



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THE THEOLOGICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHERN CONFERENCE OF SOUTH-AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO PROF. WALTER VEITH'S RECENT YOUTUBE PRESENTATIONS: "... IS THIS THE END?"

The Theological Review Committee hereby acknowledges prof. Walter Veith's bona fide YouTube presentations and that the said presentations were evidence of good faith and sincerity. In his lecture he referred to the following three aspects:

- He was not setting a date for the Second Coming of the Lord.
- He believes, according to the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, there is a distinct possibility that the cosmic time of six thousand years is meant to be taken as literal years to determine when the earth will be renewed.
- He believes that the definition of the concept of "know" versus "make known" in Matt. 24:36 is supported by James White and the Spirit of Prophecy (include all exegetical and hermeneutical issues – Ellen White).

However, the Theological Review Committee of the Northern Conference SA disagrees with Prof. Walter Veith's above views, due to the following:

1. PERCEIVED SETTING OF DATES:

While we acknowledge that prof. Walter Veith holds that he did not set a date, by mentioning the year 2027 or earlier/later, as a possible date on different occasions, he complicates his position. (For more detail see footnote);¹

After careful study of the writings of Ellen G. White, the Bible, and the material presented by prof. Veith, the Theological Review Committee (TRC) of the Northern Conference has come to the conclusion that the main problem in the presentation is the issue of perceived date setting for the second coming of Christ.

"Again and again have I been warned in regard to time setting. There will never again be a message for the people of God that will be based on time. We are not to know the definite time either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ" (1 Selected Messages p188.2).

2. COSMIC WEEK:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has not officially adopted the Cosmic Week Theory because of its speculative nature. Time setting, using the Cosmic Week Theory, has failed repeatedly in the past. Calculations on when the cosmic week will end, are based on assumptions that are used to interpret the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy. There are statements of EG White that imply different dates, we should therefore be circumspect in the interpretation and presentation thereof. The urgent Three Angel's Messages that we are commissioned to preach is stronger than time and does not need time to strengthen its impact (see Early Writings 75).

3. CONCEPT OF "KNOW" VERSUS "MAKE KNOWN"

οἶδα (know) vs *γνωρίζω* (to make known). There is no movement toward a legitimate change from "know" to "make known." "Know" is in the accusative. The accusative is the verbal case that states truth or fact. Jesus does not know. The angels do not know. The disciples (and by implication all disciples) do not know either, that's why they had asked and that's why Jesus was busy explaining things to them. Whether it is "know", or "make known", the matter is clear. The exact time of the second coming of Christ is God's mystery. For this reason, any attempt at date setting, as well as trying to use the Bible together with the SOP in order to do the exact opposite of what has been made clear by Scripture, is to attempt to unravel a mystery that is God's alone. Instead Scripture admonishes us to be ready, because Christ's coming is even at the door, and we are to be prepared.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST VIEW: The SDA Church continues to be blessed by the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy and understand that we have been given special guidance from God with regards to the signs of the times and Biblical prophecy. We are privileged with a prophetic calling to point a fallen world back to its Creator-God and His imminent advent. Any prediction of a *time* for this prophetic event is conjecture and may hold tragic consequences. Knowledge of prophetic events is important, but not the timing of the events. Eagerly awaiting Jesus' coming we are aware of our responsibility to call people to the Lord. In the end, we are called to be ready *now* and live as if expecting the Second Coming *today*, not in a few years.

COMBINED STATEMENT BETWEEN THE TRC AND PROF. VEITH

This statement presents a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING after consultative conversation between the TRC of the Northern Conference, SA and prof. Walter Veith. Through discussion with prof. Veith, these concerns (see above points 1-3) were addressed and we:

- (i) **AGREED** to accept that date setting or any statements that can possibly lead to ***perceived setting of dates*** for the Second Coming of Christ should be avoided. This way we will remain in harmony with the special guidance from the Lord;
- (ii) **AGREED** to accept that the ***Cosmic Week Theory*** has not officially been adopted or voted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church due to its speculative nature. We also agree that the end of the Cosmic week and the Second Coming of Jesus are two separate events and should not be connected, for implied date setting may be the result. We further agree that the creation events in Genesis 1 and 2 happened approximately six thousand years ago;
- (iii) **AGREED** while considering the ***concept of "know" versus "make known"*** we accept that knowledge and certainty of prophetic events are important; not the exact timing of the events. We are called to be ready *today* – in expectation of Christ's imminent Second Coming.

The **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH** continues to be blessed by the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy; we are privileged to point others to our Creator-God and His advent; and as we are awaiting His coming - we have a solemn task: to proclaim the gospel and call a fallen world to salvation in Jesus Christ.

Since prof. Walter Veith accepted this Statement, the Theological Review Committee will make a recommendation to the ADCOM that the Northern Conference continues to support his ministry.

ⁱ Statements like the following do not help the argument that he has not set a date "*If 2027 is the end of the six-thousand-year period of warring against God, then this would exclude the time of preparation required after the wicked are raised. Is it possible that time could be cut off from the six thousand years before 2027? If so, then Christ must come sometime before 2027 to allow this?*" (1 Hour, 41 minutes and 18 seconds into the Lecture).

Acknowledgment is however also given to prof Veith's statement: "*The Lord can add to that time, the Lord delays His coming, the Lord can take away from that time. I don't know. I'm not making the time. I'm saying that the time is short*" (1:53:21-1:53:51).

Prof Veith bases his statements on the following quotes "*But the day and the hour of His coming Christ has not revealed. He stated plainly to His disciples that He Himself could not make known the day or the hour of His second appearing. Had He been at liberty to reveal this, why need He have exhorted them to maintain an attitude of constant expectancy? There are those who claim to know the very day and hour of our Lord's appearing. Very earnest are they in mapping out the future. But the Lord has warned them off the ground they occupy. The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is God's mystery.*" (DA 632.4) **and** "*On Jordan's banks the voice from heaven, attended by the manifestation from the excellent glory, proclaimed Christ to be the Son of the Eternal. Satan was to personally encounter the Head of the kingdom which he came to overthrow. If he failed he knew that he was lost. Therefore the power of his temptations was in accordance with the greatness of the object which he would lose or gain. For four thousand years, ever since the declaration was made to Adam that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, he had been planning his manner of attack*" (CON 78.2).



Pr. GT Allers
(On behalf of the TRC)



Prof. WJ Veith