

**FRENCH PASTOR DOES NOT WANT TO DISTRIBUTE
THE BOOK GREAT CONTROVERSY FOR UNFOUNDED REASONS
Responses from Dr. Alberto R. Treiyer to Pastor Jimmy Trujillo
May 2023**

Pastor Jimmy Trujillo claims that E. G. White relied on a few Protestant books, implying that she should have quoted secular and Catholic authors to be objective. He seems to presume that in order to write that book, E. G. White should have prepared a doctoral dissertation that considered everything said about the historical issues he raises. And as she herself says in the introduction of the book that she did not quote historians to prove the historical facts, but because they summarized the events she wanted to highlight, Pastor Trujillo presumes to find several historical errors in the book that led him to decide not to distribute the book selected for distribution.

To this we reply that people may disagree with some minor details of certain events related by those authors whom E. G. White quotes, without necessarily denying the prophetic theology involved in such stories. That is the important thing. In fact, all history books reflect to a greater or lesser extent the philosophical orientation of this or that author. If we take seriously the criteria of that pastor, we could not recommend the work of those historians because here and there some divergent points can be found in comparison with other authors.

What we see in Jimmy Trujillo is something worse. His critiques reveal historical prejudices that hide a typically French ecumenical and anti-American spirit when it comes to assessing the French Revolution and the role of the United States in prophecy. I say typically French because after the French Revolution, French people became typically “contestateurs,” that is, “contester” or “disputant.”

Moreover, the book *The Great Controversy* was never intended to be objective in the sense of considering all the pros and cons discussed by historians, according to their theological and philosophical convictions. Its purpose was to bear God’s testimony to history. This was the reason why she rejected the attempts to change the historical content of the book for its second edition. On the contrary, she called for supporting what she wrote through a wider historical documentation.

Jimmy doesn’t seem to realize that his criticism is the same one that modern skeptical theologians have been making of the Bible. They fail to grasp that the mission of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy is not to say all that can be said about history, but what God cares for us to know. It is about *the history of salvation*, that is, the history of what concerns our salvation.

As time permits, I will respond to some of his criticisms of *The Great Controversy*. I guess the White Center and the Bible Research Institute of the General Conference will do the same. So, I will not be exhaustive.

Critique 1. E. G. White wrote: “In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy—the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil

men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human eyes. 'Babylon the great' was drunken with the blood of the saints. The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power" (GC 59).

I cited the complete statement of E. G. White because Pastor Trujillo considers that she says this only about the Inquisition and therefore, he believes to be an exaggeration, because supposedly all historians would give much lower figures regarding the work of the Inquisition.

Answer: This is wrong. She is speaking not only of the Inquisition, but of the papacy and "Babylon the Great," that is, the Roman Catholic Church. And through the courts of the Inquisition, that church exercised a frightening picture of torture, beheadings, in addition to the massacres perpetrated through the papal crusades against heretics. The Inquisition affirmed that its mission was to control the morality of society and defend the Roman Catholic Church, so that its influence permeated all the actions of Catholic princes for centuries, who had to witness the horrible pictures of burning heretics alive.

Let that French pastor go to the museum of the Inquisition in Carcassonne, which is in his own country. Opening the door to a room of that museum turns on the TV and shows Pope John Paul II admitting that millions were martyred and killed by the Roman Catholic Church in the Middle Ages. The Cathars in the thirteenth century numbered more than a million adherents in Europe, and were exterminated. H. Hamilton, *The Medieval Inquisition* (New York, 1981), 78. "Between 200,000 and one million people... died during the witch mania that gripped Europe from the sixteenth to the seventeenth century," E. Burman, *Los Secretos de la Inquisición. Historia y legado del Santo Oficio, desde Inocencio III a Juan Pablo II* (Barcelona, 1988), 174. But the oppression referred to was not limited to two or three centuries. They occupy most of the second Christian millennium.

About 50 million people were martyred throughout the Middle Ages by the Roman papacy. This is what a university study reveals, showing how the Catholic Church has been trying to decrease the death toll produced by that Church, and the truth about what happened in the Middle Ages. In contrast, the author states that Protestants have always claimed that millions died under the medieval Roman papacy, and this is what his study confirms. Could it be that Trujillo wants us to swallow the apologist story of the Inquisition by Roman Catholic Church historians? See documentation at David A. Plaisted, University Study: *Estimates of the Number Killed by the Papacy in the Middle Ages and later* <http://fliphtml5.com/bsxh/ofmu/basic> Also in: https://educacionlibreysoberana.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/plaisted-estimates_number_killed_by_the_papacy-2006.pdf

Critique 2. E. G. White wrote: "A striking illustration of the tyrannical character of this advocate of infallibility was given in his treatment of the German emperor, Henry IV. For presuming to disregard the pope's authority, this monarch was declared to be excommunicated and dethroned... And Gregory, elated with his triumph, boasted that it was his duty to pull down the pride of kings" (GC 58).

- Our pastor Trujillo reacts to these statements, saying: "This is not exact." And tells the rest of the story that E. G. White doesn't tell.

Answer: What E. G. White wrote was exact. Pope Gregory was elated with his triumph and “boasted that it was his duty to pull down the pride of kings.” The fact that king Henry IV later fought back against Gregory to regain state power does not change the story. Again, she is not interested in telling a complete story, but the part of the story which illustrates what the Lord revealed to her about the arrogant presumptions of the papacy.

Critique 3. Trujillo mentions the citation by E. G. White of Josiah Litch, who believed that in August 11, 1840, “the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken” (GC 334). Trujillo brings into consideration the fact that the Turkish empire did not disappear before the 20th Century.

Answer: E. G. White did not adopt all of what Josiah Litch expected to happen on August 11, 1840. She mentions what Josiah Litch believed, that something important would happen concerning the power of the Ottoman empire according to the prophecy. Reflecting back from the perspective of the 20th Century in connection with the second edition of the GC, she wrote: “At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction” (GC 335). What prediction? The prediction of the date, which was fulfilled as E. G. White specified, by the submission of Turkey to the Christian nations. And this was exactly what happened in 1840.

For a wider discussion on the fulfillment of this prophecy, see my paper, *The Prophetic Dates of the Trumpets of Revelation*: <https://adventistdistinctivemessages.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/Trumpetsdates.pdf>

Critique 4. In order to justify his rejection of the book *The Great Controversy*, Jimmy Trujillo quotes what William White (son of E. G. White) wrote concerning her writings on history. “Regarding Mother’s writings, she has never wished our brethren to treat them as authority on the dates or details of history... When ‘Controversy’ was written, Mother never thought that the readers would take it as an authority on historical dates and use it to settle controversies.”

Answer: Trujillo doesn’t quote what William White also wrote: “I am hoping and expecting that a further study of history will develop confidence in the work which God has done through revelations given to Mother [and] in correcting those extravagant and fanatical views regarding her work which are injurious to Christian experience and to the advancement of the truth” (May 7, 1915). The matter was not an admission of historical mistakes, but an opposition to quote her as an authority in historical matters, and a call to support her writings with a wider historical documentation. As a matter of fact, she didn’t accept historical changes for the second edition of the GC, and for the prophetic dates, as some had suggested. As already seen, the presumed historical errors argued by pastor Trujillo are not errors. We must judge her within the purpose of her book already considered.

Critique 5. E. G. White wrote: “The pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state” (GC 51). “In the sixth century the papacy had become firmly established. Its seat of power was fixed in the imperial

city, and the bishop of Rome was declared to be the head over the entire church. Paganism had given place to the papacy” (GC 54).

- Pr. Trujillo accuses E. G. White of exaggeration and brings into consideration the separation of the Eastern Roman Empire from the Western Roman Empire, and other examples of conflicting confrontations along the centuries during the Middle Ages. In addition, our brother says that in this context, she uses the term “Christianity” when in his view, only a few section of the Christian world followed the bishop of Rome. [He is reading *The Great Controversy* in the French translation, because—as you can see above—in the original English book she doesn’t uses the term “Christianity”].

Answer: These statements of E. G. White are right. She referred to the decree of emperor Justinian who declared the pope to be “the head of all the churches,” and promised the pope to bring all the churches of the east under his holy authority. The separation of the Eastern Churches took place at the beginning of the second Christian millennium. Anyway, there were always confrontations between kings and popes, as it can happen in an unhappy marriage when both spouses contend for supremacy, who will be the head. And this doesn’t necessarily mean a complete rupture. The political authority might sometimes be contended, but in spiritual matters the papacy continued to be recognized as supreme authority.

Let us pay attention to the fact that E. G. White specified “almost universally.” This is not an exaggeration. Even so, the Bible often uses literary synecdoche, which consists in referring to the whole of something when speaking of one of its parts. In the book of Hosea, we find several times a reference to Ephraim when speaking about all 10 northern tribes of Israel (Hos 4:17, etc). It is God who is speaking through Hosea. Should we accuse God of exaggerating His description of Ephraim’s apostasy? Frankly, I cannot understand how a liberal and dissident magazine like *Adventist Today*, feels free to publish those incoherent criticisms of a wonderful book, *The Great Controversy*, that the church is sharing with many people who need its message.

Critique 6. Jimmy rejects the date 538 for the beginning of papal supremacy. According to him, history witnesses the supremacy of secularism.

Answer: History did not see the supremacy of secularism over religion from this time on. On the contrary, we find a growing development of papal power. Justinian, the Eastern Roman emperor, issued an edict in 533 declaring the pope as “the head of all the Holy Churches,” and humbled himself, in his words, “to increase the honor and authority of your See.” But the military accomplishment took place five years later when he sent general Belisarius to liberate the See of the pope in Rome from Arian dominion.

Here we see a decree given in the year 533, then enforced five years later by military action in the year 538. When we reach the end of the 1260 years we find the same. First, the atheist French assembly de-Christianized France in the year 1793, which was followed in 1798 by a military expedition which took prisoner the pope, declaring that the authority of the pope reached its end.

It is notable that the Arian Ostrogoths had nominated Silverius as bishop of Rome under Ostrogoth tutelage. But Belisarius removed that pope in the year 538, and nominated pope Vigilius, who was recognized not only by the emperor, but also by all Romans. On July 1, we

find the first mention of Justinian as Lord of Italy, which proves that from that time, the Ostrogoths were regarded as having been overcome. Pope Vigilius required the preparation of the *Pragmatic Sanction* known as *Pragmatica Sanction Pro Petitione Vigilii*, which was promulgated in the year 554 AD, confirming and increasing the temporal power of the papacy which had been in force since the year 538 AD. Popes could be removed to nominate other popes, but the institution of the papacy continued being officially recognized until 1798 when it was proclaimed by general Berthier that the authority of the papacy had reached an end.

Emperor Justinian initiated a war against pure paganism which led historians to recognize that Paganism as a religion reached an end in the sixth Century. Justinian also persecuted Arians, Manicheans, and any heretic religion which did not recognize the authority of the Roman Catholic religion. In this way, Justinian cleared the way for the pope to become the only supreme authority on religious matters. “The dragon [the (Eastern) Roman empire], gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority” (Rev 13:2).

After the liberation of Rome by Justinian, the popes began a process of independence even from the emperor. This was facilitated by the Lombards who occupied the bulwark of the Roman emperor in Ravenna, and by the Muslims who took away from the Byzantine Empire all of its properties in the south. The self-aggrandizement of the pope over princes and kings continued developing until the 13th Century, when it reached its peak under Innocence III, who applied for himself the title King of kings.

Let us keep in mind that the papacy ruled the world during the Middle Ages together with the Western emperors. To be crowned, the emperors used to kneel before the pope, promising to defend his authority and the Roman Catholic Church by any means, even by the sword if necessary. A wider scope on this history which confirms the historical testimony of E. G. White in the book *The Great Controversy*, may be found in A. R. Treiyer, *The Seals and the Trumpets. Biblical and Historical Studies* (2005); *The Apocalyptic Times of the Sanctuary* (2014, pp 247ff). (also available in Kindle, Amazon); J. C. Zukowsky, *The Role and status of the Catholic Church in the Church-State Relationship within the Roman Empire from A.D. 306 to 814* (Andrews university, Doctoral dissertation, 2009); H. Shaidinger, *Historical Confirmation of Prophetic Periods* (Biblical Research Institute, Washington DC, 2010).

Critique 7. E. G. White wrote: “It was the desire for liberty of conscience that inspired the Pilgrims to brave the perils of the long journey across the sea, to endure the hardships and dangers of the wilderness, and with God’s blessing to lay, on the shores of America, the foundation of a mighty nation” (GC 292). “The feeble and isolated colonies grew to a confederation of powerful states, and the world marked with wonder the peace and prosperity of ‘a church without a pope, and a state without a king’” (GC 296). “The beast with lamblike horns was seen ‘coming up out of the earth.’ Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nationalities of the Old World—that turbulent sea of ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ It must be sought in the Western Continent” (GC 440).

Jimmy Trujillo mocks what he calls the American myth of believing that with the arrival of the Pilgrim Fathers on the Mayflower, a country would have been founded, in the words of E. G. White, on a “desert” territory (in French), “wilderness” and “unoccupied” (in English), and in a peaceful way. According to him, the American continent was populated by indigenous nations and the USA was founded through wars against the Indians and even with the Civil War in the 19th Century.

Answer: The English word “wilderness” has several connotations. It usually means “an unsettled and uncultivated tract of land left in its natural state.” It may include “forests and jungles.” This was the land which the pilgrim fathers found in the 17th Century when they came to America. Differing from the populated European nations, the pilgrim fathers in the 17th Century arrived in a land expansive enough to grow without needing to fight against other peoples to occupy their territory. There were controversies among indigenous peoples and the new immigrants, as well as among immigrants themselves, but in contrast with Europe, the new immigrant nation grew up peacefully.

In the quoted pages, E. G. White is telling the experience of the first European immigrants in American territory, in contrast with their experience in the tumultuous and crowded nations of Europe, where “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” revealed in the Apocalyptic prophecy, were ruled by the papacy together with the Western emperors (Rev 13:7). She wrote:

“Among the Christian exiles *who first fled to America* and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were *many* who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the *Declaration of Independence*, which sets forth the great truth that ‘all men are created equal’ and endowed with the inalienable right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’” Why is Trujillo not quoting this?

Let us insist on this point. Europe was marked by crowded nations where permanent wars of dominion and conquest took place upon occupied territories. This did not happen in the new continent at the beginning. The first immigrants could take possession of unoccupied lands. The wars of conquest against Indians took place in the 19th Century, and for reasons that the book *The Great Controversy* explains. Unfortunately, Trujillo does not tell the whole story, because his only purpose is to discredit *the great picture* told in that book. Let us read what Jimmy doesn’t want to quote, which complement the former statements:

“But continually increasing numbers were attracted to the shores of America, actuated by motives widely different from those of the first Pilgrims. Though the primitive faith and purity exerted a widespread and molding power, yet its influence became less and less as the numbers increased of those who sought only worldly advantage” (GC 296). The day would come when the next prediction will take place. She said: “The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented” (GC 442).

Critique 8. Jimmy despises the vision of the book *Great Controversy* as being almost Manichean where everything is black or white. He insists that, more than God and Satan, the axis

of the great controversy are Protestants and Catholics, where E. G. White could not see in the book anything good in Catholics, and anything bad in Protestants. In order to prove that he mentions the negative points in history of Luther and other Protestants, and the Protestant persecutions in different countries. He also takes into consideration the positive works of several Catholics which are not mentioned in the book.

Answer: As already seen, Trujillo wrongly accuses E. G. White of historical exaggerations, while he himself exaggerates the supposed white and black views of her book. This is not true. The problem of pastor Trujillo is, again, that he requires the Spirit of Prophecy to write a history of his own choice, forgetting the real purpose of the book.

Does Jimmy Trujillo know what “historical theology” is? It is the branch of theology which studies a doctrine or theological principle along the centuries. And this is what *The Great Controversy* is. The stories are chosen to illustrate certain principles which will be crucial in the final contest. This is what E. G. White explained in the introduction to her book. She was required by God to bring out the historical issues that will become relevant for the last crisis of the world. For this, she was assisted by many visions of God.

The Big Picture of the book shows how the Bible was concealed in the Middle Ages by the papacy, and how Rome persecuted those who distributed the Word of God. This can be illustrated by a monastery in Spain where the monks decided to follow the Bible, and fled because they knew that if they remained there, they would have been killed by the Inquisition. One of the monks of that monastery of Sevilla who fled from Spain was Casiodoro de Reina, who was the first to translate the Bible into the Spanish language.

If E. G. White doesn't mention all the charitable works that some members of the Roman Catholic Church did here and there, it is because those Catholic institutions didn't exalt the Bible. Anyway, she mentions that within the Roman Catholic Church there were sincere people who tried to introduce reform, but who could not stop the wave of corruption and deception that was being developed in Rome. In fact, the Reformers did not expect to leave the Roman Catholic Church, but were expelled by Rome because their attempts to reform the church inflamed papal persecution. This is the reason why she wrote:

“The faithful standard-bearers were few indeed. Though the truth was not left without witnesses, yet at times it seemed that error and superstition would wholly prevail, and true religion would be banished from the earth” (GC 55). “Men of learning and piety had labored in vain to bring about a reform in” the “monastic orders” (GC 84).

She also mentions that Protestants made mistakes especially because they were coming out, little by little, from a deceptive institution. It was the papacy which concealed and forbade the Bible in the Middle Ages, to blasphemously exalt itself over the Word of God. This is the correct Protestant view of history that E. G. White adheres to and supports. But Jimmy appears to advocate for the Roman Catholic Church in order to cover the blasphemous and idolatrous aspects of the papal institution with the positive achievements of some of its members.

Concerning Luther, even Catholics today must recognize that his defense of freedom of conscience signaled the beginning of modern times. And this is what the book we are considering brings out, because at that time this was the matter at stake. But she also says that the Reformers of the 16th Century didn't receive all the light, and that the reform had to continue, the Adventist movement becoming the last development of that reform.

What is the principal purpose brought out by E. G. White in her book? To unmask the deceptive power which tried to supplant the Word of God by its traditions (the supremacy of Rome) and the way God worked to vindicate the Bible. If she speaks positively about Protestantism, it is because Protestants put the Bible over the idolatrous pretensions of the popes and the Roman Catholic traditions and superstitions. Even so, it was clear to her that the Reformers could not discover at once all the light that is found in the Bible. Therefore, how can Trujillo affirm that in a book as significant as *The Great Controversy*, we can find only good things about Protestants, and only bad things about Catholics?

“In the different countries of Europe men were moved by the Spirit of God to search for the truth as for hid treasures. Providentially guided to the Holy Scriptures, they studied the sacred pages with intense interest. They were willing to accept the light at any cost to themselves. *Though they did not see all things clearly*, they were enabled to perceive many long-buried truths” (GC 79).

Concerning Calvin, she wrote:

“His course as a public leader *was not faultless, nor were his doctrines free from error*. But he was instrumental in promulgating truths that were of special importance in his time, in maintaining the principles of Protestantism against the fast-returning tide of popery, and in promoting in the reformed churches simplicity and purity of life, in place of the pride and corruption fostered under the Romish teaching” (GC 236).

Concerning “the English Reformers,” she wrote that:

“While renouncing the doctrines of Romanism, [they] *had retained many of its forms*. Thus though the authority and the creed of Rome were rejected, *not a few of her customs and ceremonies were incorporated* into the worship of the Church of England” (GC 289). “While the Reformers rejected the creed of Rome, *they were not entirely free from her spirit of intolerance. The dense darkness in which, through the long ages of her rule, popery had enveloped all Christendom, had not even yet been wholly dissipated*” (GC 293).

In another statement E. G. White explains what her purpose was of telling the story of the great reformers. She wrote:

“As we read of Luther, Knox, and other noted Reformers, we admire the strength, fortitude, and courage possessed by these faithful servants of God, and we would catch the spirit that animated them. We desire to know from what source they were out of weakness made strong. Although these great men were used as instruments for God, *they were not faultless. They were erring men, and made great mistakes. We should seek to imitate their virtues, but we should not make them*

our criterion. These men possessed rare talents to carry forward the work of the Reformation. They were moved upon by a power above themselves; but it was not the men, the instruments that God used, that should be exalted and honored, but the Lord Jesus who let His light and power come upon them. Let those who love truth and righteousness, who gather up the hereditary trusts given to these standard-bearers, praise God, the Source of all light” (1 *SM* 402).

Critique 9: E. G. White wrote: “The spirit of liberty went with the Bible. Wherever the gospel was received, the minds of the people were awakened. They began to cast off the shackles that had held them bondslaves of ignorance, vice, and superstition” (*GC* 277). “In many places there was a marked reform in the manners of the people” (*GC* 94). “The gospel would have brought to France the solution of those political and social problems that baffled the skill of her clergy, her king, and her legislators, and finally plunged the nation into anarchy and ruin” (*GC* 279).

Pastor Jimmy Trujillo accuses to E. G. White of promoting the prosperity gospel, even if he acknowledges the usual honesty and rightness seen in Protestant countries. But he makes outstanding the immorality and crime rates of those countries today, the two world wars produced by Germany and the Jewish extermination by Hitler, the slavery in America until the Civil War, the dream of Martin Luther King and the Black Lives Matter reaction against white supremacy segregation, the Ku Klux Klan, and the apartheid of Africa. Therefore, he concludes that history denies what E. G. White wrote on this issue. It was not those nations, but Protestant and Catholic individuals who saved slaves and Jews.

Answer: Again, Jimmy takes E. G. White out of context to oppose her book. Why doesn't he quote the examples given in the book that he is criticizing, on the transformation of society by the principles of the Bible? Should we deny genuine conversion of Old Testament Israel because of their subsequent apostasy? In the same vein, should we blame Protestantism for what some Protestants did later through apostasy and corruption? Let me share another example she gives of the transformation of a people through the principles of the Bible. In reference to those who first came to America she wrote:

“The Bible was held as the foundation of faith, the source of wisdom, and the charter of liberty. Its principles were diligently taught in the home, in the school, and in the church, and its fruits were manifest in thrift, intelligence, purity, and temperance. One might be for years a dweller in the Puritan settlement, ‘and not see a drunkard, or hear an oath, or meet a beggar’ (Bancroft, pt. 1, ch. 19, par. 25). It was demonstrated that the principles of the Bible are the surest safeguards of national greatness” (*GC* 296).

Again, why doesn't Trujillo quote another paragraph from *The Great Controversy*, where she puts together atheists, infidels, and apostates who oppose and denounce God's law? Those peoples cannot be taken as an example against the great truth of blessing in obedience by genuine Christian nations.

“Atheists, infidels, and apostates oppose and denounce God's law; but the results of their influence prove that the well-being of man is bound up with his obedience of the divine statutes. Those who will not read the lesson from the book of God are bidden to read it in the history of nations” (*GC* 285).

In addition, to affirm that the Word of God brings liberty, peace and prosperity, E. G. White bases her argument on the Bible. Is the Bible also wrong on this point? By the way, this has nothing to do with Jimmy's accusation of gospel prosperity. Genuine Christians are not faithful to receive God's blessings. Those blessings come because of being faithful.

“The fatal error which wrought such woe for the inhabitants of France was the ignoring of this one great truth: that true freedom lies within the proscriptions of the law of God. ‘O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.’ ‘There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.’ ‘But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil’ (Isa 48:18, 22; Prov 1:33)” (GC 285).

Why doesn't Jimmy bring into account the reasons given in *The Great Controversy* for the later immorality and social unrighteousness found in Protestant countries both in Europe and the USA, the country of religious freedom?

“The Protestant churches of America—and those of Europe as well—so highly favored in receiving the blessings of the Reformation, failed to press forward in the path of reform... The majority, like the Jews in Christ's day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism... Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same worldliness and spiritual stupor, a similar reverence for the opinions of men, and substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's word” (GC 297-8).

“The wide circulation of the Bible in the early part of the nineteenth century, and the great light thus shed upon the world, was not followed by a corresponding advance in knowledge of revealed truth, or in experimental religion... Men neglected to search the Scriptures, and thus they continued to accept false interpretations, and to cherish doctrines which had no foundation in the Bible” (GC 298).

“Seeing the failure of his efforts to crush out the truth by persecution, Satan had again resorted to the plan of compromise which led to the great apostasy and the formation of the Church of Rome. He had induced Christians to ally themselves, not now with pagans, but with those who, by their devotion to the things of this world, had proved themselves to be as truly idolaters as were the worshipers of graven images. And the results of this union were no less pernicious now than in former ages; pride and extravagance were fostered under the guise of religion, and the churches became corrupted. Satan continued to pervert the doctrines of the Bible, and traditions that were to ruin millions were taking deep root. The church was upholding and defending these traditions... *Thus were degraded the principles for which the Reformers had done and suffered so much*” (GC 298).

In the book we are dealing with, E. G. White also predicted the corruption and fall of the USA, blaming Protestants and Evangelicals for teaching that the law of God was abolished.

“No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God’s law is no longer binding upon men...” (GC 584). “The doctrine that men are released from obedience to God’s requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide... The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin” (GC 585).

African slavery

It was Roman Catholics who introduced African slavery to the American continent and dragged the Anglo-Saxon world to do the same. The popes kept slaves for centuries, and justified slavery for life of pagan Africans in certain of their “bulls” issued during the Middle Ages. Who introduced slavery in the modern world? The Roman Catholic Church.

After the American continent was discovered, theologians in Valladolid met to discuss if Indians had a soul and, therefore, were human beings or not. Some reached the conclusion that yes, they were human beings, and consequently they could not be enslaved to serve their masters like domestic animals. Thus, Indians could be Christianized into the Catholic faith. In order to get people to do the work that Christianized people could not be forced to do, they decided to bring black people from pagan Africa to occupy their place at the service of the Conquistadores. See A. R. Treiyer, *A Repudiation of the Protestant Origin of the USA*, in: <https://www.fulcrum7.com/blog/2021/5/28/a-repudiation-of-the-protestant-origin-of-the-usa>

Unfortunately, Protestants inherited that papal crime. E. G. White openly opposed African slavery. Though Protestants in the USA became champions of religious liberty, it took them more time to overcome that Roman inheritance. Now, if the popes were unable to bring peace and righteousness for more than a millennium to the peoples over whom they ruled, how will they be able to unite the nations under the Roman Catholic banner, as they are trying to do today?

Hitler’s persecution of Jews

Jimmy also doesn’t take into account that Hitler’s persecution of Jews during the Second World War was a Roman Catholic inheritance. Hitler was Catholic, and he was never disenfranchised from that church. He was supported at the beginning of the war even by pope Pious XII. He learned to hate Jews in the Roman Catholic Church. And apostate German Protestants were dragged into the same trap. Besides that, Hitler adopted his nationalism from the evolutionist philosophy of Darwin with the principle of the “survival of the fittest.” That principle was adopted by the German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (born in October 1844), and evolved into Hitler’s attempt to impose a supper race. Can we blame the Bible or original Protestantism for that?

A difference still seen in Catholic, Socialists, and Protestant countries

Despite the degradation of Protestantism in modern times, we can see even today a difference in the development among Catholic and Protestant countries. There is another area in the theological sciences known as *Political Theology*. President Ronald Reagan gathered certain evangelical political theologians who came to be known as capitalist ideologues. They introduced what was called *neo-conservatives* (because they brought out the links of American democratic capitalism with the gospel), and neo-liberal globalization (called thus for its conception of free market).

Those ideologues showed how some religious beliefs were responsible for the backwardness of certain Latin countries, as well as for the social communism of some countries. They also showed specifically how several principles of the gospels adopted in Protestant countries brought prosperity to their countries, namely, the principles of freedom, separation of church and state, and the view that we are all sinners and therefore responsible to the law. See an extensive documentation in A. R. Treiyer, *Jubilee & Globalization. The Hidden Intention*, chap 10, where I also show the weak points developed in those capitalist countries which form part of modern corruption.

These examples show us how Jimmy Trujillo accuses E. G. White of inconsistency by neglecting to bring into play all of what she wrote on the matter. Frankly, I don't know if we should accuse Jimmy of dishonesty or ignorance in the way he judges the book *The Great Controversy*. This book is one of the most extraordinary books written in modern times and brings out the correct and wider political theology long before the introduction of those ideologues of capitalism. I prefer to know what God chose from the historical record to teach us about the real issues at stake in the great controversy, than the boasted misinterpretations of Jimmy Trujillo.

Critique 10. Jimmy believes that in the book *The Great Controversy*, the world is reduced to Catholicism and Protestantism, because it doesn't include most human beings that are in the Muslims, atheist, and communist countries, as well as in the Eastern Orthodox world, and in countries where pagan Hinduist and Buddhist cults are practiced.

Answer: The great final conflict revealed in the book under consideration has to do with the union of Roman Catholicism and Protestantism to supplant the law of God by their traditions and agreements. In this great mystic Babylon formed by them, all the other religions will be united in a shared apostasy. But the axis of this union will be Rome with the Protestant support of the USA. This is why the book emphasizes what Catholics and Protestants did in the Middle Ages, and will more forcefully do again, in Europe as well as in the United States. And this is what we are witnessing today on a worldwide scale.

Catholic means "universal," and this characteristic was foretold in prophecy with the papacy ruling over "peoples, nations and tongues" (Rev 13:7-8). That politico-religious authority is predicted as being in some points worshiped in the end, (willingly or by force), by all "the inhabitants of the earth" (Rev 13:3-4,11-17; 17:1-2,15). The *False Prophet* (apostate Protestantism) would also be universal in its scope (Rev 13:11-17; 19:19-20).

The book follows the prophetic historical line of Daniel and Revelation

Again, it is wrong to require the book to consider matters that are beyond its purpose. *The Great Controversy* is an extraordinary book which follows the line of prophecy introduced in the prophecies of Daniel. After the four universal pagan empires, the papacy is revealed in the symbol of the little horn that grows out of the fourth universal pagan empire, Rome. That horn then becomes greater than the other horns representing the European nations (Dan 7).

In Dan 11:40ff the prophet depicts the political confrontation that would take place in the time of the end between atheism (king of the south: Egypt), and apostate religion (king of the north: Babylon). In the book of Revelation those typical ancient superpowers are also connected with the time of the end, with the time that follows the persecution of 1260 days (Rev 11 and 13), and represent atheist countries and the *False Prophet* respectively, that is, apostate Protestantism. *The False Prophet* gives its support to the “beast” (the papacy), and both will be destroyed (Rev 13:11ff; 19:19-20). This is what E. G. White anticipates in her book, based on the prophetic portrayal of the Bible.

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Rev 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome” (GC 438).

“In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire... This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy” (GC 439).

In other words, our civilization comes from Rome in Europe, and this is the reason why the book *The Great Controversy* brings out. Let us ask Jimmy to tell us where do we find in the Bible all what he requires to include in the book that he is criticizing?

Atheism. The book *The Great Controversy* also deals with atheism and its effects on the world in the end time (chapters 15 and 36). Did Jimmy forget these chapters? We find there the conflict between religion and atheism which took place in the French Revolution at the end of the 18th Century. E. G. White wrote that Egypt represented “atheism” (GC 269), and applied to the French Revolution. But she added that “the war against the Bible *inaugurated* an era which stands in the world’s history as the Reign of Terror” (GC 282). The fact that the French Revolution *inaugurated* an era means that the same spirit would be expanded to other countries in the world, which is confirmed later in the chapter “The Impending Conflict,” and in E. G. White’s book *Education*. Let us read:

“Would we know the result of making void the law of God? *The experiment has been tried*. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when *atheism* became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth” (GC 584).

“*The world-wide dissemination* of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve *the whole world* in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France” (Ed 228).

E. G. White wrote this before the Russian and Chinese atheistic communist revolutions. So, how can Jimmy Trujillo affirm that she neglected the atheistic and communist powers which came later?

Paganism

The *Great Controversy* mentions the influence of Buddhism in Christianity, and the work of Wolff among the Hindus (GC 360). She also compares the secret societies to the gods of the Hindus (2 SM 131). But she wrote more on paganism, because the Roman Catholic Church adopted pagan principles at the beginning of the Middle Ages, and these principles persist today. She also warns about a revival of paganism as we approach the end, something that is taking place right now as temples are being built in the great cities of the world to ancient gods like Baal.

“As we near the close of time, there will be greater and still greater external parade of heathen power; heathen deities will manifest their signal power, and will exhibit themselves before the cities of the world” (Ev 705).

Muslims

As seen above, she also deals with the role of Muslims in the Middle Ages (GC 334-335). But again, all pagan, Christian and non-Christian religions will be united in the Great Babylon which will be destroyed by the Lord at His coming.

Our question is, why does such a marvelous book as the *Great Controversy* need to include everything Trujillo wants to include and in the way he wants to include it, to be valuable? I personally know many people who were converted by reading that book. They saw the light shining from its pages and did not protest the lack of what they imagined should be included. Let us accept the way God inspired that wonderful book.

The only interest shown by E. G. White in the far regions of the earth had to do with founding missions to share the third angel message of God’s judgment. The scope in her view was not limited to a portion of the world. The call to leave Babylon would shine in the whole earth (Rev 18:1-5), as projected in chapter 38, “The Final Warning” (GC 603 ff).

“In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness, revealing clearly to an apostate world the transforming power of obedience to His law. Even now they are appearing in every nation, among every tongue and people; and in the hour of deepest apostasy, when Satan’s supreme effort is made to cause ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’ to receive, under penalty of death, the sign of allegiance to a false rest day, these faithful ones, ‘blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke,’ will ‘shine as lights in the world’” (PK 188-189; LDE 211).

Critique 11. Our critical pastor believes that the description in *The Great Controversy* of the divine curse that fell upon the Jews in the destruction of Jerusalem, reveals an antisemitic spirit like that which produced the *Shoah* or *Holocaust* in the 20th Century.

Answer: This is untrue. The book depicts the historical fulfillment of the warnings found in the Bible, more specifically in Jesus’ prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt 23:32-36; 24:1-2; Luke 21:1-2,20-24). That destruction is seen as a “punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written” (v. 22). Does Jimmy believe that Jesus, who made that prediction, was also an antisemite? In the destruction of Jerusalem Jesus saw a microcosmos of the macrocosmic destruction of the world (Matt 24).

Critique 12. Jimmy Trujillo opposes the condemnation without appeal of both the Jewish Nation and the Roman Catholic Church. For him this is contrary to the loving character of God, who wants all to repent. He believes that Vatican II made significant changes to the Church of Rome, and dreams of the conversion of Catholicism to the gospel.

Answer: Nowhere does the book deny individual conversion to Jews and Catholics. On the contrary, the call to leave Babylon found in Rev 18:1-5 is at the heart of the Advent message. The book devotes one entire chapter to show the love of God for sincere people that are in the Roman Catholic Church, who will be called to leave the reigning confusion of all those who were deceived by the papal institution (see chapter 38). But as institutions, both the Jewish Nation and the Roman Catholic Church were forever forsaken of God. This is what we find in the Bible. Is the Bible also devoid of God’s love on that account?

Jimmy doesn’t seem to understand that the world will not be converted, that all churches will not be saved. Is he adopting a universalist view of salvation? The Bible clearly says that only a “remnant” of the holy seed will be saved, that is, only a remnant of the Christian church, “those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus” (Rev 12:17; 14:12). That remnant is composed of those who accept the call to leave Babylon (Rev 14:8; 18:1-5). At the end, every Jew, Catholic, Muslim, pagan, who wants to be saved, must become part of that remnant and have the characteristics mentioned in the book of Revelation.

“Jews will be converted; but as a nation they are forever forsaken of God” (1 SG 107).

“It is true that there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion. Thousands in that church are serving God according to the best light they have... They have never seen

the contrast between a living heart service and a round of mere forms and ceremonies. God looks with pitying tenderness upon these souls, educated as they are in a faith that is delusive and unsatisfying. He will cause rays of light to penetrate the dense darkness that surrounds them. He will reveal to them the truth as it is in Jesus, and many will yet take their position with His people” (GC 565).

“There are many souls to come out of the ranks of the world, out of the churches—even the Catholic Church—whose zeal will far exceed that of those who have stood in rank and file to proclaim the truth heretofore” (3 SM 386). “But Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times” (GC 566).

“The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility” (GC 554). “We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies” (Jer 51:9).

The papacy is not changing in essential matters.

A careful study of Vatican II, compared with the *New Catechism of the Catholic Church*, shows that some changes took place in the form, but not in key issues. Freedom of conscience is promoted when it fits papal interests. But there is no rejection of her typical intolerance seen in the Middle Ages. Actually, the same intolerant principles persist unchanged.

Let us quote the *Catechism*. In point 2108, it denies freedom of conscience when it says that “the right to religious liberty is neither a moral license to adhere to error, nor a supposed right to error” (point 2108). These statements are taken from both popes Leo XIII (*Libertas praestantissimum* 18) and Pius XII (AAS 1953, 799), who never assimilated the modern concepts of democracy and freedom of conscience. In point 2188, the *New Catechism* states that “in respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church’s holy days as legal holidays.”

Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* intends to protect our planet advocating that the earth is “our common house.” This leads us to a new totalitarianism where minorities have no right to protest or abstain from supporting the “common good” as defined and defended by the Roman Catholic Church. Sunday rest is required to save the planet. His calls for unity among politicians, religions, lawyers of the world in support of his agenda implies the exclusion of those who cannot agree with their legislative decisions.

Our question to Jimmy (who believes that since Vatican II the Catholic Church has defended religious liberty) is should we consider the popes as champions of religious liberty today? For instance, should other Christians and non-Christians also be forced to keep Sunday, against their conscience? Here we can see religious interference in political matters. For a wider discussion on these issues, read A. R. Treiyer, *Holy See or Nest of Corruption?*

<https://adventistdistinctivemessages.com/wp-content/uploads/documents/Holyseenest.pdf>

“Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded” (GC 588). “God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare” (GC 581).

An open call to pastor Jimmy Trujillo

There is a tendency among many Adventists today to be somewhat ashamed of their faith. I saw it years ago even more pronounced in Europe, but it is spreading more and more to other continents. Not wanting to be considered a sect, they mimic the other churches and the world in general. Hence, they are attracted to *ecumenism* and *universalism*, which pretend in different degrees that eventually everyone will be saved. I don’t know at what stage of that particular return *to the land of slavery* we find pastor Trujillo, but it is evident that his trend, as well as the trend of many others, fulfill the old saying of “all roads lead to Rome.”

I urge Pastor Jimmy to meditate on the following statements of the Spirit of Prophecy, and to ask himself if he is not also being trapped by this ecumenical and universalist current, so that hopefully, when he opens his eyes, it will not be too late. We should be grateful to God for belonging to the last remnant.

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Prov 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony” (1 *SM* 48 (1890); *LDE* 177).

I believe in the *Spirit of Prophecy*. I believe that the most extraordinary book for this time that we have besides the Bible is the book the *Great Controversy*. I read it more than twenty times in my life, and I always find new things that help me to understand what is happening right now in the world. That book could not be written by a simple lady if she was not led by God to do it. I shared with many that book, and I saw the conversions of many souls along the years.

“*The Great Controversy* should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth’s history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books” (*Letter* 281, 1905). “While writing the manuscript of *The Great Controversy*, I was often conscious of the presence of the angels of God. And many times the scenes about which I was writing were presented to me anew in visions of the night, so that they were fresh and vivid in my mind” (*Letter* 56, 1911).

“The results of the circulation of this book [*The Great Controversy*] are not to be judged by what now appears. By reading it, some souls will be aroused, and will have courage to unite themselves at once with those who keep the commandments of God. But a much larger number who read it will not take their position until they see the very events taking

place that are foretold in it. The fulfillment of some of the predictions will inspire faith that others also will come to pass, and when the earth is lightened with the glory of the Lord, in the closing work, many souls will take their position on the commandments of God as the result of this agency” (*Manuscript* 31, 1890).

“While the Protestant world is becoming very tender and affectionate toward the man of sin, shall God’s people take their place as bold and valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ, to meet the issue which must come, their lives hid with Christ in God? Mystic Babylon has not been sparing in the blood of the saints, and shall we be wide-awake to catch the beams of light which have been shining from the light of the angel who is to brighten the earth with his glory?” (14 *MR* 287).

“God has a distinct people, a church on earth, second to none, but superior to all in their facilities to teach the truth, to vindicate the law of God. God has divinely appointed agencies—men whom He is leading, who have borne the heat and burden of the day, who are cooperating with heavenly instrumentalities to advance the kingdom of Christ in our world. Let all unite with these chosen agents, and be found at last among those who have the patience of the saints, who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus” (*TM* 58).

Jimmy. Let not the blood fall upon you, of those who may be deceived by your unfounded criticism of such a wonderful and extraordinary book as *The Great Controversy*. We have a heaven to win and a hell to lose. It will depend on our attitudes whether we live eternally, or are lost forever and become an everlasting oblivion. My prayer is that the Spirit of God may soften your heart to join us in the great task the Lord gave us of proclaiming the Three Angel Messages to the world. Your brother and colleague in Christ, Alberto R. Treiyer.