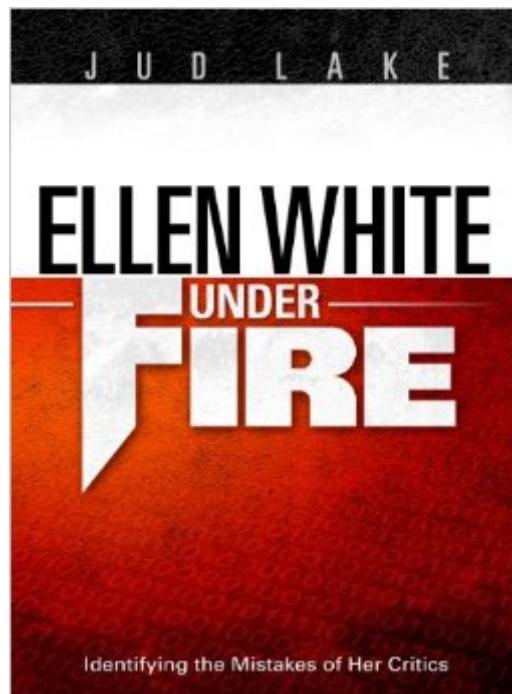


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# Ellen White Under Fire: Identifying The Mistakes Of Her Critics



## Synopsis

During her lifetime, Ellen White withstood wave upon wave of personal criticisms. Yet the historical records confirm her as a person of integrity, and her writings confirm her loyalty to the Bible. In *Ellen White Under Fire*, Dr. Jud Lake provides a comprehensive assessment of Ellen White critics, past and present, as well as her defenders all the while building confidence in her prophetic gift.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading through Dr. Lake's book several times I have found it to be very strong in its argumentation and quite solid in addressing the "deeper issues" behind the criticisms of Ellen White. What objective readers will notice about this work is that it is very well organized. There are three primary headings that Dr. Lake uses in his work. The first heading is the history of Ellen White criticisms. Readers will appreciate the accurate accounting of the history behind the criticisms along with the footnotes to the quotes. Of especial note in this section is Dr. Lake's charitable treatment of D. M. Canright, the most influential of early EGW critics. While some pro-Adventist authors have attacked Mr. Canright personally and placed the blame solely on him, Dr. Lake does not use such tactics. In Lake's estimation "it appears that both sides [Adventist and Canright] were at fault" (EWUF pg 56) and his theory that Canright's "departure and future war on Adventism" was based on his being a "culprit" and "casualty" of "Phariseeism" has merit as the historical references show (Ibid pg 55). The second heading deals with the core issues of the debate. This is the heart of Lake's book and in order for any criticism of his work to be effective it needs to spend much time refuting

him here. I have not, as of yet, seen any critical response that even come close to doing this. In this section Dr. Lake explains the nature of inspiration, EGW's authority, how to correctly interpret her writings, and he takes a look at the big picture of her message. I do not want to get overly enamored with the details here (read the book for yourself folks!) but I will touch upon a few gems in the section.

I'll confess up front to having only briefly scanned Jud Lake's book on Ellen White, but last weekend I attended some three and a half hours worth of lectures by Lake, and I know where he is coming from. Lake is a professor at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, and teaches a class on Ellen White. He has an excellent knowledge of her life story, as well as a good grasp of her writings, which are extensive, to say the least. Basically, Lake says Ellen White has to be read in her literary and historical context. In terms of literary context, don't take one sentence out of context, but read the entire paragraph, the entire page, and the entire chapter or article or letter. Just acknowledging the basic literary context will prevent a good deal of distortion and misinterpretation. Further, read Ellen White topically, that is, read everything she had to say on a topic--instead of latching on to one statement directed to a specific person in a specific context--and an amazing balance will emerge. This is especially important on such topics as health reform. Every person has a different health situation, and different nutritional issues, and thus Ellen White did not give "one size fits all" dietary advice, except in the most general terms. It is also necessary to read her statements in the context of her entire literary corpus, particularly in the context of the five volume "Conflict of the Ages" series (Patriarchs & Prophets, Prophets & Kings, Desire of Ages, Acts of the Apostles, Great Controversy). These are her most mature and polished writings, and a good frame of reference for everything else she wrote. Finally, it is necessary to read Ellen White in the context of her times.

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