

If you believe in the prophetic ministry of Ellen White as I do, the following quotations show the special place that the 1843 prophetic chart has in God's plan. This chart is not the work of man only, to be forgotten and ignored. It is a sacred chart, predicted in the Bible and directed by the hand of the Lord in its production.

The Spirit of God moved Charles Fitch to devise the prophetic chart (the 1843 chart):

Their faith was greatly strengthened by the direct and forcible application of those scriptures which set forth a tarrying time. As early as 1842, **the Spirit of God had moved upon Charles Fitch** to devise the prophetic chart, which was generally regarded by Adventists as **a fulfillment of the command given by the prophet Habakkuk, "to write the vision and make it plain upon tables."** No one, however, then saw the tarrying time, which was brought to view in the same prophecy. After the disappointment, the full meaning of this scripture became apparent. Thus speaks the prophet: "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." **[Habakkuk 2:2, 3.]** {4SP 241.2}

The 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord:

I have seen that **the 1843 chart was directed by the hand of the Lord**, and that it should not be altered; that the figures were as He wanted them; that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures, so that none could see it, until His hand was removed. {EW 74.1}

I saw that the truth should be made plain on tables, that the earth and the fullness thereof is the Lord's, and that necessary means should not be spared to make it plain. I saw that the angels' messages made plain, would have effect. **I saw that the old chart was directed by the Lord, and that not a peg of it should be altered without inspiration. I saw that the figures on the chart were as God wanted them, and that His hand was over and hid a mistake in some of the figures so that none could see it until His hand was removed.** {Unpublished Manuscript 15, 1850, similar to SpM 1.3}

There was a single prophetic mistake on the chart which was there by the providence (hand) of God. The mistake was in the calculation of the prophetic time periods that led to 1843. After the disappointment in the Spring of 1844, the mistake was explained and the prophetic periods were then seen to point to October 22, 1844.

I saw the people of God joyful in expectation, looking for their Lord. But God designed to prove them. **His hand covered a mistake in the reckoning of the prophetic periods.** Those who were looking for their Lord did not discover this mistake, and the most learned men who opposed the time also failed to see it. **God designed that His people should meet with a disappointment.** The time passed, and those who had looked with joyful expectation for their

Saviour were sad and disheartened, while those who had not loved the appearing of Jesus, but embraced the message through fear, were pleased that He did not come at the time of expectation. Their profession had not affected the heart and purified the life. The passing of the time was well calculated to reveal such hearts. They were the first to turn and ridicule the sorrowful, disappointed ones who really loved the appearing of their Saviour. I saw the wisdom of God in proving His people and giving them a searching test to discover those who would shrink and turn back in the hour of trial. {EW 235.3}

Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with sympathy and love upon those who had with sweet expectation longed to see Him whom their souls loved. Angels were hovering around them, to sustain them in the hour of their trial. Those who had neglected to receive the heavenly message were left in darkness, and God's anger was kindled against them, because they would not receive the light which He had sent them from heaven. Those faithful, disappointed ones, who could not understand why their Lord did not come, were not left in darkness. Again they were led to their Bibles to search the prophetic periods. **The hand of the Lord was removed from the figures, and the mistake was explained.** They saw that the prophetic periods reached to 1844, and that the same evidence which they had presented to show that the prophetic periods closed in 1843, proved that they would terminate in 1844. {EW 236.1}

So, If the chart is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, (Habakkuk 2:2), if it is directed by the hand of the Lord, if it only has one mistake in the figures and that mistake was directed and then corrected by God, is it not a sacred chart, a trustworthy chart?

I believe so.

Troy Van Horn

Hab 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

Hab 2:2 And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Hab 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

