

Heritage Sabbath 2018

Children's Story

Strange Timing

In November 1890, something very unusual happened. Ellen White had a vision. Actually, that was not too unusual as Ellen White had had many special messages from God since 1844 but this one was different.

The next morning when she started to tell others about what she had seen in vision she paused and ended up talking about other things.

Four months later in March of 1891 the General Conference meetings were held for the church and Ellen White was asked to speak on Sabbath afternoon. Two or three times during the meeting she started to tell of the vision she had had in November, but each time she hesitated and began to speak about a different topic.

That very night, after the meeting, a small group of men locked themselves in one of the offices in the Review and Herald building to talk about how to make a church paper sell better and reach important people. The meeting went on until after one o'clock in the morning. Then they unlocked the door, and the men all went back to their rooms to sleep.

At about the same time God sent his angel to Ellen White's room to tell her to go to the early morning meeting and tell the vision that she had seen in November. She got up and dressed, went to her desk and started to write out what she had seen.

The next morning Ellen White was at the early morning meeting and this time she spoke for an hour, describing what she had been shown to her in vision months before. In her vision, she had seemed to be watching and listening in on a meeting where some church leaders were trying to work out a way to make a church paper more popular by not writing anything about the Bible Sabbath so that important people would buy the magazine. She described what different people said and how one man waved the paper over his head as he spoke. Then she sat down.

For a moment, there was puzzled silence. Most of the people listening had no idea what meeting she was talking about. But they did not have to wait very long for an explanation. A man stood up in the back of the room and began to speak: "I was in that meeting last night."

"Last night!" Ellen White asked, "Last night? I thought that meeting took place months ago, when it was shown to me in vision."

“I was in that meeting last night,” he said, “and I am the man who made the remarks about the articles in the paper, holding it high over my head.” The man went on to say that he was sorry for the things he had said in the meeting.

Others spoke that day. Every man who was in the meeting the night before said that Ellen White had accurately described the meeting and the attitude of those in the room. And that very day all those who had been in the secret meeting the night before reversed the decision they had made about the paper and everyone went home thinking about a great God who knows the past and the future.