Well" you say "that's good, that supports the inspired writings." Now catch the beautiful note with which the article closes,

"On the other hand the doctor in charge said there is no evidence that moderate use of alcohol is harmful, in fact according to the institutes report moderate drinkers as a statistical group live longer than abstainers or ex-drinkers." No what do you do with that?

There was a live telecast 6,000 years ago in this world and some of it agreed with the inspired council, but some of it contradicted it. And Eve came to that tree believing the Word of God, she left it doubting God and believing the serpent, is that what happened? My dear friends I plead with your hearts, while it is all very well together scientific evidence in support of what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy says and I appreciate it, this is all fine. We need to spend our time with major emphasis in studying the writings themselves and believing them whether science confirms them or not.

We do not believe because we understand, we understand because we believe.

"Through faith we understand" Hebrews 11:3.

And just as this danger that some of our scientific men lose their way in trying to correlate the teachings of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy on creation with the scientific theories and the so called scientific data that are available in the scientific work today. So in our medical my dear brothers and sisters we need to be aware lest we evaluate what is given us in the spirit of prophecy according to whether science has confirmed it or not. One-hundred years ago, as we look back at it the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy were far in advance of the science of that time true or false? Could it be that it's just as true as today? And wouldn't it be a pity, wouldn't it be worse a tragedy if we should conclude that 100 years ago was the dark ages and of course Sister White was in advance of the so called science of that time. But today we know a lot of things that people didn't know then.

Oh friends, if this light through this Spirit of Prophecy is our blueprint let us go by and let us be content to wait for the world to catch up which if it's investigating in a scientific way it eventually will. But let is not wait for that in order to act, let me illustrate it in another way. When I was a student in medical missionary lines about 50 years ago, do you know the only people who didn't use butter they were the fanatics in the Seventh Day Adventist church. Who were so zealous to follow the writings of Ellen G White that they wouldn't use dairy butter and were looked upon as extremists by many, I'm only stating a fact. And you younger folks would wonder what in the world was the matter?

Well it just happens that people weren't talking much about cholesterol those days and atherosclerosis caused by high animal fat diet. But don't miss this point, the people who were fanatical enough to do just what the prophet said about that little detail lived longer and spared heart attacks as the result. Do you see what I'm getting at? And might it be true that there are 100 other details in the writings in the Spirit of Prophecy which we will search them out and follow them whether there is any scientific support for them or not would it not only show our faith in God but might we get the benefits of doing what God says what you think?

So when we say what do we mean by the blueprint if we understand it, we mean taking both the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy at face value and accepting what we read in these books and following this whether we see any reason for it or not.

Now I picked out just a few examples tonight of specific councils. Now I took the index here and I looked up a little word called walking. Has there been any scientific confirmation in the last 10-20 years on the council of walking? Oh yes, but as I sometimes tell an audience all the talking about walking won't take the place of walking, I believe it. I walked down to the chapel this morning and I walked back and I live a mile and a half from the chapel, but why do I do that? It isn't because my friends some people have found out about cholesterol or coronary. This is why I do it, I'm reading you now line by line:

"Walking after meals benefits:

- all organs of the body are used in walking,
- beneficial exercises,
- preferable to driving,
- preferable to riding,
- better for health than all the medicine the doctors may prescribe,
- blood circulation improved by,
- cultivate the habit of talking with Jesus while walking,
- hold head erect and shoulders back while walking,
- walking in winter beneficial to health,
- lungs forced into healthy action by walking,
- more muscles brought into exercise by walking than by riding or driving,
- morning exercise and walking are sure self-guard against colds,
- no exercise can take the place of walking,
- the best remedy."

Well those are some of the lines on just that one subject and I'm so glad that the people that believe those things have been getting the benefits of it a 100 years before some of the scientific research has made it almost a fad among some executives today. Aren't you thankful for that inspired counsel dear friends? Are we thankful enough to do it? I would if I had time wouldn't I?

Now shall I share another item of specific counsel? This is what we mean by the Blueprint, *Counsels on Health* page 325. Page 324 is that oft quoted statement that:

"Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere and 9/10th of the diseases for which men suffer have their foundation here."
Counsels on Health, page 324.

On the next page it says that:

“The physician needs more than human wisdom and power that he may know how to minister to the many perplexing cases of disease of the mind and heart with which he is called to deal. If he is ignorant of the power of divine grace, he cannot help the afflicted one but will aggravate the difficulty” *Ibid.*, page 325

What would this do brothers and sisters? What would this do to our practice of medicine if we really believe this statement. Will we dare to refer to an unconverted psychologist or psychiatrist? Somebody that has been brought by the blood of Jesus, can I read this statement again?

“If (the physician) is ignorant of the power of divine grace, he cannot help the afflicted one but will aggravate the difficulty”
Ibid., page 325

I'll tell you this, my friends, I thought it through, if I'm out somewhere and I have to have my appendix cut out. I'd be glad for a Seventh-day Adventist surgeon, if I couldn't get one I'd hope for a Christian surgeon from some other denomination. And if I couldn't get him I'd want the best man I could get whether he knew anything about the Lord or not, if he had a knowledge mechanics and techniques of surgery, would you agree with me?

But listen I've said all of that to say this, if it's my mind that's off the beam instead of my appendix and if one of you dear physicians has my case in charge let me go in sane, raving mad and die rather than put me in the hands of some pagan, heathen psychiatrist who does not believe in God and free will. I would rather die insane in the Lord than be under the influence of one of these worldly psychiatrist or psychologists. And shall I add this, at the annual conference of the General Conference committee in Loma Linda last year. I heard a man who's major field is in psychology warn against counselling our people to seek a lot of these counselors in their marriage problems. Because he said, most of them do not understand that what is called science in the field of psychology and psychiatry goes contrary to the councils of the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy.

Now I can only just refer to this, this isn't my subject tonight. My question is what do we mean by the Blueprint? And the Blueprint tells me that if the physician is ignorant of the power of divine grace he cannot help the afflicted one that's having mental difficulty he will aggravate the difficulty. And the next page says:

“We may well distrust the ungodly physician, how terrible to trust our loved ones in the hands of a impure man who may poison the morals and ruin the soul” *Ibid.*, page 326

Read the whole chapter brothers and sisters and let not medical ethics rob you of the convictions that come from this inspired Blueprint. I turn to another field, what do we mean by the Blueprint?

“Our institutions are to be entirely under the supervision of God. They were established in sacrifice and only in sacrifice can their work be successfully carried forward” *Counsels on Health* page 316.

Oh but we know how to do it without that, or do we? Peter tried to help Jesus learn how to run his program without the sacrifice of the cross. Do you remember in Matthew 16? What did Jesus say to him? [audience replies that's right]. Shall I venture another specific example of the Blueprint?

“It is the purpose of God that a health institution should be organized and controlled exclusively by Seventh-Day Adventists” *Counsels on Health* page 401.

What does exclusively mean? Nobody but, but of course this is out of date. This was written a 100 years ago, it brings me right to the point what do we mean by the Blueprint. I read again:

“It is the purpose of God that a health institution should be organized and controlled exclusively by Seventh-Day Adventists. And when unbelievers are brought in to occupy responsible positions and influences presiding there that will tell with *great* weight against the sanitarium” *Ibid.*, page 401

Suppose you were to ask me as an evangelist to go out and hold a series of meetings and tell me that I am to be chairman of the panel, the company in that group. And my evangelistic company will be made of a Catholic Priest, a Jewish Rabbi, a modernist Presbyterian minister and tongue-speaking Pentecostal. *audience laughs*

No friends, it's more serious than that, would you expect me to conduct a Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic campaign with that sort of staff? Has God given us a specific Seventh-day Adventist health message? Or are we just run of the mill medical practitioners that happen to belong to the Seventh-day Adventist church and thus add prestige to the denomination to which we belong which is it friends? What do we mean by the Blueprint? Has there counsel been given to guide us in how we're to do our work

and how we're to run our institutions. Is this still relevant? And dear friends every soul here tonight whether you realize it or not will vote on this question, you will vote on it with your influence, with your actions, with where you put your efforts. And thank God he's going to wait until he gets what he's calling for.

A full demonstration of *all* that Ellen White wrote concerning the health reform and the Medical Missionary work. God is going to get it friends; you and I are invited to have a part in it. But God won't force one of us, he will give every one of us opportunity to get off the beam a little here and a little there if that's what we want. But if we say dear Lord I want the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I'll seek for it as silver, search for it as pure gold and I'll follow it. Oh friends, there's no limit to what God can do if he will get some people who will go all the way with him.

And so I invite you in the words of Elijah at Mount Carmel, "if the lord be God follow him", but if the world has a program that's worth copying let's follow that. What do we mean by the Blueprint? We mean God's Holy Law, we mean the Bible the Old and New Testaments. We mean the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, the visions of Ellen G White.

"Believe in the Lord your God so shall you be established,
believe his prophets so shall you prosper" 2 Chronicles 20:20.

May we bow our heads, Dear Heavenly Father, We look to Thee to rightly interpret to our hearts the verses we have read tonight and the principles we've studied. We pray for Jesus sake that thou will keep anyone from taking or making an extreme or fanatical application of one of these things. Help us to be sensible, balanced people but Lord help us to be in the middle of the narrow road, not the middle of the broad road. Bless each of us as in our secret hearts we meet the struggle of worldly influence and world conformity. And somehow grant that this seminar may cause us to take a step heavenward rather than world ward. Oh, grant that we may run the way of thy commandments. We pray in Jesus name, amen.

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