

# The Great Controversy and Patriarchs and Prophets: Symbolism and Relative Numbering?

- “Christ, the Word, **the only begotten of God**, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—**the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.**” Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 34.1
- “No man, nor even the highest angel, can estimate the great cost; **it is known only to the Father and the Son.**” Ellen White: *The Bible Echo*, October 28, 1895, par. 4
- “**God** informed Satan that **to his Son alone he would reveal his secret purposes...**” Ellen White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, p. 22.2, 1870
- “Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the **King** declared that **none but Christ**, the Only Begotten of God, **could fully enter into His purposes...**” Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 36.2, 1890

The Great Controversy, from Chapter 29, “The Origin of Evil”:

- “**Christ** the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—**the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.**” Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 493.1

These words from the chapter entitled “The Origin of Evil” clearly indicate that Jesus is the only Divine Being in the whole universe Who was privy to all of the decisions and plans of God (the Father). If the Holy Spirit were a Divine being, wouldn’t it be strange that he didn’t know all of the counsels and purposes of the Father and Jesus?

Beside these truths in the same chapter of *The Great Controversy* it’s clear that Jesus was given honor and power from the Father and that Lucifer became jealous of this. There is no distinction of position among the persons of the Trinity. This model of reasoning about the Trinity leads to all kinds of distorted interpretations of Bible texts in support of the doctrine, despite Jesus’ clear declaration: “It is written.”

Why didn’t she ever remove these statements from the books *The Great Controversy* or *Patriarchs and Prophets*, about which she wrote were the most important and in no way peripheral books? **These statements alone** excludes any possibility of manipulation. Other less precise quotes should be viewed only through this clear lens, and not vice versa.

In his gospel Matthew writes that Jesus healed two demoniacs when they approached Him. Luke and Mark in their descriptions of the same incident mention only one man. This is taken as proof that, just as the second demoniac is not mentioned, neither is the Holy Spirit mentioned but “He is implied” as a member of the Trinity. This comparison is completely inadequate.

When Jesus was on the earth, there were always gathered around Him people afflicted with all kinds of diseases, and He healed them all. The apostles described those cases which were more important in their view; their writings were selective, not exhaustive.

That’s why the fact that Mark and Luke describe only one (probably the one greater possessed) demoniac, but Matthew describes two, doesn’t make the Bible contradictory, but rather shows that the apostles emphasized various aspects or events over others, similar to the prophets from the Old Testament. But neither of them wrote that there was **only one** demoniac! The quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy, on the other hand, represent direct proof of the opposite, that the third person of the Godhead proceeds from two Divine Beings, the Father and the Son.