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FLAT EARTH THEORY DEBUNKED

I am sad to report that there are a number of Adventist brothers and sisters who have been falling for the "Flat Earth" theory. It is growing very rampant among a number of brethren, and many of them are very stubborn about it. They refuse to back down, no matter what. They are as hard-headed as you can get. These people need to be rebuked thoroughly with the following inspired statements from Sister White, that should forever settle this matter:

"Let those who are presenting theories as to WHETHER THE EARTH IS ROUND OR FLAT, LEAVE THIS QUESTION, for God has not given it to them to solve, and earnestly inquire, "What shall I do that I may have everlasting life?" Let them heed the answer, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Nonessential questions will be brought in by those who do not purify their souls by obeying the truth. They fall far short of the standard of loving God supremely and their neighbor as themselves. I am bidden to say that sophistries will be brought in to take the place of the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. The message is given, "Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." This word has been fulfilling among our people." {21MR 419, 420.1}

She has a lot more statements like this...but let's quickly find out what Ellen White herself believed on the matter, even though she did not get into any debates about it:

"When men are so careful to search and dig to see in regard to the precise period of time, we are to say, God made His Sabbath for a ROUND WORLD; and when the seventh day comes to us in that ROUND WORLD, controlled by the sun that rules the day, it is the time in all countries and lands to observe the Sabbath. In the countries where there is no sunset for months, and again no sunrise for months, the period of time will be calculated by records kept. . . . The Lord accepts all the obedience of every creature He has made, according to the circumstances of time in the sun-rising and sun-setting world. . . . The Sabbath was MADE FOR A ROUND WORLD, and therefore obedience is required of the people that are in perfect consistency with the Lord's created world.-- Letter 167, 1900. {3SM 317.2}

She clearly believed the Sabbath was made for a "round world". Contrast that with her expressions of "flat-world"--her language shows she knows the difference between spherical and flat--thus proving that her expression for "round" here does not mean round like a pizza.

"When at one time a brother came to me with the message that the WORLD IS FLAT, I was instructed to present the commission that Christ gave His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations: . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end." [Matthew 28:19, 20.] In regard to such subjects as the FLAT-WORLD THEORY, God says to every soul, "What is that to thee? follow thou Me. I have given you your commission. Dwell upon the great testing truths for this time, not upon matters that have no bearing upon our work." {GW 314.1}

"Melrose, Mass., Sunday, August 28, 1904: I speak to the people that shall assemble in the tent meeting in Melrose. My mind is deeply exercised this morning. I have had matters presented to me to give to our people. An urgent request came to me from a man who desired to discuss with me in regard to the round world--to him a very important matter. My answer was, "I have a message to this people in regard to the life they must live in this world to prepare them for future life which measures with the life of God. We have nought to do with the question whether this world is round or flat. [The important thing] is to serve God with full purpose of a renewed heart, sanctified and made holy by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ." {21MR 421.4}

"The great question is, What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? This is the science of what constitutes the higher education, and when this question is properly adjusted, the capabilities of

the whole man are called into full exercise. There WILL BE NO AGITATION OF THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE WORLD IS ROUND OR FLAT, but the whole burden of the soul is: What shall I do to inherit eternal life? We need now to make every talent that God has given us to be employed to His name's glory. {21MR 414.5}

"I am pleased to tell you the Lord strengthened me on Sabbath to bear a decided message. To His name be all the glory. I know the impression was made by His Holy Spirit. On Sunday afternoon I urged the truth with more decided firmness and power. A man was present who had expressed a desire to see me and talk with me in regard to the ROUND AND FLAT WORLD. I sent him a message that when Christ gave my commission to do the work He had placed upon me, the FLAT OR ROUND WORLD was NOT included in the message; the Lord had taken care of His house, His world here below, better than any human agency could care for it, and until the message came from the Lord, silence was eloquence upon that question." {21MR 414.2}

"There is to be an avoidance of controversy. We are to speak the truth in love. FALSE DOCTRINES of every kind will be brought in to divert the mind from a plain "Thus saith the Lord." Wherever we go, we shall find men ready with some side issue. While I was at Melrose, a man came with a message that the WORLD IS FLAT. I was INSTRUCTED to present the commission that Christ gave His disciples just before His ascension, as recorded in Matthew 28:16-20." --Ms 10, 1905, p. 1. ("Non-Essential Subjects to be Avoided," September 12, 1904

"I learn by letters from New York that Brother Brown has accepted and is now preaching the FLAT WORLD THEORY. Is it possible that this theory has been brought by Brother Wilcox from England and that you have accepted it and are teaching it? My brother, our work is to teach the third angel's message. STICK TO THE MESSAGE. It is a weakness of Elder Wilcox to get hold of hobbies and to stick to some things that he had better let alone.

Any kind of theory or hobby that Satan can lead the minds of men to dwell upon, he will draw their attention to, so that they shall not be engaged in giving the solemn message for this time. DO NOT, my brother, BECOME ENTANGLED with ideas that have no connection with the work for this time. It is better to be teaching the truth as it is in Jesus. Better to be seeking for true godliness, heart holiness, freedom from all selfishness, freedom from all envies and jealousies.

It is better to pray and humble the soul before God and let the world, round or flat, be just as God has made it. Try most earnestly by faithful continuance in well doing to seek for a clear title in the inheritance in the earth made new. Better lead the flock of God to drink at the higher streams; better by precept and example seek God while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. There is a revival needed in the church. When the teachers are drinking fresh draughts from the well of Bethlehem, then they can lead the people to the living stream. My soul is weighed down with the burden of the condition of things in New York. May the Lord raise up helpers, men whom He can teach, humble men whom He can lead to bear a clear, sharp testimony in faith. God help you to seek His face, to walk carefully, to put self out of sight, and exalt Jesus." {21MR 412, 413}

"I hope Brother Wilcox will be a truly converted man. This is his great need at the present time. He wants meekness, he wants humility, he wants genuine piety, and without it he is as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. His soul and your soul need the indwelling of Jesus. WHETHER THE WORLD IS ROUND OR FLAT WILL NOT SAVE THE SOUL, but whether men believe and obey means everything."--Letter 43,