

April 22, 1970

Elder L E Froom
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
6840 Eastern Ave N W
Washington D C 20012

Dear Elder Froom:

Your letter of April 6 has been before me. I need not say that the contents of this letter would cause any worker in God's cause very serious concern.

Inasmuch as you say others of the committee which interviewed me in June 1967 share your convictions, I feel that I should send a copy of this reply to Elders Pierson and Wilson. Perhaps you will see fit to provide them with a copy of your letter to me. You have in previous correspondence urged me to retract before I am publicly embarrassed by the publication of your book; and now you urge me to do so before I shall make "shipwreck" of faith.

I do appreciate your concern.

According to my research into published and unpublished Ellen G White material, it is clear that 1888 is a pivotal date in Seventh-day Adventist history. A correct understanding of its significance will lead to a correct preparation for the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain, so that the work can be finished in this our present generation. An incorrect understanding can further delay the finishing of the work and prolong this world's misery for further decades.

According to Ellen G White evidence I have seen, Seventh-day Adventist history presents a call fully complementary to our Lord's call in Revelation 3:19, "be zealous therefore and repent."

I will simply state that I am ready at any time to retract or modify my positions regarding the significance of Seventh-day Adventist history when inspired evidence from the Spirit of Prophecy is given me which requires it.

I cannot accept the opinions of others who are not so inspired as was the agent of the gift of prophecy, when they may be in obvious contradiction to her clear statements oft repeated. I fully appreciate your esteemed scholarship; my loyalty must first be to inspired evidence.

Although some in the General Conference have not been pleased with our call to denominational repentance, we have insisted that we as a people can never receive the long-awaited outpouring of the latter rain until we humble our hearts before the Lord and receive an experience of repentance. This may indeed be an unpopular message; but we cannot retract it unless inspired evidence should require it.

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In fact, I would be tragically unwise were I to surrender my convictions and writings based upon Spirit of Prophecy evidence which I have seen to someone demanding my retraction on the basis of evidence I have not seen, and which he has declined to let me see.

Wouldn't this in substance be a mistake similar to that in the story in 1 Kings 13?

Now, Elder Froos, I have a suggestion for you:

Let me see the inspired evidence which you say you have from the Vault that nullifies the basic thesis of our appeal for denominational repentance. If you doubt my ability or honesty rightly to evaluate it, let us follow our Lord's rule in Matthew 18, and invite several other brethren to be a witness.

Your letter envisages for me eventual apostasy and even warfare against the church. I humbly pray that the dear Lord may lay me in the grave before such a thing should be.

But I wonder, dear elder, if there has ever been in our previous history a situation quite like this--an ordained minister having devoted some 30 years to the work, whose loyalty is publicly acknowledged by the General Conference, is told of inspired evidence in the possession of his brethren which would save him from their predictions of shipwreck of faith; yet that evidence is denied him? From your extensive knowledge of our denominational history, can you cite a parallel? Did the brethren decline to give Canright the evidence which would have saved his soul?

I appeal to my dear brethren in the General Conference--let me see this inspired evidence.

Fear for myself is not a motivating factor with me. I am impressed by the clear word of truth. In my youth learned to respect truth, as I had to stand alone against the combined opposition of my Presbyterian pastor and Baptist school principal, who invoked against me the combined example of the other Sunday-keeping churches. I learned my lesson then: the Lord does not let one down who stands alone for truth. I was the only Sabbath-keeping student in the high school, and they respected me. I most earnestly desire to cooperate with my brethren under God's leading. Your appeal to be in harmony etc. is most welcome. Let's unite on a clear "thus saith the Lord"--I'm all for it.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Wieland