



Because man was originally fully in obedience to God, he was perfectly happy in Eden. Adam and Eve were able to commune with God face to face. But when they sinned, this communion was broken. Since then the human race has been shut off from face to face communion with God. If sinful man were to see the face of God now, he would instantly perish. Exodus 33.20. Therefore God provided another means by which to communicate to men His will for their lives. At certain points in history He used selected men and women through whom to speak to the human family. They are called prophets. Prophecy has been used throughout Bible times to give warning, to prepare men for specific events, and to bring them back to God's purpose for them.

A. GOD'S COMMUNION WITH MAN BEFORE THE FALL

- 1. How did God originally communicate with man?**
Genesis 3:3, 8-10

NOTE: Adam and Eve hid their faces from God because of their sin. No longer were they able to enjoy face to face communion with God.

B. GOD'S COMMUNICATION WITH MAN AFTER THE FALL

- 2. Since the fall of man, how does God communicate with His people? Amos 3:7; Hebrews 1:1**
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NOTE: In all times God has used both men and women as prophets. Scripture records a number of women who received the prophetic gift, such as Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Anna (Luke 2:36), the daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8-9), and many others.

3. Does God provide the prophetic gift for the spiritual growth of today's church? 1 Corinthians 12:28

NOTE: Prophets are an essential part of the true church. In Bible times a prophet was also called a seer (1 Samuel 9:9). A seer is a foreseer, a prophet. The true church will have the gift of prophecy, for "where there is no vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

4. Can one choose on his own to become a prophet? Amos 7:14-15; Ezekiel 2:1-2; See 2 King 2:9-15.

5. What is the purpose of prophecy? John 14:29; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25.

NOTE: God provides messages through the prophets to guide, protect, and prosper His people.

~ NOTES ~

TWELVE TESTS OF A TRUE PROPHET OR PROPHETESS

1. A true prophet does not lie. His or her non-conditional predictions will always be 100% right and accurate. Deuteronomy 18:21-22.
2. A true prophet does not prophesy for fees, charges or payments. 2 Kings 5:15-16.
3. A true prophet does not ever give his own private interpretation of his or of another true prophet's prophecy; it is always the Lord's exegesis and interpretation, based on what He has revealed. 2 Peter 1:20.
4. A true prophet, other things being equal, does not prophesy in his own name; it is always in the name of the Lord. 2 Peter 1:21.
5. A true prophet points out the sins, transgressions, and iniquities of the people against God. Isaiah 58:1.
6. A true prophet warns the people of God's coming judgments. Isaiah 24:19-21.
7. A true prophet edifies the church with counsel and advice in religious matters. I Corinthians 14:3-4.
8. A true prophet is in absolute harmony with the words of preceding Bible prophets. 1 Corinthians 14:32; Isaiah 8:20.
9. A true prophet recognizes the incarnation and divinity of Jesus Christ. 1 John 4:1-3.
10. A true prophet, when in vision, does not breathe. Daniel 10:15, 17.
11. A true prophet can be recognized by the results of his or her works. Matthew 7:16, 20.
12. A true prophet acts in accordance with the will and approval of God as expressed in the Bible, and the Ten Commandments in particular, including the fourth commandment. Deuteronomy 18:18-19.

C. WHEN PROPHETS SPEAK

The Bible mentions many prophets. Careful study shows that prophets have arisen especially at crucial times to bear specific messages to the people of God.

6. What was Noah's message while building the ark? 2 Peter 2:5

NOTE: "A preacher of righteousness" means that Noah pleaded with the people to turn from their evil ways so that God would not destroy them. He tried to convince them that a flood was coming; his message was one of warning.

7. What message did the prophet Jonah bear to Nineveh? Jonah 3:4

8. What was the response of the people to Jonah's message? Jonah 3:5, 8

NOTE: God sent Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh of the coming judgment. As a result the Ninevites turned to God from their wicked ways.

9. What was John the Baptist's message? Matthew 3:2-3; see also Luke 3:3-4

NOTE: John the Baptist was sent to prepare the people for the first coming of Christ. God will not leave us, who live at the end of time, lacking the information necessary to prepare for His Second Coming. See Amos 3:7. He has promised to restore the prophetic gift to show us how to make ourselves ready for this grand event.

D. THE PROPHETIC GIFT AT THE END TIME

10. Whom does God say He will send before the end comes?
Malachi 4:5; Malachi 3:1

NOTE: In symbolic language, God foretold that the message of Elijah would be repeated with power in the end time; the great and dreadful day of the LORD refers to the Second Coming. The prophetic gift was restored as we approached the end of earth's history.

11. What are the identifying characteristics of God's people at the end of time? Revelation 12:17

NOTE: Revelation 19:10 defines the testimony of Jesus as the spirit of prophecy. To have the spirit of prophecy there must be a prophet. God has not left His remnant people in darkness to perish. He has given a prophet to help make them ready for His Second Coming. This prophetic gift is recognized in the person of Ellen G. White (1827-1915).

12. How should we receive any claim to the prophetic gift? I
Thessalonians 5:20-21

13. What are some of the criteria for recognizing a true prophet?

a) 1 Corinthians 14:37

b) 1 Corinthians 14:3

- c) Deuteronomy 18:21-22

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- d) Matthew 7:15-20
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****** Page 6 has the biblical tests of a prophet.

NOTE: After reading Steps to Christ, The Desire of Ages, and The Great Controversy, you no doubt have recognized that this material can be nothing less than inspired of God. In His infinite love, God has restored the prophetic gift to give us all the counsel needed to prepare for His soon coming. What a loving God we serve!

SUMMARY

When man was created, God blessed him with the great privilege of being able to speak with his Creator face to face. But when man fell under Satan's sophistries, this communion was broken. God then found other means by which to communicate with His erring children. One such method is prophecy. In our modern world, God has not forgotten us. As earth's final moments tick away, He has sent us a prophet to prepare us for the soon return of Jesus. This prophetic gift is recognized in the person of Ellen G. White.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today I recognize that God has loved me so much that He has given me special counsel in the form of a prophet to help me prepare for Jesus' soon return. I now ask God to give me the power to follow all the counsel He has given me.

Signed: _____