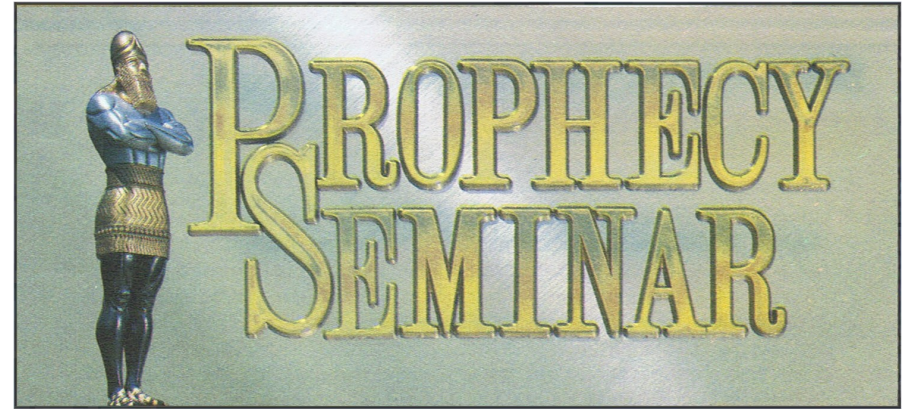


Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

Lined area for notes, questions, and prayer requests.

DS-028



LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT
DANIEL AND THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

QUIZ QUESTIONS

- 1. The only difference between Christians and the non-Christians is that Christians go to church once a week False
2. The reason why Christians today should keep high standards in their personal lives is that they have the hope of the second coming of Christ and are living in the judgment hour. True
3. The Christian's music, TV, movie and reading habits should be in harmony with Philippians 4:8, which says that a Christian should think on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. True
4. The Sabbath begins at midnight on Friday night and ends at midnight on Saturday night. False
5. The purpose of the Sabbath is for the Christian to build a deeper relationship with Christ; therefore, he should do those things on the Sabbath that will enhance his relationship with Jesus. True

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Things to Review:

Review the two main characteristics of the remnant church: the fact that they keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus.

Purpose of This Lesson:

This lesson presents Ellen White as a fulfilment of the gift of prophecy which was promised to the remnant church as one of its identifying marks. The lesson attempts to lay a solid Biblical foundation first for the gift of prophecy, and then proceeds to show how Ellen White fulfils the Biblical specifications.

Question 1

God's method of communication is dreams and visions, which are panoramic representations given to the mind of the prophet. The prophet then writes in his own words what he has seen in vision.

God did not dictate word for word to the prophet what he should write. His method of communication is visions and dreams. At this point you can briefly explain this principle of inspiration. God inspired the minds of the prophets, but they wrote in their own words what God had shown them. Thus the thoughts are God's, but the words are man's.

In Scripture we have a combination of the human and divine as verily as we have a combination of the human and the divine in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word.

Question 3

The main point to emphasize here is that physical phenomena indicate that what is happening to the prophet comes from a supernatural source. Tests must then be applied to discover whether the supernatural source is God or Satan. Many people make the mistake of assuming that because something is supernatural, it has to be from God.

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

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Horizontal lines for writing notes, questions, and prayer requests.

Question 5

The prophets are the spokespeople for God. Originally God spoke face to face with people in the Garden of Eden. However, when sin entered God chose certain individuals with whom He spoke.

These individuals were the prophets, who then communicated God's messages to the rest of the people. Be sure to emphasize the fact that God chose men and women to serve in the prophetic office. It would be well to read the second paragraph in the note, which explains the difference between the two kinds of prophets. The main point to get across here is that a person can be a prophet and not add to Scripture.

Question 6

Read Ephesians 4:11. Ask your students if the church has pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc. If so, then why not prophets?

The Bible indicates that prophets are one of the gifts that God has given to His New Testament church.

Question 7

The emphasis of this question is on the fact that all of these gifts, including the gift of prophet, are to remain in the church until perfection, or the second coming of Christ. Some people teach that the gifts ceased after the apostles died.

That's why the teacher should stress that the gifts remain "Till we come into the unity of the faith, . . . unto a perfect man," and that will not be reached until the second coming of Christ.

It might even be well to ask your students, When do we arrive at perfection? When do we arrive at full unity of the faith? They will obviously respond, Not until the second coming of Christ. Therefore all these gifts must remain in the church until the second coming of Christ.

You will notice that you are beginning to build a strong case for the

perpetuity of the spiritual gifts, including the gift of prophet, beyond Bible times.

Question 8

Many people feel that the gift of prophecy is limited to predicting the future, because so many psychics and prophets in the religious world today give predictions. It has given undue attention to that aspect of a prophet's work. In Bible times most prophets did not give many predictions. They gave counsel, leadership and exhortation to the church, but not primarily predictions.

Question 9. These examples again point out that a person can be a prophet yet their writings do not form a part of Scripture, just as these Bible prophets received revelations from God but did not write a book of the Bible.

Questions 10 & 11

These two questions thoroughly establish the fact that the gift of prophecy is to exist beyond Bible times, or the Bible writers would have told us that they would cease. Instead we find the apostle Paul counselling the church to test the prophets, hold fast to that which proves true, and not to despise prophesying. The warnings in the Scriptures are not against the prophetic gift, but to test the prophetic gifts that come.

Question 12

This text shows that the gift of prophets is associated with the coming of Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Do not get side-tracked here into a discussion of who Elijah is. The point that you are raising in this text is that associated with Elijah is the gift of prophet.

Make certain that the student clearly sees that Ellen White's writings are not an addition to Scripture. Throughout this section the teacher should make certain to uphold the supreme authority of Scripture.

Ellen White is not our authority, the Bible is. In fact, Ellen White constantly emphasized to the people of her time not to depend upon her as a shortcut for searching the Scriptures, but said to go the Scriptures themselves to find out what is truth.

The last section of this lesson deals with the tremendous benefit Ellen White has been to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Again it would be well for the teacher to read through this section so that it is familiar enough to state in his own words.

You might wish to share some of the personal blessings the spirit of prophecy has brought to you. Ellen White is not a giver of new light and truth. Her function was to lead the church back to the Bible and to constantly point to the Bible as the only source of authority. Her counsels and encouragements were always in harmony with Biblical revelation, and she attempted to guide the church into a balanced ministry: ministering to people's physical, mental and spiritual needs.

Be sure to end this lesson on a high note, thanking God that He has given this wonderful gift to His church.

Response Questions:

1. If you are thankful that God has given this most precious prophetic gift to the remnant church in these last days through Ellen White, put a check in Box #1.
2. Having seen that the Seventh-day Adventist meets the two main characteristics of the remnant church—that is, they keep the commandments of God and have the gift of prophecy—if it is your desire to prepare to become a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, put a check in Box #2.

Questions 13 & 14

Here is a prediction by Joel of a revival of the prophetic gift among men **and women**. The point to raise here is that the time in which this is to be fulfilled is before the coming of the Lord and after the darkening of the sun.

Question 15

This text specifically states that this prophetic gift will appear in the remnant church. Thus we should look for a revival of the prophetic gift, according to Joel, in the remnant church.

Questions 16 to 18

These three questions establish the identification marks of the remnant as being a church that keeps the commandments and has the prophetic gift in its midst. You are defining “testimony of Jesus” as “spirit of prophecy” and then making clear that “spirit of prophecy” means “prophets.”

Having covered the basic Biblical background, make certain that you review the main points that you have established so far before you move into the next section of the lesson.

These main points are:

1. God's medium of communication is the prophets.
2. The gift of prophecy is to exist in the church until the end of time.
3. The gift of prophecy is to be restored to the church in the last days, after the darkening of the sun.
4. One of the identifying marks of the remnant church is that it will have the gift of prophet in its midst.

You may then wish to read the second paragraph in the note under **the Gift of Prophecy Today**. It describes Ellen White's call to the prophetic office. Having raised the point that the gift of prophecy needs to exist in

the remnant church today, you now need to share the fulfilment. Please do not present this section of the lesson apologetically. Talk about it positively and be excited about the wonderful blessing this gift has been to the remnant church.

The next section deals with the physical phenomena that accompanied Ellen White in vision. Read Points a and b or tell them in your own words. Be sure to point out that these physical phenomena do not indicate whether Ellen White was a genuine or false prophet—they only indicate that what she experienced was of a supernatural character.

There are four Bible tests that we must study now to find out whether she was a genuine or false prophet. The physical phenomena prove that we are dealing with a supernatural experience. That is all they prove.

Question 20

Make certain that each of your students has received a copy of some Ellen White book. Hopefully you have shared some of them earlier so that many of your students have already read some of her writings. If they have done this you will find that they will have no trouble accepting Ellen White's claim to the prophetic office.

Make certain as you present this section that you are constantly elevating the Scriptures as supreme authority. Make the point that we test Ellen White by the Bible, not the Bible by Ellen White.

Question 21

The second test of the prophet is the uplifting of Jesus Christ. Let your students know that Ellen White rings true to the full divinity and full humanity of Christ.

Turn to the exhibit and read Point A, sharing with them this beautiful quotation from **Gospel Workers** that shows the Christ-centeredness of Ellen White's presentation.

Let your students know what it has meant to you to read the writings of

Ellen White, how they have brought you nearer the Saviour and helped you to become better acquainted with Jesus.

Question 22

The fruits of a prophet's life are an indication of their genuineness. Be sure to stress that the prophets of the Bible were not perfect, and neither was Ellen White perfect. She made mistakes; she was a human being. Yet there must be general consistency in the prophet's life. Take the time to read the quotations found on Point B in the exhibit. This will help your students to see how others have viewed Ellen White's life.

Question 23

This text deals with predictions. You should mention that Ellen White, like many Bible prophets, did not primarily give predictions, but in the areas where she did give predictions, she can be tested. Turn to Point C in the exhibit and read through the various predictions and their fulfilment.

Having emphasized the four Biblical tests, you should be certain to clearly state that Ellen White passes every one of these tests. Therefore, because she has demonstrated a supernatural power at work by the physical phenomena, and since she is in harmony with the four Biblical tests, the inescapable conclusion is that Ellen White is a genuine prophet of God.

Question 24

Having established the authenticity of Ellen White's claim to the prophetic gift, the question that now needs to concern the teacher is the relationship of these writings to Scripture.

Question 24 is extremely important. The teacher should very carefully read through the notes in the lesson and in the exhibit and then summarize them in his own words or read them to the students.