

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Its importance, significance and meaning in the writings of Ellen White

Compiled by Jonathan Gallagher 1988

This collection represents just some of the Ellen White's comments on the character of God, the strong, persistent and overriding theme in her writings. A keynote subject, the understanding of the character of God as it really is represents the very basis of Ellen White's concept of the church's message to the world. Revealing God's character is the essence of Christ and his mission; and his salvation is based on demonstrating the truth about the God of love in contrast to the Devil's lies. Only as we have the proper conception of God and his true character can we enter into the right relationship with him, whom to know is life eternal.

The hope is that through examining these comments that highlight the core concepts of the importance and significance of God's wonderful character we will understand His loving concern, compassion, righteousness, liberty and truth.

The following broad topics are used to group the comments together:

- Jesus as the revelation of God and his character
- Jesus' mission in coming to this world: to be a living representation of the character of God the Father
- Why God needed to reveal his character—his eternal purpose of demonstration and salvation
- How our understanding of the character of God affects us
- How the Devil has tried to defame the character of God—and the consequences
- How we misrepresent God and his character
- The importance of knowing and sharing the truth about God's character

1. Jesus as the revelation of God and his character

Summary: Jesus alone reveals and represents God as he really is. Only through him can humanity really see God and understand his true nature. He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. The Father is as Jesus is, and there is no difference in nature or character between them. Because Jesus is God, he is the fullest expression of God and his truth, his character lived out for all to see.

1. "We have only one perfect photograph of God, and this is Jesus Christ." MS 70, 1899 (7ABC 350).
2. "How was God to be rightly represented to the world? How was it to be known that he was a God of love, full of mercy, kindness, and pity? How was the world to know this? God sent His Son, and He was to represent to the world the character of God..." MS 7, 1888 in IHP 11.
3. "He [Jesus] was...the representative of God to make manifest His character to a fallen race." RH December 22, 1891.
4. "We must believe the words of God just as He has spoken them; we must take Christ at His word, believe that He came to represent the Father, and that the Father, as is represented in Christ, is our friend, and that He desires not that we should perish, or He would never have given His Son to die our sacrifice." RH March 8, 1892.

5. "Who is Christ?--He is the only begotten Son of the living God. He is to the Father as a word expresses the thought,--as a thought made audible. Christ is the word of God. Christ said to Philip, 'He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.' His words were the echo of God's words. Christ was the likeness of God, the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person." YI June 28, 1894.
6. "Christ alone can represent the Father to humanity." MS 41, 1897 (7ABC 262).
7. "Christ represented the character of His Father while in this world." MM 24.
8. "In Him [Christ] is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fulness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character." COL 115.
9. "The whole character of God was revealed in his Son, the whole range of the possibilities of heaven is displayed for the acceptance of man in the Son of the Infinite One." ST December 30, 1889.
10. "In Christ the character of the Father is revealed." YI September 29, 1892.
11. "But through Jesus Christ, the Father is pleased to reveal his character to his chosen people." RH February 13, 1894.
12. "Jesus Christ revealed the Father in his true character to the world, representing him as full of mercy, love, and light." ST August 20, 1894.
13. "Christ revealed the character of God to the world." YI October 18, 1894.
14. "Christ came to this world as the expression of the very heart and mind and nature and character of God." MM 19.
15. "He [Jesus] was presenting to them the truth of the highest order, revealing to men the infinite mind, giving to men the words of eternal life. He was revealing to them the character of the Father." ST April 25, 1895.
16. "Christ alone was able to represent the Deity. He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God, was alone sufficient to accomplish this work. No verbal description could reveal God to the world....He lived out the character of God through the human body which God had prepared for Him." RH June 25, 1895.
17. "Christ is he who represents the Father." ST December 12, 1895.
18. "...in Christ we behold the character of the Father, and see the pitying tenderness which God exercised for fallen man..." RH March 9, 1897.
19. "Christ was a representative before men and before angels, of the character of the God of heaven." Series A, 170.
20. "In the time of John the Baptist, Christ was about to appear as the revealer of the character of God." DA 108.
21. "Voluntarily He had made Himself of no reputation, and taken upon Him the form of a servant. But His words and works revealed His character. All whose hearts were open to divine illumination would recognize in Him 'the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.'" DA 387.
22. "The highest evidence that He [Jesus] came from God is that His life revealed the character of God." DA 407.
23. "Christ alone could represent the Father to humanity... Christ's work testified to His divinity. Through Him the Father had been revealed." DA 664.
24. "Christ was hid in God, and God was revealed in the character of His Son. To this revelation Jesus desired the minds of the people to be directed." MH 32.
25. "Taking humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity, and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings....He who was the express image of the invisible God, was alone able to reveal the character of the Deity to mankind.....Tender, compassionate,

sympathetic, ever considerate of others, He [Jesus] represented the character of God, and was constantly engaged in service for God and man.” MH 423.

26. “The Messiah was to be hid in God, and God was to be revealed in the character of His Son.” PK 693.
27. “Clothing His divinity with humanity, He [Jesus] came to earth to be called the Son of man and the Son of God....the representative of God to make manifest His character to a fallen race.” 1SM 257 (RH Dec. 22, 1891).
28. “The life of Christ is a perfect revelation of the character of God.” PUR July 16, 1903.
29. “Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us, humbling Himself, veiling His glory, that humanity might look upon Him, the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed....In every act of Jesus, in every lesson of His instruction, we are to see and hear and recognize God. In sight, in hearing, in effect, it is the voice and movements of the Father.” (Letter 83, 1895), TIMKH 338.

2. Jesus’ mission in coming to this world: to be a living representation of the character of God the Father

Summary: Jesus came primarily for the purpose of making God known. His objective was to present the character of God to a fallen world which had lost its knowledge of God. ‘He himself was the gospel’—and his very presence proved the assertion ‘God is love.’ Jesus’ life is a living demonstration of the trustworthy, saving character of God.

30. “Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent Him before the fallen children of the earth... Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to Him the praise, and giving to Him the credit, of the whole purpose of His own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God... When the object of His mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that His work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.” ST January 20, 1890.
31. “Christ came to represent the Father to man. He revealed the nature of God to the world. Satan had misrepresented the Father. He had pictured Him as a being full of revenge, who had no forbearance, no mercy, no patience, no love. He clothed Him with his attributes; but Christ came, and took upon Him humanity, that he might reveal to humanity the true character of the Father...” RH April 30, 1889.
32. “Christ came to represent the Father to the world. He was the originator of truth; but when He came, He found that the gems of truth had been obscured by tradition and heresy. He came to sweep away false doctrine, and to place the gems of truth in the new setting of the gospel.” RH July 16, 1889.
33. “Jesus came to this earth to represent the character of the Father to the world. He said, ‘He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father.’ Satan had misrepresented the character of God, and placed him in a false light. But Jesus came to reveal the Father’s love and compassion towards the fallen children of men.” ST September 30, 1889.
34. “Christ came to represent the Father in his true character. He showed that he was not an arbitrary judge, ready to bring judgment upon man, and delighting in condemning and punishing them for their evil deeds... Jesus came to represent the goodness and mercy and love of the Father...” ST November 18, 1889.
35. “Christ represented the character of His Father while in this world... Why did God send His Son to the fallen world? To make known and to demonstrate to mankind His love for them.” MM 24.

36. "Christ had been sent to earth to represent God in character. Jesus was the Life giver, the Teacher sent of God to provide salvation for a lost world, and to save men in spite of all Satan's temptations and lying deceptions. He himself was the gospel." RH July 7, 1896.
37. "Through Jesus, the Son of God, the Father is more fully revealed to the world... [Jesus says] 'in my life I have unfolded to you the character of my Father.'...His mission was to reveal the Father to the world." ST June 9, 1890.
38. "Christ came to the world to reveal the character of the Father, and to redeem the fallen race... The glory of the Father was revealed in the Son; Christ made manifest the character of the Father. He was so perfectly connected with God, so completely embraced in his encircling light, that he who had seen the Son, had seen the Father. His voice was as the voice of God." RH January 7, 1890.
39. "Jesus came to our world to make manifest in His life the character of God." RH February 4, 1890.
40. "Christ came to the world to represent the character of God..." RH October 28, 1890.
41. "Jesus came to make manifest in his own life and character what was the true nature of the Father. Everywhere he went, he revealed the Father as a God of infinite love and unbounded compassion... In Christ the character of the Father was made manifest..." ST May 18, 1891.
42. "Christ came into the world because men did not have a correct knowledge of the character of God, and He came to reveal the Father. He said: 'Neither knoweth any man the Father, but the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him.' Jesus came to reveal to the world the love and goodness of God." RH March 29, 1892
43. "Christ came into the world to represent the Father to man; for Satan had presented him before the world in a false light... Satan had clothed the Father in his own attributes, but Christ represented him in his true character of benevolence and love." ST June 27, 1892.
44. "He [Jesus] came to reach the people and lift them up. He came to represent to them the character of the Father." RH October 18, 1892.
45. "Jesus came to represent the character of God... Christ was hid in God, and God stood revealed to the world in the character of his Son." YI August 16, 1894.
46. "The Lord Jesus came to our world to represent the character of his Father... The Lord Jesus gave to men a representation of the character of God in his life and example." ST March 14, 1895.
47. "The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father... He had represented the Father's character to the world." ST June 27, 1895.
48. "In bearing burdens in his [Jesus'] home life, and in laboring in more public fields, he showed man what the character of God is." YI January 2, 1896.
49. "Christ came to the world to bring back the character of God to man, and to retrace on the human soul the divine image." RH April 14, 1896.
50. "Charged with his exalted mission, he [Jesus] stood before the world as the representative of the Father... The work of Jesus was to reveal the character of the Father..." RH June 2, 1896.
51. "Christ had been sent to earth to represent God in character....He himself was the gospel." RH July 7, 1896.
52. "Christ came to give expression to the law of God, to represent the Father's character." ST August 26, 1897.
53. "He [Jesus] came to represent the Father in bringing the message of hope and salvation to our world." RH February 15, 1898.
54. "Christ came to this world to reveal the Father....In his death He was the reconciliation between God and man." ST June 27, 1898.
55. "Christ came to our world to reveal the Father amid gross darkness of error and superstition which then prevailed." Series A, 7.

56. "Christ's most favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God." Series A, 150.
57. "Jesus came to represent the character of the Father..." Series A, 156.
58. "The Son of God came from heaven to make manifest the Father. [John 1:18; Mt. 11:27 quoted]". SC 10,11.
59. "When Christ came as the teacher and guide of mankind, he brought to them truths glowing with the light of Heaven, showing in contrast the darkness of error, and revealing the superstition, self-righteousness, and bigotry of that age." ST January 28, 1886.
60. "From the beginning of His [Jesus'] ministry men began more clearly to comprehend the character of God...Christ's mission on earth was to reveal to men that was not a despot, but a heavenly Father, full of love and mercy for His children....MS 132, 1902 in IHP 14.
61. "The infinite love of God has been manifested in the gift of His only-begotten Son to redeem a lost race. Christ came to earth to reveal to men the character of His Father, and His life was filled with deeds of tenderness and compassion." PP 469.
62. "All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of the Son. [John 1:18 quoted]. Taking humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings." 8T 286.

3. Why God needed to reveal his character--his eternal purpose of demonstration and salvation

Summary: The reasons for God's self-revelation: his character had been defamed; he was not known by man; he needed to reveal himself as he truly is so that all could judge God and his actions accurately. God's character is demonstrated as merciful, patient, full of goodness and truth. In this way God seeks to win his children back to loving allegiance--to be saved. Yet even this great act by God is only part of his plan to demonstrate his nature and government to the onlooking universe.

63. "Christ himself was the Word, the Wisdom, of God; and in Him God himself came down from heaven, and clothed himself in the habiliments of humanity. He engaged in the mysterious conflict with Satan and his hosts, that man might understand elevated themes of truth. He rescued the truth from the companionship of error, and sent it forth free to the world." RH February 1, 1898.
64. "Pardoning, redeeming love is brought into view in Christ Jesus. Satan had misrepresented the character of God, and it was necessary that a correct representation should be made to worlds unfallen, to angels and to men...In Christ we behold the character of the Father, and see the pitying tenderness which God exercised for fallen man, giving his only begotten Son as a ransom for the transgressors of the Law. It is in beholding the love of God that repentance is awakened in the sinner's heart, and an earnest desire is created to become reconciled to God." RH March 9, 1897.
65. "...the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish his honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law." DA 764.
66. "The life and death of Christ, the price of our redemption, are not only to us the promise and pledge of life, not only the means of opening again to us the treasures of wisdom: they are a broader, higher revelation of His character than even the holy ones of Eden knew." Ed 28
67. "Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations [of the Devil], and to reveal the Father....Jesus alone could reveal the truth which it was necessary men should know in order that

- they might obtain salvation. He only could place it in the frame-work of truth, and it was His work to free it from error and set it before men in its heavenly light.” RH February 18, 1890.
68. “Christ came to reveal to the world the knowledge of the character of God, of which the world was destitute. This knowledge was the chief treasure which He committed to His disciples to be communicated to men. The truth of God had been hidden beneath a mass of tradition and error. Jesus came to change the order of things that then existed, and reveal to them the character of the Father. He drew aside the veil which concealed His glory from the eyes of mortals, and made manifest to the world the only true and living God, whom to know aright is life eternal.” RH November 1, 1892.
 69. “The only begotten Son of God was to teach men the goodness, mercy, and benevolence of the character of God.” RH September 11, 1894.
 70. “Christ came to reveal to the world, in the sight of the heavenly intelligences, the true character of the Father, and to present his claims to the sovereignty of the universe. Jesus represented the character of the Father in a way to disprove the lying representations of the enemy, for the Son of God revealed the Father as a being full of mercy, compassion, goodness, truth, and love.” ST June 13, 1895.
 71. “Leaving the royal courts of heaven Christ came to our world to represent the character of His Father, and thus help humanity to return to their loyalty.” MS 21, 1895 (7ABC 368).
 72. “God was in the world, represented by Christ....By representing in his [Christ’s] life the character of God, he sought to win man back to his allegiance.” RH December 15, 1896.
 73. “The Saviour thus unveiled the character of God, and revealed him as merciful, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth....He [Christ] invites men to take a close view of God in himself, in the infinite love therein expressed.” YI July 29, 1897.
 74. “What a view of the character of God Christ’s sacrifice has opened to the universe!” ST April 14, 1898.
 75. “Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, a God of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. By the world’s Redeemer the thick darkness with which Satan had enshrouded the throne of the Deity was swept away, and the Father was again manifest as the Light of life...” RH February 15, 1912 cited in IHP 8.
 76. “Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, full of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. The thick darkness with which Satan had endeavored to enshroud the throne of Deity was swept away by the world’s Redeemer, and the Father was again manifested to men as the light of life.” 5T 738-9.
 77. “The Teacher from heaven, no less a personage than the Son of God, came to earth to reveal the character of the Father to men, that they might worship Him in spirit and in truth....Christ came to the world to sow it with truth....He presented to men that which was exactly contrary to the representations of the enemy in regard to the character of God, and sought to impress upon men the paternal love of the Father...[John 3:16 quoted]” RH November 17, 1891.
 78. “Through successive ages of darkness, in the midnight of heathenism, God permitted men to try the experiment of finding out God by their own wisdom, not to demonstrate their inability to His satisfaction, but that men themselves might see that they could not obtain a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ His Son, save through the revelation of His word by the Holy Spirit. When Christ came into the world, the experiment had been fully tried, and the result made it evident that the world by wisdom knew not God.” RH December 15, 1891.
 79. “Jesus said: ‘This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.’ All that was done and said had this one object in view,—to rivet truth in their minds that they might attain unto everlasting life. Jesus did not come to astonish men with some

great announcement of some special time when some great event would occur, but He came to instruct and save the lost.” RH March 22, 1892.

80. “By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels....Not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe.” DA 19.
81. “The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.” DA 22.
82. “In stooping to take upon Himself humanity, Christ revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan.” DA 25.
83. “The word of God reveals His character. He Himself has declared His infinite love and pity....God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent Himself to us. Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men. SC 10,11.
84. “But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan’s sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God’s love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.” DA 762.
85. “Sin has marred and well-nigh obliterated the image of God in man. It was to restore this that the plan of salvation was devised... for the character of God, whose likeness we are to receive, is benevolence and love.” PP 595.
86. “But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe.” PP 68.
87. “As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son....God saw that a clearer revelation than nature was needed to portray both His personality and character. He sent His Son into the world to manifest, so far as could be endured by human sight, the nature and the attributes of the invisible God. “ MH 419. (Also 8T 265)
88. “Through the plan of salvation, a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficence of the divine government would be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated.” ST December 22, 1914.

4. How our understanding of the character of God affects us

Summary: Our 'God-concept' determines our beliefs and our spiritual life. Wrong ideas about God's character actually damage our souls; while improved ideas of God's character heal and uplift us. Understanding God in his true light of right-acting love and compassion will lead us to true compliance based on loving acceptance. For some it is hard to give up false God-concepts. But if they do not, evil will take over; and accepting Satan's misrepresentation of God's character they will never see God.

89. "We need to have higher and more distinct views of the character of Christ, to lead us to copy his example... We are not to think of God only as a judge, and to forget him as our loving Father. Nothing can do our souls greater harm than this; for our whole spiritual life will be moulded by our conceptions of God's character. We have lessons to learn of Jesus' love." RH April 5, 1887.
90. "The whole spiritual life is molded by our conceptions of God; and if we cherish erroneous views of His character, our souls will sustain injury. We should see in God one who yearns toward the children of men, longing to do them good." RH January 14, 1890.
91. "When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us." DA 668.
92. "But he whose eyes have been opened to see the love of Christ, will behold the character of God as full of love and compassion. God will not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son... All despair is swept from the soul when Christ is seen in his true character." RH February 3, 1891.
93. "There are many who have but an imperfect understanding of the character of God. They think of Him as stern and arbitrary, and when the fact is presented that God is love, it is a difficult matter for these souls to lay aside their false conceptions of God. But if they do not let the word of truth in, rooting out the thorns, the briars will start up afresh, and choke out the good word of God; their religious experience will be dwarfed, for the evil of their hearts will overtop the tender plant of truth, and shut away the spiritual atmosphere." RH June 21, 1892.
94. "The work of Christ was to free the truth from the rubbish of error and superstition, that men might behold the true character of God, and serve Him in spirit and in truth." RH May 29, 1888.
95. "The Lord would have his followers enraptured with God through the knowledge of his paternal character." YI October 17, 1895.
96. "Do you want to know more of the character of God?--then bear in mind that the Bible gives the revelation of Him in the character of Jesus Christ." RH March 25, 1902.
97. "God has revealed himself to man; he stopped to take upon him our nature, and in his Son we see the glory of the divine attributes. Those who see not in Christ the divine character are in the shadow of Satan's misrepresentation of divinity..." ST December 12, 1895
98. "The sinner sees Jesus as he is, full of compassion and tender love, and by beholding the manifestation of his great love toward fallen man in his sufferings on Calvary, he is transformed in character." ST February 12, 1894.
99. "God has sent Christ into the world to make manifest his paternal character. It is our privilege to know God experimentally, and in true knowledge of God is life eternal. The only begotten Son of God was God's gift to the world, in whose character was revealed the character of him who gave the law to men and angels...Unless men shall know God as Christ has revealed him, they will never form a character after the divine similitude, and will therefore never see God." RH March 9, 1897.
100. "The love of God as manifested in Jesus, will lead us to the true conception of the character of God." RH June 17, 1890.

101. "Those who think they can obtain a knowledge of God aside from his Representative, whom the Word declares is 'the express image of his person,' will need to become fools in their own estimation before they can become wise..." RH November 8, 1898.
102. "It is growth in knowledge of the character of Christ that sanctifies the soul. To discern and appreciate the wonderful work of the atonement, transforms him who contemplates the plan of salvation. By beholding Christ, he becomes changed into the same image, from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord." RH August 26, 1890.
103. "God has given men and women affections and intellect that they may appreciate the character of God as it was revealed in the earthly life of Christ..." RH September 30, 1909.
104. "God has revealed his character in the goodness, the mercy, compassion, and the love manifested to save a race of guilty rebels." RH November 21, 1912.
105. "We love to contemplate the character and love of God in His created works... The mountains, hills, and valleys should be to us as schools in which to study the character of God in His created works. The works of God which we may view in the ever-varying scenes--in mountains, hills, and valleys, in trees and shrubs, and flowers, in every leaf, every spire of grass--should teach us lessons of the skill and love of God and of His infinite power." Letter 43, 1875 cited in IHP 9.
106. "Those who know not God cannot by their learning or science find out God. Christ does not try to prove the great mystery, but reveals a love that is beyond measurement. He does not make God's power and greatness the theme of His discourses. He speaks of Him oftenest as our Father....He desires our minds, weakened by sin, to be encouraged to grasp the idea that God is love..." MS 76, 1903 in IHP 10.
107. "How can we understand God? How are we to know our Father? We are to call Him by the endearing name of Father....When our minds are constantly dwelling upon the matchless love of God to the fallen race, we begin to know God, to become acquainted with Him... Right here on this little atom of a world were enacted the grandest scenes that were ever known to humanity. All the universe of heaven was looking on with intense interest. Why? The great battle was to be fought between the power of darkness and the Prince of light. Satan's work was to magnify his power constantly... He was all the time placing God in a false light. He was presenting Him as a God of injustice, and not a God of mercy. He was constantly stirring up their minds so that they would have an incorrect view of God. MS 132, 1902 in IHP 14.
108. "When we study the divine character in the light of the cross we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice." 4T 461
109. "Look away from self to Jesus; for in Christ the character of the Father is revealed....The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and our love, for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not." YI September 29, 1892 in IHP 16.
110. "...the clear light of Christ's love; illuminating the understanding, will reveal the character of God as one who is infinite in mercy... It is natural for the man whose soul is flooded with the love of Jesus, to see in God his father and friend." RH February 10, 1891.
111. "It is proper to seek to learn all that is possible from nature, but do not fail to look from nature to Christ for the complete representation of the character of the living God. By contemplation of Christ, by conformity to the divine likeness, your conceptions of the divine character will expand, and your mind and heart will be elevated, refined, and ennobled." YI September 22, 1892 in IHP 16.
112. "Our heavenly Father was presented before my mind as a tyrant, who delighted in the agonies of the condemned; not the tender, pitying Friend of sinners, who loves His creatures with a love past all understanding and desires them to be saved in His kingdom... If the love of God had been dwelt upon more, and His stern justice less, the beauty and glory of His character would have inspired me

with a deep and earnest love for my Creator... My views of the Father were changed. I now looked upon Him as a kind and tender parent, rather than a stern tyrant compelling men to a blind obedience. My heart went out toward Him in a deep and fervent love." 1T 24, 25, 31.

5. How the Devil has tried to defame the character of God--and the consequences

Summary: Satan has totally misrepresented God and his character. He has made God out to be exactly as he, Satan, really is: full of evil, lies and hate. Satan has made a special effort to defame God's character before humanity, presenting him as vengeful, severe and unforgiving; an arbitrary tyrant who delights in the sufferings of his created beings. The Devil has made God appear hostile, and us as his most bitter enemies.

113. "Satan has misrepresented the character of God. He has clothed him with his own attributes. He has represented him as a being of inflexible sternness. He had shut the world away from beholding the true character of God, by casting his shadow between men and the divine One. Christ came to our world to remove that shadow. He came to represent the Father....He came to reveal the Father to the world." ST April 15, 1889.
114. "Understanding the character of God, knowing his goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more God could do to save him." DA 762.
115. "The understanding of the people of God has been blinded; for Satan has misrepresented the character of God. Our good and gracious Lord has been presented before the people clothed with the attributes of Satan, and men and women who have been seeking for truth, have so long regarded God in a false light that it is difficult to dispel the cloud that obscures His glory from their view." RH July 23, 1889.
"It is the work of Satan to present the Lord as lacking in compassion and pity. He misstates the truth in regard to Him. He fills the imagination with false theories concerning God; and instead of dwelling upon the truth in regard to the character of our Heavenly Father, we fasten our minds upon the misrepresentations of Satan, and dishonor God by mistrusting Him and by murmuring against Him..." RH January 14, 1890.
116. "The exceeding great and precious promises given us in the Holy Scriptures have been lost sight of to a great extent, just as the enemy of all righteousness designed that they should be. He has cast his dark shadow between us and our God, that we may not see the true character of God. The Lord has proclaimed Himself to be 'merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.'" RH April 1, 1890.
117. "Satan has cast his shadow athwart the pathway of every human being, in order that he may misrepresent God to the world. He has clothed the character of God with attributes that are satanic, and wholly at variance with the truth. He has pictured Him as a being full of revenge, as a lawgiver whose law is beyond the power of man to keep, and he has implanted enmity in the heart of the sinner, so that man unregenerated is in rebellion against God. This is the impression that Satan has made upon the human mind..." RH February 10, 1891.
118. "The shadow of Satan obscures the character of Jesus and of God; but if we by faith gain a knowledge of God, and hold steadfastly to Jesus, we shall be changed. In Jesus is manifested the character of the Father, and the sight of him attracts." ST August 24, 1891.
119. "Satan has ascribed to God all the evils to which the flesh is heir. He has represented Him as a God who delights in the sufferings of His creatures, who is revengeful and implacable." RH November 17, 1891.

120. "He [Satan] thought to intimidate them by threatening and persecution, and thus to quench the heavenly light that was shining upon men, revealing the character of God, and making manifest the malignity of the arch deceiver." RH November 22, 1892.
121. "An eternally burning hell preached from the pulpit, and kept before the people, does injustice to the benevolent character of God. It presents him as the veriest tyrant of the universe. This wide spread dogma has turned thousands to universalism, infidelity, and atheism." RH May 13, 1862
122. "From the opening of the great controversy it has been Satan's purpose to misrepresent God's character and to excite rebellion against His law, and this work appears to be crowned with success. The multitudes give ear to Satan's deceptions and set themselves against God." PP 338
123. "As Jesus looked upon the world, He saw such misapprehension of the character of God, such darkness covering the earth, and gross darkness the people, that His heart was drawn out in compassion for mankind....Satan will continually seek to misrepresent God to every mind." RH July 5, 1892.
124. "Satan's method of misrepresenting the character of God is to attribute to Him his own characteristics.... He misrepresented the character of God, and placed in a false light His gracious commandments. He evaded the truth, and subtly worked to make good appear as evil, and evil as good." RH October 18, 1892.
125. "From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Hence he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself,--as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving,--that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan hoped to so confuse the minds of those whom he had deceived that they would put God out of their knowledge." 5T 738.
126. "The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. When we consider in what false colours Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes millions, of skeptics and infidels." GC 536.
127. "Satan had charged upon God the attributes he himself possessed. Now in Christ he saw God revealed in His true character--a compassionate, merciful Father..." 1SM 254. (ST June 9, 1898).

6. How we misrepresent God and his character

Summary: Unless we rightly understand the character of God, we will misrepresent him to others. In this way we end up accepting and endorsing Satan's lies about the character of God, and help him by placing God in a false light. Doubt and discouragement reflect our misconceptions about God, and such negative feelings convey to others a distorted picture of what God is truly like.

128. "We are required to represent our Lord in life and character. Satan has misrepresented our Lord, and we have unconsciously aided him in his work." RH April 16, 1889.
129. "He [Satan] will encourage you to think that your feelings and fancies are facts, that God is a hard master, and he will lead you, by your attitude of despondency, to misrepresent to the world the character of God..." RH May 28, 1889.
130. "We should weave faith into all our religious experience. We should lift up our souls, and talk of the glory of God. How many there are who get into a strain of sadness, and talk in a hopeless way. What is the matter?--Satan has been misrepresenting the character of God to them. He has cast his shadow

athwart their pathway, and, instead of talking faith, they have talked doubt. They have magnified the power of the enemy, and have become discouraged.” ST September 16, 1889.

131. “Why have we had so hard a judgment on our Heavenly Father?... Satan has misrepresented our God in every possible way. He has cast his hellish shadow athwart our pathway, that we might not discern our God as a God of mercy, compassion, and truth... We...put our kind Heavenly Father in a false light.” RH Feb. 26, 1889.
132. “The people whom God had called to be the pillar and ground of truth had become representatives of Satan. They were doing the work he desired them to do, taking a course to misrepresent the character of God, and cause the world to look on him as a tyrant.” DA 36.
133. “As long as they will not fall upon the Rock and be broken, they cannot appreciate the love of the character of God.” RH May 24, 1892.
134. “Their [the Sadducees’] ideas of God moulded their own character....” DA 604

7. The importance of knowing and sharing the truth about God’s character

Summary: Our work is to present and reveal the true character of God. The message and mission is to impress on people’s minds the right conception of God. The last message of mercy to a dying world is this revelation of God’s character of love.

135. “Multitudes have been led to cherish an erroneous conception of God, as the Jews, misled by the errors and traditions of their time, had a false conception of Christ. ‘Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. It is ours to reveal to the world the true character of God.” 5T 710.
136. “The right conception of God, through the knowledge of Christ, who died that we might be saved, should be impressed upon their minds.” RH June 24, 1890.
137. “The great centre of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel’s message. By many who have been engaged in the work for this time, Christ has been made secondary, and theories and arguments have had first place. The glory of God that was revealed to Moses in regard to the divine character has not been made prominent.” 1SM 383.
138. “The reason why it seems so difficult to win souls for Christ, is that Satan is continually engaged in misrepresenting the character of God to the human mind. Christ came to reveal the Father to the world in His true character, that the false conceptions which men entertained of the divine character might be swept away.” RH May 31, 1892.
139. “Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal.” RH December 3, 1908, in 1BC 1105. [Similar PK 177, 5T 174].
140. “In order to endure the trial before them [God’s people at the end], they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honour Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them.” GC 593.
141. “It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known...The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love.” COL 415.