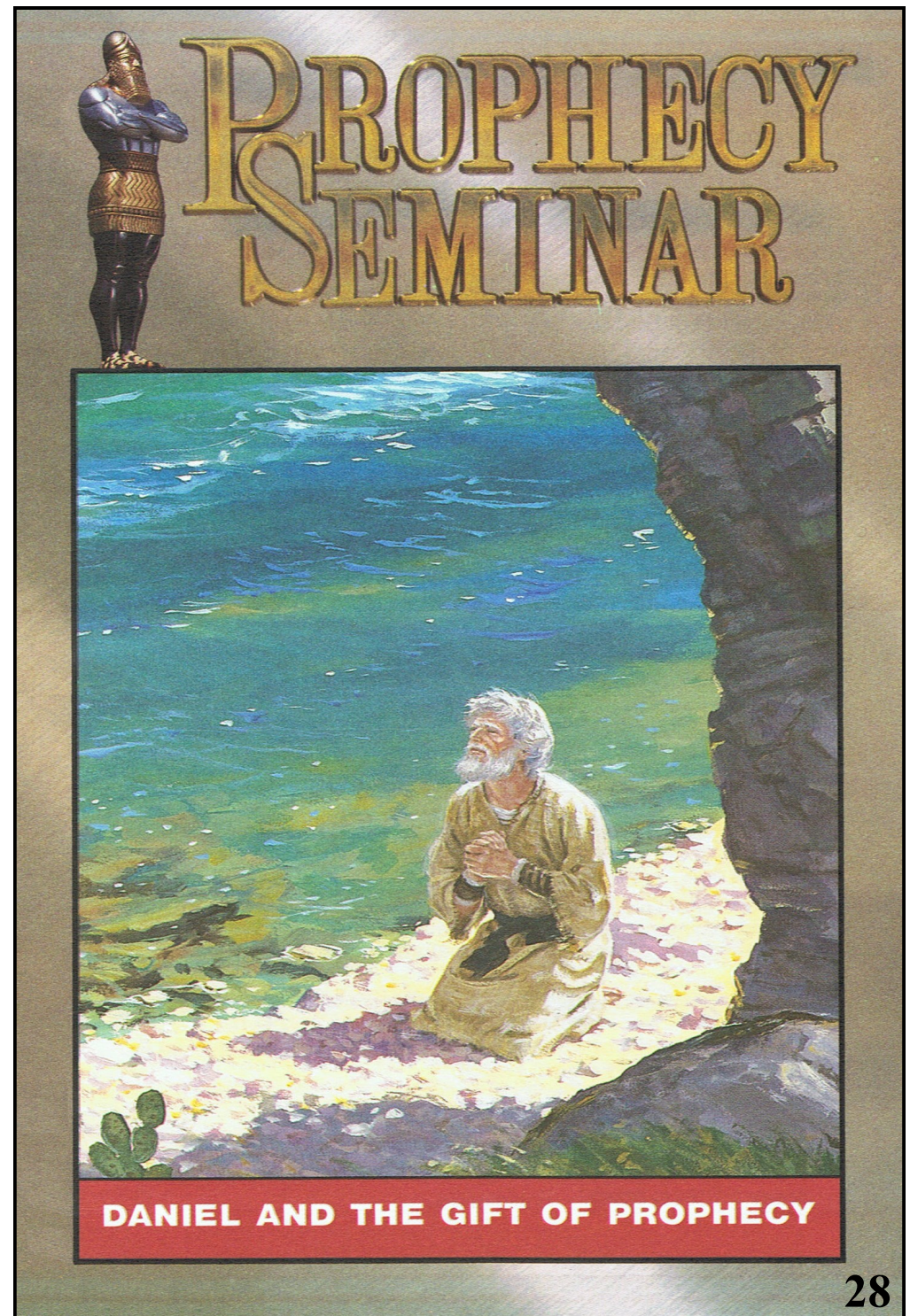


Because of her ministry, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has remained a Bible-based, Christ-centered movement throughout its history. Because of her life and ministry, the Adventist Church today has one of the most far-flung mission programs of any denomination. It was Ellen White who encouraged the Church to engage in a worldwide ministry. Because of her, Adventists today operate one of the largest non-profit health care systems in the United States and many hospitals around the world, as well as the largest Protestant parochial educational systems in the world. Because of the ministry of Ellen White, Seventh-day Adventists have conducted a balanced ministry — preaching the word, healing the sick, helping the poor. Adventists conduct one of the largest disaster and famine relief efforts in the world today. Adventists who follow the health counsels given by Ellen White live nearly ten years longer than the general population. Truly the Seventh-day Adventist Church is deeply indebted to the ministry of Ellen White.

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Ever since the fall of humanity, God has communicated to us through the holy prophets. The prophet Daniel stands in direct line with many other great prophets of Scripture. The visions and dreams that Daniel saw and recorded in his book of twelve chapters are part of the collection of the prophets known as the Holy Scriptures. How thankful we are for this tremendous revelation that God has given to us in the Bible. How indebted we are to the prophets for the messages they have sent.

In this lesson, we wish to examine the gift of prophecy as it appears in the life of the prophet Daniel and in the rest of Scripture, and then discover if the gift of prophecy is still being manifested today.

THE PROPHET DANIEL

1. How does God communicate to a prophet? Numbers 12:6

In _____ and _____.

NOTE: A dream occurs while the prophet sleeps, whereas a vision occurs while he is awake. These did not arise out of the ordinary experiences of life, but were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2. Did Daniel have dreams and visions? Daniel 7:1; 8:1

3. Describe some of the physical phenomena that accompanied Daniel while in vision. Daniel 10:8, 9, 10, 17, 18

- "No _____ remained in me."
- "I was in a deep _____ on my face."
- "A hand _____ me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands."
- "Nor is any _____ left in me."
- "The one ... _____ me."

NOTE: Certain physical phenomena accompany the prophets while in vision, demonstrating to those around them that they are receiving something that came from a supernatural source.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN BIBLE TIMES

4. Who is the source of the messages that the prophets received in vision? 2 Peter 1:21

greater light, the Bible." Ellen White constantly attempted to lead people back to the Bible as the only rule of faith. In her last public appearance she took a copy of the sacred Scriptures, extended it in her hand toward the congregation and said, "Brethren and sisters, I commend unto you this book." This was her life work, to lead men and women back to the Bible. She declared that if people had followed the Bible, her work would not have been necessary, but because people had neglected the Bible, God has chosen prophets to call their attention to the neglected truths of Scripture. Please note how Ellen White viewed the relationship of her writings to the Scriptures in the selections that follow:

"In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle—the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty." **The Great Controversy**, pp. 204, 205.

"I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several **Testimonies for the Church**, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the **Testimonies**. You are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God's word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the **Testimonies**. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings." **Testimonies to the Church**, Vol. 2, p. 605.

"The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word; yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the **Testimonies** simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse." **Testimonies**, Vol. 2, p. 605.

These statements show clearly the purpose of Ellen White's gift. Her writings are not an addition to the Bible, but are given to keep us close to the Bible. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is deeply indebted to Ellen White.

consecrated to unselfish labour for the uplifting and betterment of mankind." **Saint Helena Star**, St. Helena, California, July 23, 1915.

Point C:

In 1890 Ellen White wrote: "Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel." **Messages to Young People**, p. 90, April 21, 1890. That prediction reads like today's newspaper, yet was written long before the advent of modern means of travel and communication.

In 1850, modern Spiritism that purported to communicate with the dead had its origin with the Fox sisters and their mysterious rappings in Hydesville, New York. At that time the phenomena was regarded as atheistic and having nothing to do with religion. Yet Ellen White wrote in 1850: "I saw that the mysterious knocking in New York .. was the power of Satan, and that such things would be more and more common, clothed in a religious garb so as to lull the deceived to greater security." **Early Writings**, p. 43. When Spiritism celebrated the centennial of the origin of modern spiritualism in 1948, the spiritists said this: "Spiritualism, with its signs, wonders, visions, and healing gifts was the religion of the apostles, of the post apostolic fathers, and the primitive Christians." **Centennial Book of Modern Spiritualism**, 1948, p. 115. One hundred years after its beginning, Spiritism claimed to be what Ellen White had said it would become.

Ellen White wrote volumes in the field of health and nutrition, a very recent science. Today nearly everything that Ellen White wrote in this field has been verified by modern scientific research. In 1959 Dr. Clive McCay, former Professor of Nutrition at Cornell University, issued this statement: "In spite of the fact that the works of Mrs. White were written long before the advent of modern scientific nutrition, no better over-all guide is available today."

Point D:

The writings of Ellen White are not an addition to the Bible. Just as certain prophets mentioned in the Bible never wrote a word of Scripture, yet were inspired of God, so Ellen White's writings do not form a part of Scripture. But the Holy Spirit that inspired the Bible writers also inspired her (1 Peter 1:9, 10). The Bible is the supreme guide for the Christian. Ellen White did not see her work as an addition to Scripture. In fact, she cautioned against this. She described her work as "a lesser light, to lead men and women to the

"Holy men of God spoke as they were by the _____ by the _____."

5. Will God do anything on the earth without first telling His prophets? Amos 3:7

"Surely the Lord God does _____, unless He reveals His _____ to His servants the _____."

NOTE: Before God does anything of significance involving His people on the earth, He first of all reveals it to the prophets through dreams and visions. Throughout Biblical history, God spoke through a variety of individuals. Daniel was not unique in receiving the prophetic gift. God chose men, and sometimes women, such as Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Chronicles 34:22) and Anna (Luke 2:36). God chose to give the prophetic gift to those individuals who could best serve Him at the time.

As one examines the prophetic gift in Scripture, it becomes clear that there were two basic groups of prophets: **1)** Those whose written revelations are recorded in the Bible, such as Moses, Daniel and John the Revelator; **2)** Those whose writings did not form part of sacred Scripture or who only gave oral presentations, such as Enoch, Elijah, Elisha and John the Baptist, and yet these prophets were just as inspired as the other Bible prophets. Thus, people can be regarded as prophets and not have their writings regarded as a part of sacred Scripture.

6. What is one of the gifts that God has given to His New Testament church? Ephesians 4:11

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some _____, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers."

NOTE: The gift of being a prophet is one of the spiritual gifts that God has given the New Testament church. Do we still have evangelists, pastors and teachers today? Then why not prophets?

7. How long were these gifts, including the gift of being a prophet, to remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13

"Till we all come to the _____ of the faith and of the _____ of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ."

NOTE: This text makes it very clear that these spiritual gifts, including the gift of prophecy, are to remain in the church until the church reaches perfection, which will not be until the second coming of Christ. Paul's point

is very clear: as long as we are on this earth we will need all the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of prophecy.

8. **What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy? 1 Corinthians 14:3**

_____, exhortation, _____

NOTE: The gift of prophecy is not primarily the ability to predict the future. Many Bible prophets, such as Daniel, did predict the future, but many others did not. Their work was to edify, exhort and comfort the church. Thus, one can be a prophet without necessarily predicting the future.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

9. **What counsel did the apostle Paul give the Thessalonians concerning the gift of prophecy? 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**

"Do not _____ prophecies. _____ all things; hold _____ what is good."

NOTE: If God did not plan to send prophets after Bible times, Paul would have cautioned the Thessalonians to disregard anyone in the future who would claim to have the prophetic gift. Instead, Paul tells them not to neglect the prophets, but to prove them and if they proved true, to hold fast to their teachings. Certainly Paul believed that prophets would exist in the future.

10. **What kind of prophets did Jesus warn against? Matthew 7:15**

_____ prophets.

NOTE: If there were not going to be any genuine prophets, Jesus would have warned against all prophets. The fact that He warned against false prophets indicates the presence of the genuine.

11. **Who does Malachi suggest will appear before the coming of the Lord? Malachi 4:5**

"I will send you _____ the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

NOTE: Connected with the coming of Elijah is the gift of prophecy. It is not simply Elijah, but Elijah the prophet, who is to come before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

12. **What great revival of the prophetic gift did the prophet Joel foresee? Joel 2:28-30**



PROPHECY SEMINAR

EXHIBIT 1

For Daniel Lesson 28

EVIDENCES OF THE GIFTS OF PROPHECY

Point A:

"Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people. Lift Him up in sermon, in song, in prayer. Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to 'the Lamb of God.' Lift him up, the risen Saviour, and say to all who hear, Come to him who hath loved us, and hath given himself for us.' Let the science of salvation be the burden of every sermon, the theme of every song. Let it be poured forth in every supplication. Bring nothing into your

preaching to supplement Christ, the wisdom and power of God. I-loId forth the word of life, presenting Jesus as the hope of the penitent and the stronghold of every believer. Reveal the way of peace to the troubled believer and despondent, and show forth the grace and completeness of the Saviour." **Gospel Workers**, p. 160

Point B:

"Seventy years is a long time to live and work before the public, under the critical eyes of millions of people, largely sceptical, doubtful, uncertain, suspicious, and in some cases hostile. If any faults, errors, or inconsistencies existed, they would be exposed with great satisfaction by opponents.

"Mrs. White lived in various places, in New England, Michigan, Switzerland, Australia, and California. She travelled extensively in many parts of the United States, Europe, and Australia; but the fruit of her life and labours attests to her godliness, her sincerity, her zeal and earnestness, her upright and noble character and her consistent Christian conduct." **Our Firm Foundation**, Vol. 1, p. 225

"The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by all... She was a humble, devout disciple of Christ, and ever went about doing good... honoured and respected by all who appreciate noble womanhood

were human. But the general tendency of the life must be in harmony with the Word of God. (See Exhibit 1, Point B.)

22. What is the fourth Bible test of a prophet? Jeremiah 28:9

"When the word of the prophet _____ to _____, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."

NOTE: The final Biblical test of the prophet is fulfilled predictions. Bible prophets gave predictions that dealt with the main themes of the great controversy and salvation, not mundane things such as winning elections, astrology, etc. If the prophet predicts the future, it will come to pass. If the prophecy fails, the prophet would not be genuine. Like most Bible prophets, Ellen White did not give a lot of predictions. Her work was to edify, exhort and comfort the church. Yet there were times when she did give predictions, and on these she can be tested. Like Bible prophets, her predictions were sometimes conditional upon obedience, but her insights clearly reveal the prophetic voice speaking through her. (See Exhibit 1, Point C.)

As one examines the life and ministry of Ellen White in relationship to the four Bible tests of a prophet, it becomes very clear that she meets every one of the tests. The physical phenomena indicated that we are dealing with a supernatural force as being from God.

23. What is the relationship of the writings of Ellen White to the Bible?

She _____ the Bible.

(See Exhibit 1, Point D.)

NOTE: Perhaps the most important point of Ellen White's ministry is the fact that she consistently pointed people to Scripture. She always uplifted the Bible. The Bible predicted that this gift would come in the last days to be a tremendous blessing to the church. The evidence points out that it has come.

24. Are you thankful that God has fulfilled His Word by restoring the prophetic gift to the remnant church in these last days?

PS-28

"Your sons and your daughters shall _____, your old men shall dream _____, your young men shall see _____."

13. At what time will this great prophetic outpouring take place? Joel 2:31

"The sun shall be turned into _____, ... Before the coming of the _____ and _____ day of the LORD."

NOTE: Joel predicted that sometime after the darkening of the sun, which was fulfilled on May 19, 1780 (see Lesson 23), and before the coming of the Lord, this great prophetic gift would be restored to the church.

14. In what group of people would the prophetic gift appear at this time? Joel 2:28-32

"Among the _____ whom the LORD calls."

15. What are two key Bible identification points of the remnant? Revelation 12:17

- a. Keep the _____.
- b. Have the _____ of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Joel predicted that the remnant church would have the gift of prophecy. One of the identifying marks of the remnant church, according to Revelation 12:17, is that they not only keep the commandments of God, but that they also have the testimony of Jesus.

16. What is the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 19:10

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of _____."

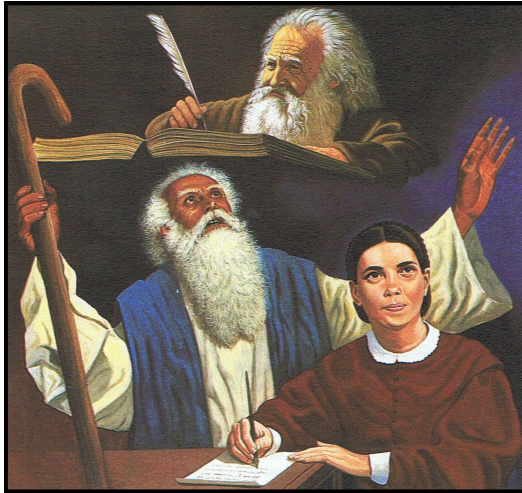
17. Is the spirit of prophecy and prophets the same thing? Compare Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9

"I am ... of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus." 19:10.

"I am ... of your brethren the _____" 22:9.

NOTE: Revelation 19:10 and 22:9 are identical, except that Revelation 19:10 refers to the spirit of prophecy, and Revelation 22:9 calls them prophets. Thus, one of the marks that identifies the remnant church is that it will have the gift of prophecy.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY TODAY



PS-28

The Bible foretells that, in the last days before the coming of the Lord, God will raise up a remnant, a church that will keep all the commandments of God, and that will also have the gift of prophecy. In order to qualify as the remnant church, the church must have the gift of prophecy. It is one of the special marks of identification of the last-day church. The same gift that inspired the prophet Daniel will be duplicated in the end time by a restoration of the gift of prophecy to the church. Did God fulfill this prediction? Did He send the gift of prophecy to the remnant church after the darkening of the sun in 1780?

In December of 1844, a 17-year-old girl by the name of Ellen Harmon (later to become known as Ellen White), in frail health, possessing only a third-grade education, received her first vision while kneeling in prayer with a group of women in Portland, Maine. She shrank from the prospect of being called a prophet, yet she dared not be disobedient to the heavenly vision, and so she related what God had shown her. For 69 years she continued to receive visions and dreams from the Lord. She became one of the most prolific female writers in history, with over 50 books still published today. Was this a genuine or counterfeit manifestation? Was it a fulfilment of the Biblical promise that the prophetic gift would be restored to the church at the end time?

18. What physical phenomena accompanied Ellen White's visions?

Ellen White's experience was very similar to that of the prophet Daniel (see Question 3).

- a. She did not breathe during her visions. Sometimes her visions lasted for as long as four hours. Physicians who examined Ellen White in vision marvelled that she did not breathe, yet still lived.

- b. At times, like Daniel, she experienced a loss of physical strength, replaced by supernatural strength. During one vision, she held a seventeen-pound family Bible outstretched in her hand for thirty minutes. At that time, she weighed 97 pounds and was in frail health. Obviously, there was supernatural strength.

The physical phenomena accompanying the prophet indicate that there is something supernatural about their experience; however, the physical phenomena don't tell us whether the experience is from God or Satan. We must then examine the Biblical tests of a prophet to determine whether the prophet is from God or Satan.

19. What is the first Biblical test of a prophet? Isaiah 8:20

"To the _____ and to the _____!"

NOTE: The expression "the law and the testimony" was an Old Testament expression for the Bible. "The law" referred to the first five books of Moses, and "the testimony" referred to the testimony of the prophets, the rest of the Old Testament. The basic meaning of the text is that the prophet must agree with Scripture, or he is not a genuine prophet. This point must be very clear. Any person today who claims to be a prophet must be tested by Scripture. What God reveals to His prophets today will not disagree with what He has previously revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the supreme revelation. If a prophet disagrees with Scripture, that person is a false prophet. As one examines Ellen White in this area, he finds total agreement with Scripture. The student is invited to take any book written by Ellen White and examine what she says with the Bible. In every case, the student will find that Ellen White agrees with Scripture.

20. What is the second test of a prophet? 1 John 4:2

"Every spirit that confesses that _____ has come in the _____ is of God."

NOTE: True prophets will attest to the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ. They will elevate and exalt Jesus Christ. To test Ellen White in this area, one has only to read her books, such as **The Desire of Ages, Christ's Object Lessons, Steps to Christ, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing**, etc., and one very quickly sees that she beautifully fulfills this test of the prophet. An example of Ellen White's constant uplifting of Jesus Christ is seen in the passage quoted in Exhibit 1, Point A. It is a passage that gives counsel to pastors on how they should preach.

21. What is the third Bible test of a prophet? Matthew 7:20

"By their _____ you will know them."

NOTE: The Bible prophets were not perfect, nor is any prophet perfect; they