

The Gift of **PROPHECY**

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The Gift of Prophecy

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His death, He assured them He would not abandon them as orphans in the world but would send the Holy Spirit. He told them, “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16-17). The purpose of sending the Holy Spirit was to teach them and remind them of all that Christ had said to them (vs. 26).

Among the gifts that the Spirit would impart to the church for its comfort and teaching, is the gift of prophecy. (See 1 Cor 12:4:12.) God has spoken through His prophets in both Old and New Testament times. Well-known Old Testament prophets include Moses, Samuel, Elijah, and Daniel. New Testament prophets include Anna and Simeon who met Jesus’ parents at the temple when they came to dedicate Him (Luke 2:22-38), the prophets at the newly established church at Antioch (Acts 13:1), Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32), Agabus (Acts 21:10), and others.

In both Old Testament and New Testament times there were also false prophets who deceived the people and Jesus warned that “many false prophets” would arise at the end of time (Mt 24:11). For this reason, John told us to “try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1).

Obviously, if we are to beware of false prophets and try the spirits of those claiming to be prophets, there must also be true prophets at the end of time, or God would have told us not to believe any of the prophets. Instead, He gave us instruction on how to discern the false from the true so that He may communicate with us through the prophets He sends in times of particular need.

Influential prophets of modern times include Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church; Siyyid Ali Muhammad, the founder of Bahai; Nostradamus; TB Joshua, founder of Synagogue Church of All Nations; and many others. All these claimed to have received messages from God.

Though she refused to take the title of prophet for herself, Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was also believed to be a prophet and recorded in writing many visions and messages from God.

Most Christians are rightly skeptical of modern-day prophets. But has the gift of prophecy been laid aside by God? Or does He still seek to bless His people with this gift today? What criteria does the Bible provide for testing prophets? How can we know if past or present prophets are true messengers for God or are false prophets? Let's take a look at prophecy in the last days.



The Prophets: Messengers for God

1) How does God choose to reveal Himself?

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the _____."

God's methodology in revealing Himself is through the prophets.

2) What is one way in which God communicates His will?

Numbers 12:6 "And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a _____ among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a _____, and will speak unto him in a _____."

God will speak to prophets in dreams and in visions.

3) Will God's last day church have the prophetic gift?

Revelation 12:17 "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which ____ the _____ of _____, and have the _____ of _____."

According to the Bible, God's last day people will have the testimony of Jesus.

4) What exactly is the testimony of Jesus?

Revelation 19:10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of _____."

It is abundantly clear from the book of Revelation that God's last day church will have the gift of prophecy. Therefore, God's church in the last days will have the prophetic gift in its midst.

5) Is the prophetic gift also available to the church in the New Testament?

Ephesians 4:8,11-13 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, _____; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: _____ we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

There were many New Testament prophets. A few examples are Anna (Lk 2:36), Philip's daughters (Acts 21:9), and John (Rev 1:10, 22:9). (See also Acts 11:27, 13:1, 15:32, 19:6, 21:9-10.) The spiritual gifts were, in fact, given to the church of the New Testament. One of them is the gift of prophecy and the Bible tells us that the prophetic gift will last until the end of time, till we all come into the unity of the faith. The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to strengthen the church.

6) Will the church come behind in any gifts as it awaits the Second Coming of Christ?

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the _____ of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in __ _____; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

The church will not come behind in any gift as the Second Coming draws near. God will provide all the spiritual resources to guide His people safely home.

7) What does God challenge us to do when it comes to the prophets?

1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every _____, but ___ the spirits whether they are of God: because many _____ are gone out into the world."

God challenges us to try, or test those who claim to be prophets. How do we test if prophets are true or not? By, the Bible of course.

8) What will true prophets always lead people to do?

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and _____ his _____, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."

A true prophet will always lead people to keep the Commandments of God. A true prophet will never teach anything that is contrary to the Commandments of God.

9) What must a true prophet's predictions do?

Jeremiah 28:8-9 "The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms, of war, and of evil, and of pestilence. The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall _____, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him."

Predictions made by God's prophets come to pass. A true prophet is 100% accurate unless the prophecy given is of a conditional nature.

10) What is one indication that someone is a false prophet?

Isaiah 8:19-20 "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to _____, it is because there is no _____ in them."

A false prophet will teach things that are not according to the Word of God or the law of God. (See Deut 18:20; Jer 14:14; 23:25-26, 32; Ezek 13:9, etc.) If a so-called prophet teaches that Sunday is sanctified or sacred, that person is a false prophet. Prophets also make predictions that do not come true all the time or in their entirety. We must however, be careful to not just use predictions as the sign of a true or false prophet.

Sometimes, Satan knows what will happen and so he can make true predictions based on his understanding of God but that doesn't make Satan a true prophet. For example, in the story of the witch of Endor (1 Sam 28), the demon that was summoned to impersonate Samuel said that Saul and his son would die in the battle. That didn't take a lot of insight to know, because God had already said that He had rejected Saul (1 Sam 15:23-26). If we can deduce something from God's Word, and we can predict it, that doesn't make us prophets.

11) Is there any connection between the gift of prophecy and the Ten Commandments? If so, what connection is there?

Ezekiel 7:26 "Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a _____ of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and _____ from the ancients."

When the children of Israel were rebellious and stopped obeying the Commandments of God, the prophetic gift was removed. It is also true that when His people returned to the Lord in obedience, the prophetic gift was reinstated.

12) Who do true prophets put their emphasis on?

1 John 4:2 "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that _____ is come in the flesh is of God."

A true prophet will lift Jesus up as mankind's only hope.

13) What are the physical signs of a true prophet while in vision?

Daniel 10:17 "For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? For as for me, straightway there remained _____ in me, neither is there _____ left in me."

When a true prophet goes into vision, they lose strength initially. Later, strength is regained in a supernatural manner. (See Daniel 10:18.) But, perhaps the most compelling sign is that a true prophet will not breathe when in vision. That is something the devil cannot counterfeit.

14) What are a prophet's divine credentials?

Matthew 7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their _____. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

A true prophet will exemplify the virtues of a Christian life. A true prophet will not be proud and boastful, like many supposed prophets are today.

15) How does God bless those who believe His prophets?

2 Chronicles 20:20 "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; _____ his _____, so shall ye prosper."

If a person believes a true prophet and does what a true prophet says then God will prosper that person.

16) Where does God place true prophets?

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the _____, first apostles, secondarily _____, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

God has placed prophets in the church to help guide the church.

10 Signs of a True Prophet

1. A true prophet does not lie. His predictions will be fulfilled. Jeremiah 28:9. Anything less than 100% accuracy, fails this test unless the prophecy is conditional.
2. A true prophet prophesies in the name of the Lord. He attributes the information to God not to Himself. 2 Peter 1:21.
3. A true prophet does not give his own private interpretation of prophecy. A true prophet will say what they have been shown. 2 Peter 1:20.
4. A true prophet points out the sins and transgressions of the people against God. Isaiah 58: 1.
5. A true prophet is to warn the people of God's coming judgment. Isaiah 24:20, 21; Revelation 14:6, 7.
6. A true prophet edifies the church, counsels and advises it in religious matters. 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4.
7. A true prophet's words will be in harmony with the words of the prophets that have preceded him as well as with the law of God. A true prophet will uplift the law. The spirit of prophecy goes hand in hand with the law. Isaiah 8:20; Rev 12:17; Prov 29:18
8. A true prophet recognizes the incarnation of Christ and lifts up Christ. 1 John 4:1-3.
9. A true prophet can be recognized by the results of his work and their life produces good fruit. Matthew 7: 16-20.
10. A true prophet must act in accordance with the will and approval of God. Deuteronomy 18:9-12

WAS ELLEN WHITE A TRUE OR FALSE PROPHET?

1) How does God choose to reveal Himself?

Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the _____."

God's methodology in revealing Himself is through the prophets.

2) What is one way in which God communicates His will?

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3) Will God's last day church have the prophetic gift?

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According to the Bible, God's last day people will have the testimony of Jesus.

Who is the prophet for the remnant of Rev 12:17?

After the Great Disappointment of 1844, many who believed in the return of Christ were disillusioned and abandoned their faith. Just prior to 1844, two men received similar visions regarding the advent movement. The first was William Foy, a member of the Freewill Baptist Church who was studying for the ministry. In 1842, in a vision he witnessed the reward of the faithful and the punishment of the wicked. He was shown the great scenes of the judgment in its three phases: the books of record examined in heaven, the coming of Christ, and the reward of the faithful. Foy related these visions to audiences, but when he received a third vision, which he did not understand, he ceased his public work.

Hazen Foss also received a vision regarding the experience of the advent people but refused to make it public after the Great Disappointment which had severely affected him. Shortly after this, a young girl by the name of Ellen Harmon was given a vision of the trials of the advent people. This vision was given her in December of 1844, just two months after the Great Disappointment. The vision did not reveal the reasons for the disappointment but it did offer comfort and greater understanding of the events.

When Ellen Harmon related her first vision early in 1845, Hazen Foss was present. He admitted the vision was the same that he had received, but which he had refused to make public. From 1844, when Ellen Harmon was 17 years old, until 1915 when she died, she had more than 2000 documented visions. During this time, she lived and worked in America, Europe, and Australia. Her work was often met with skepticism and ridicule, particularly since she was a woman and had not had much formal schooling because of an accident in her youth.

When she was nine, Ellen had been seriously injured by a stone thrown by a classmate while she was on her way home from school. For three weeks, she was unconscious, and it was thought that she would not recover. But she did recover and returned to school. However, the injury left her weak and she was not able to advance beyond the early grades in her schooling.

Ellen was a member of the Methodist church and was baptized on June 26, 1842. She was an ardent student of the Bible, and was impressed by William Miller's message which she heard at meetings she and her family attended. After the Great Disappointment, which also greatly affected her, God gave her her first vision. Of that event she later wrote, "After I had the vision, and God gave me light, He bade me deliver it... but I shrank from it. I was young, and I thought they would not receive it from me." (Ellen G. White, letter 3, 1847)

On August 30, 1846, Ellen married James White, a young Adventist preacher, and they had four sons: Henry, Edson, William and Herbert. After the death of her husband on August 6, 1881, Ellen labored alone for another 34 years, during which time some of the most profound writings on the Word of God were produced by her.



The White Family, 1856.
Source: Ellen G. White®
Estate Photographs.
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Gift on ADtv for more
information.

Ellen White's ministry and visions: 1) Guarded the church against fanatical influences, and the inroads of non-biblical doctrines. 2) Established the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist faith by confirming or correcting conclusions drawn from ardent Bible study by a host of advent believers. These pillars included the role of the law of God, the Sabbath, the Sanctuary, the Second Coming of Christ, the Three Angels' Messages, and the identity and role of Babylon in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. 3) Established church order and directed the ministry on the spreading of the final message of hope and reproof, the Three Angels Messages. 4) Established the publishing work and helped it expand into a worldwide ministry. 5) Established the right arm of the ministry, a worldwide health message that recognizes that humanity has physical as well as spiritual needs.

Despite her physical frailness and debilities which made it difficult for her to write, Ellen White became one of the most prolific writers of our time. No other woman author has produced as much published religious material as Ellen G. White. Her informative and inspirational works have been published as books, magazine articles, tracts and pamphlets, as well as letters. Her writings cover a wide field of issues from doctrinal practices to Christian living, diet and health, parental care and guidance, education, medical ministry and the illumination of Biblical prophecies and historic events.

Did Ellen White pass the Bible test for true prophets?

Complete the following verses to identify the Bible's criteria for testing prophets.

17) What must a true prophet's message align with?

Isaiah 8:20 "To the ___ and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

A true prophet's message will be in complete harmony with the word of God and the law of God.

Ellen White wrote, "The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience" (Manuscript 88a, 1900).

Her writings , which collectively are referred to as the Spirit of Prophecy or the testimonies, were never intended to give new light, but were always intended to illuminate the greater light, Jesus Christ. They were given to make truths plain -- truths that had long been forgotten. The Bible had been greatly neglected then, as it is today, and she wanted to encourage people to rekindle their love for Christ, and thereby also the Word of God. She wrote, "Little heed is given to the Bible and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."¹



The written testimonies [Ellen White's inspired writings] 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...The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all (Great Controversy, 7).

We can attain to an understanding of God's word only through the illumination of that Spirit by which the word was given...The fact that God has revealed His will to men through His word, has not rendered needless the continued presence and guiding of the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, the Spirit was promised by our Saviour, to open the Word to His servants, to illuminate and apply its teachings (Review and Herald, August 11, 1853, 53; Medical Ministry 88, 1904).

One Sabbath, April 3, 1847, Ellen White was given a vision confirming the binding claims of the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath. Concerning the Law of God, she wrote:

But it is ever the purpose of Satan to make void the law of God and to pervert the true meaning of the plan of salvation. Therefore, he has originated the falsehood that the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary's cross was for the purpose of freeing men from the obligation of keeping the commandments of God. He has foisted upon the world the deception that God has abolished His constitution, thrown away His moral standard, and made void His holy and perfect law. Had He done this, at what terrible expense would it have been to Heaven! Instead of proclaiming the abolition of the law, Calvary's cross proclaims in thunder tones its immutable and eternal character (Early Writings, 118).

The writings of Ellen White are based on the twin pillars of faith in the merits of Jesus Christ and obedience to His righteous law. Jesus said, "If ye love me keep my commandments" (John 14:15). In Ellen White's writings the relationship between law and grace is clearly expounded. Never does she present a legalistic view of the law of God and never does she belittle its claims. Never does she claim that the law has saving merits. We are saved by grace and grace alone, but a consequence of being saved is that through the merits of Jesus Christ one is once more brought into a right relationship with God, which includes obedience to His law.



Ellen White surrounded by family, 1913. Watch God's Guiding Gift on ADtv for more information.

18) What must a true prophet's predictions do?

Deuteronomy 18:22 “When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to _____, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

A true prophet's predictions must come to pass.

Most of Ellen White's predictions are related to Biblical prophecy, which is to be fulfilled in the last days. She wrote extensively on events as they would unfold in the future, and also issued some personal warnings as to disasters that would strike the inhabitants of the world. She also wrote on issues of health and made astounding predictions in this field—way ahead of the time she lived in. Most of her prophetic words are only being fulfilled at present.

In 1902, she warned that the cities around the bay area of California would suffer disaster. She wrote this:

Not long hence, these cities will suffer under the judgment of God. San Francisco and Oakland are becoming as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Lord will visit them in wrath (Evangelism, 403-404).

Those who heeded Ellen White's warning left this area and avoided the earthquake of April 18, 1906, which devastated the cities mentioned!

In 1890, when peace was prevalent, she wrote:

The tempest is coming.... We shall see trouble on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down and human lives will be sacrificed by millions (Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890).

In 1904, she wrote:

Soon great trouble will arise among nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes (Review and Herald, February 11, 1906).

The world has seen two world wars and numerous skirmishes since then. Currently, it is a sad fact that over 200 wars between ethnic nations are raging across the globe, leading to what is often called “ethnic cleansing.” Besides these global warnings, Ellen White made a number of personal predictions regarding individual church members who refused to heed the counsel of God. These too were all fulfilled to the letter.

Regarding the establishment of the health ministry, Ellen White received numerous visions with detailed instructions as to what constitutes a healthy lifestyle. Seventh-day Adventists refer to writings based on these visions as the “health message.” The information that was brought to light was way ahead of its time, and was mostly contradictory to the views held by the scientific fraternity of her time. Mrs. White’s Her predictions concerning future health hazards are still unfolding.

19) What effect does a true prophet's messages have upon the church?

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to _____ and exhortation, and comfort...but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."

A true prophet prophesies to edify the Church, counseling and advising in religious matters.

The visions given to Ellen White were intended to lead the Church into a greater understanding of the Word of God, and to correct wrong paths that were sometimes taken by God's people.

Just as the letters of Paul were addressed to the Church in his day, and often contained strong words of reproof even to individual members, so Ellen White's testimonies were also intended for the remnant Church. Only a group of people fully equipped with the weapons of warfare—a right understanding of the Word and the good fruits springing from their relationship with God—could bring the saving message of grace to a dying world.

20) What must a true prophet do in relation to Jesus Christ?

1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall _____ that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

A true prophet will exalt Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of humankind.

Jesus Christ is the all-pervading theme of all the writings of Ellen White. She wrote four specific books on the life and teachings of Christ, and her book on the life of Christ, *The Desire of Ages*, has been called the best devotional book ever written on the life and ministry of Christ.

Her writings draw readers to Christ and produce a longing to commune with Him, as we see in the book *The Youth's Instructor*:

Jesus Christ, the Majesty of Heaven, was not discerned in the disguise of humanity. He was the divine teacher sent from God, the glorious treasure given to humanity. He was fairer than the sons of men, but his matchless glory was hidden under a cover of poverty and suffering. He veiled his glory in order that divinity might touch humanity, and the treasure of immense value was not discerned by the human race, "but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

The man who finds Christ, the man who beholds the treasure of salvation, has found the field and the hidden treasure. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth...And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace." The treasure indeed is hidden under the garb of humanity. Christ is the unsearchable riches, and he who finds Christ, finds heaven. The human agent who looks upon Jesus, who dwells by faith on his matchless charms, finds the eternal treasure. In the parable, he who finds the treasure is represented as so well satisfied with his discovery that he sells all that he has to purchase that field. (YI August 22:1895, par. 4)

The writings of Ellen White place our relationship with Christ in the right perspective. There are those who believe that to know Christ is sufficient in itself to be saved. Christ came to save that which was lost, and He came to restore us to the image of God. We cannot claim justification and then refuse sanctification, which are both offered as gifts from God through the merits of Jesus Christ.

Throughout her writings, Christ is exalted as our Redeemer, the only One through whom we can be saved:

The world's Redeemer was treated as we deserve to be treated, in order that we might be treated as He deserved to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins upon His own divine soul, that we might receive His imputed righteousness. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. The world's Redeemer gave Himself for us.

Who was He?—The Majesty of heaven, pouring out His blood upon the altar of justice for the sins of guilty man. We should know our relationship to Christ and His relationship to us. We are to trust God fully, and ask Him to supply the least as well as the greatest want. The Lord encourages our confidence; and the great proof of our union with Christ, and the best manifestation of our love to Him, is in yielding obedience to His claims.

If you have love to Jesus Christ, which is an expression of the life of Christ in the soul, then you will do what He commands you. This is practical religion. Redeemed by the ransom money paid for your souls, you will go forth and show how much you love Jesus by obedience to His commandments. You are to bring forth fruit by doing His commandments, because you are branches of the living Vine. It is His prayer that His joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full (Review and Herald, March 21, 1893).

Truly Ellen White exalted Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

21) By whose authority does a true prophet speak?

2 Pet 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the _____."

A true prophet speaks by God's authority.

In her writings, Ellen White often used phrases like "God has shown me," "the Lord has shown me," "I have been instructed," to indicate that she spoke by God's authority. But she rejected the idea that God revealed anything new through her. Instead, she understood the revelations given to her were to point people to the Bible, to correct errors, and to comfort God's people. She wrote:

I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "last days"; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. (A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White, p. 64 [1851]. Reprinted in Early Writings, p. 78.)

In the Scriptures God has set forth practical lessons to govern the life and conduct of all; but though He has given minute particulars in regard to our character, conversation, and conduct, yet in a large measure, His lessons are disregarded and ignored. Besides the instruction in His Word, the Lord has given special testimonies to His people, not as a new revelation, but that He may set before us the plain lessons of His Word, that errors may be corrected, that the right way may be pointed out, that every soul may be without excuse. (Letter 63, 1893.) (See Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 665.)

Nevertheless, Mrs. White was clear that it was God who spoke through the “testimonies” she was given. She wrote:

God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us. 5T 217.2

My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. The word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it. The testimonies of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the testimonies are from God.

If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin. Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand. Those who seek to lessen the faith of God's people in these testimonies, which have been in the church for the last thirty-six years, are fighting against God. It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs. 5T 234.3

As a true prophet of God sent with messages of reproof and comfort to His people, Ellen White spoke with authority.

22) Why should we examine a prophet's words, actions, and lifestyle?

Matthew 7:20 "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall _____ them."

True prophets practice what they preach. It should be obvious that, though they are human and have faults, they pattern their lives after Christ and live in purity and with integrity.

Ellen White's life and work was dedicated to the service of God. In each of her 55 published volumes, there is the fruit of one who has known and loved Jesus. In her thousands of letters to individuals she always spoke the truth in love even if the message was one of reproof.

23) What physical signs are exhibited by God's true prophets?

Numbers 24:4 "He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes i)_____:"

Daniel 10:7-9 "And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone and saw this great vision, and there remained no ii)_____ in me; for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words; and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face to the ground."

Daniel 10:17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there _____ left in me."

No mention is made of the restoration of breathing while in vision. The prophet is sustained by God while in vision. In summary, a true prophet of God shows these signs while in vision:

- i) Falls down weak;
- ii) Is raised up and strengthened by God;
- iii) Has the eyes wide open during the vision;
- iv) Does not breathe, even when speaking.

In the case of Ellen White, God saw fit to establish the authenticity of her visions publicly. In the early years of her ministry, she frequently went into vision at public meetings where many skeptics and physicians could examine her while she was having a vision. Eyewitness accounts prove beyond doubt that Ellen G. White exhibited all the physical criteria specified in God's Word.

After her ministry and authenticity had been established, particularly in the later years, Ellen White received most of her vision in the night, as was also the case with the prophet Daniel.



[John N. Loughborough](#)
(1832–1924),
American Seventh-day
Adventist minister.
[wikipedia](#)

Eyewitness Accounts of Ellen White in Vision

J.N. Loughborough, a long-standing acquaintance of Ellen White who saw her in vision 50 times, describes the events as follows:

*In passing into vision, she gives three enrapturing shouts of "Glory!" which echo and re-echo, the second, and especially the third, fainter but more thrilling than the first, the voice resembling that of one quite a distance from you, and just going out of hearing. For about four or five seconds **she seems to drop down like a person in a swoon, or one having lost his strength; she then seems to be instantly filled with superhuman strength,** sometimes rising at once to her feet and walking about the room.*

*There are frequent movements of the hands and arms, pointing to the right or left as her head turns. All these movements are made in a most graceful manner. In whatever position the hand or arm may be placed, it is impossible for anyone to move it. **Her eyes are always open, but she does not wink;** her head is raised, and she is looking upward, not with a vacant stare, but with a pleasant expression, only differing from the normal in that she appears to be looking intently at some distant object. **She does not breathe, yet her pulse beats regularly.** Her countenance is pleasant, and the colour of her face is florid as in her natural state (emphasis added).ⁱ*

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The home in Otsego, Michigan, where Ellen G. White had her Health Reform vision in...

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All four of the criteria mentioned in the Scriptures, in the right sequence, are listed here, and were verified by numerous reputable eyewitnesses. A further eyewitness, Nellie Sisley Starr, reports the events associated with a vision that Ellen White had on June 12, 1868 at a prayer meeting held at Battle Creek:

*She [Ellen White] walked back and forth and talked to us, and as she walked, **she fell right down. She fell down gently.** She went down as if an angel's hands were under her...We thought she had fainted, but Brother White said "Cause yourselves no alarm. Wife has not fainted, but has fallen in vision." I wish I could describe the feeling that we all had. It was perfect quietness; even the children made no noise...It seemed as though heaven was settling down upon us and closing us in...Sister White lay perfectly quiet and unconscious. Oh, the feeling that was sensed in that building.*

Brother White said, "There may be some in the congregation that may have doubts in regard to my wife's inspiration. If there are any such we would be glad to have them come forward and try the physical tests given in the Bible. It may help some of you."

He said, "Take up one finger at a time." That was impossible. They could not do so much as move a finger. It seemed like a block of granite. There was no change in appearance, but it just couldn't be moved.

I knew my mother had some doubts. We had come over from England and she had come from the Church of England, and she could not quite understand it, so I said, "Mother, let us go right up and stand right by her head". In the meantime, Brother White had knelt down, and raised Sister White's head and shoulders on his knees.

*Others came up, and there were two unusually large men. They stood one on each side of her shoulders. "Now,"", Brother White said, "we all saw Sister White fall; we know she lost her natural strength. Now we will see if she has supernatural strength." She was lying with her hands gently folded over her chest. She was lying quietly and looking up in the corner of the building. **Her eyes were open**, with a pleasant expression on her face. Nothing unnatural or unusual.*

Brother White said to these large men, "Take her hands apart. You have two hands to her one. Just pull her hands apart." So they tried. They pulled and pulled till some of us got anxious that they would hurt her. Brother White said, "Don't be anxious; she is safe in God's keeping, and you can pull until you are perfectly satisfied." They said, "We are satisfied now. We don't need to pull anymore."

We looked to see if her eyes were closed and see if she was breathing. Then she took her hands apart and waved her hands. We said, "We will see when she comes out of vision that she has been flying." Brother White said to these men, "Now hold her." I think they thought they could. They grasped her by the wrists, but they could not retard the motion. It looked like any child could hold her, but she went on just the same.

*Elder White said, "Now we are satisfied with that. Now we must see if her eyelids will close." There was a large Rochester (kerosene) lamp close by on the stand. He removed the shade and put this light right in front of her eyes. We thought she would move her eyes to protect them. She didn't. She was perfectly unconscious. The expression of her countenance changed at times. Sometimes she looked pleased. At other times we could see that there was something distressing her, but **the eyelids did not close.***

"Now," Brother White said, we must see if there is any breath in her body." There didn't seem to be any. Everything looked all right, only there was no breath. Brother White said, "Now we will send out and get a mirror, and we will test it." So someone went to the next door and got a mirror, and it was held close to her face, but no moisture gathered. So there was no breathing (emphasis added).ii

It is noteworthy that the sequence of events is again exactly in agreement with the Scriptures. Ellen White had to often contend with aggressive opposition. On one such occasion, she was taken into vision at a gathering of people who were opposed to her visions. The opposers shouted, interjected, read loudly from the Scriptures and tried every means possible to interrupt her, but she continued to speak from about midday to sunset with a voice that cut through the din until those who opposed her were exhausted.

At one stage, they placed a heavy Bible in her hand from which she began to quote. She held the Bible up above her head with the one hand, and paged to the passages with the other without looking where she pointed. Otis Nichols, an eyewitness at the meeting describes the events as follows:

Then Thayer took a heavy, large quarto family Bible which was lying on the table and seldom used, and opened it, and laid it open upon the breast of Ellen while in vision, as she was then inclined backward against the wall in one corner of the room. Immediately after the Bible was laid upon her, she arose upon her feet and walked into the middle of the room, with the Bible open in one hand and lifted up as high as she could reach, and with her eyes steadily looking upward, declared in a solemn manner.

“The inspired testimony of God” or words of the same import, and then she continued for a long time, while the Bible was extended in one hand and her eyes [were] looking upward and not on the Bible, to turn over the leaves with the other hand and place her finger upon certain passages and correctly utter their words with a solemn voice. Many present looked at the passages where her finger was pointed to see if she spoke them correctly, for her eyes at the same time were looking upward. Some of the passages referred to were judgments against the wicked and blasphemous; and others were admonitions and instructions relative to our present condition. In this state, she continued all the afternoon until nearly sundown when she came out of vision.iii

Doctors’ Accounts of Ellen White in Vision

Note the testimony of these medical doctors who examined Ellen White while in vision. Two well-documented occasions will be discussed here. The first was at a conference held in June, 1854, where representatives from numerous churches were present. The second was at a conference held at Hillsdale, Michigan, where there were also numerous people present.

At the first meeting, Ellen White went into vision on June 26, 1854 and David Seeley, corroborating the testimony of other eyewitnesses writes as follows:

I was present at that meeting and witnessed the examination. I agree with what is stated by Brother and Sister Lamson, and would say further that it was Doctor Fleming and another younger physician who made the examination. After Mrs. White rose to her feet, as they have stated, quoting the texts of Scripture, Doctor Fleming called for a lighted candle...He held this candle as near her lips as possible without burning, and in direct line with her breath in case she breathed. There was not the slightest flicker of the blaze. The doctor then said, with emphasis, "That settles it forever, there is no breath in her body."iv

At the second meeting, James White called for a doctor to examine his wife. On this occasion, Dr. Lord was in the audience and also found no breath in her while she was having a vision. Two reports are available regarding this event. The first is from the Fowler couple, who testify as follows:

We were present when Sister E.G. White had a vision in Waldron's Hall, Hillsdale. Dr. Lord made an examination, and said, "Her heart beats, but there is no breath. There is life, but no action of the lungs. I cannot account for this condition."v

The second testimony is from C.S. Cover, who states this:

I was present when Sister White had the above-named vision in Waldron's Hall, Hillsdale. In addition to the above statement, I heard the doctor say that Sister White's condition in vision was "beyond his knowledge". He also said, "There is something supernatural about that."vi

James and Ellen
White. Watch God's
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A True Prophet

Ellen White is the only prophet in modern history who satisfies all the Biblical criteria of a prophet of God. She wrote pointed testimonies and received instructions from God that were to provide the necessary guidance for God's remnant at the end of time. Those who take this instruction to heart will develop a greater understanding of the will of God and will be led into a closer relationship with God.

Mrs. White wrote:

Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people. But my strength is yet spared, and I hope to continue to do much useful work. I may live until the coming of the Lord, but if I should not, I trust it may be said of me, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Selected Messages, 55-56).

24) How do Ellen White's writings benefit God's remnant people?

Ellen White is the only prophet in modern history who satisfies all the Biblical criteria of a prophet of God. She wrote pointed testimonies and received instructions from God that were to provide the necessary guidance for God's remnant at the end of time. Those who take this instruction to heart will develop a greater understanding of the will of God and will be led into a closer relationship with God.

Consider the following testimony regarding Ellen White's influence, not only on church members, but on the general public:

"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." ¹

Clive McCay (1898-1967)

National Research Council Fellow, Yale University (1925-1927)
Professor of Nutrition, Cornell University (1927-1963)
Member of the National Institutes of Health,
Gerontology Study Section (1946-1950)

"I have read all her books dealing with health topics. . . . I feel that if you Adventists had followed the teachings in these books, you would be a much healthier group. . . . It was marvelous that this woman was able to write all that she did without any real scientific background. . . . She had to have been inspired." ²

Nathan Pritikin (1915-1985)

Bestselling author on nutrition, Engineer and inventor,
Chemical and electrical products patent developer

¹ Francis D. Nichol, "Why I Believe in Mrs. E. G. White", WBEGW 59.2.

² Ethel Nelson, "Nutrition and Health: An Interview with Nathan Pritikin," "Ministry: International Journal for Pastors", <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1978/04/nutrition-and-health>

"Women have been honored on American postage stamps for more than 100 years. . . . But I can name an American woman author who has never been honored thus, though her writings have been translated into 148 languages. More than Marx or Tolstoy, more than Agatha Christie, more than William Shakespeare. Only now is the world coming to appreciate her recommended prescription for optimum spiritual and physical health." ³

Paul Harvey (1918-2009)

American radio broadcaster (1945-2009)
Host of the popular The Rest of the Story radio program

"Recently the book Education, by Ellen G. White, has been brought to my attention. Written at the turn of the century, this volume was more than fifty years ahead of its times. And I was surprised to learn that it was written by a woman with but three years of schooling. The breadth and depth of its philosophy amazed me. Its concepts of balanced education, harmonious development, and of thinking and acting on principle are advanced educational concepts." ⁴

Florence Stratemeyer (1900-1980)

Faculty, Teachers College, Columbia University (1930-1965), Professor, Curriculum and Teaching
Developed curriculum based on direct experience

³ Paul Harvey, "Someone You Should Know," The Truth About Ellen G. White, <https://www.ellengwhitetruth.com/life-times/someone-you-should-know>

⁴ Roger Coon, "A Gift of Light", *AGOL* 56:7.

“Education, written with the inspired pen of Ellen G. White, has for fifty some years been a well-known book which has rendered the greatest possible service and joy to students, teachers, and parents the world over. When I was studying at the University of Illinois, it was my privilege to read the book in its original language. I was profoundly moved by the book at that time [Professor Mizuno is not a Christian and professes no particular religion], and it has been my desire ever since to recommend it to the educators in Japan. It is my sincere joy to hear that the book has been finally translated into the Japanese language.”⁵

Tsunekichi Mizuno

National Director of Social Education, Japan
Director, Museum of Science, Japan

“She ceased her work here as she began, poor in this world’s goods. Her income from her books, no inconsiderable sum, has been used freely in support of needy enterprises and poor people. Her heart has always been sympathetic with the suffering and the needy. . . .”

Smithsonian magazine

Smithsonian magazine listed Mrs. White in its list of the 100 most significant Americans of all time.⁶

⁵ Ibid., [AGOL 57.7](#).

⁶ T. A. Frail, “[Meet the 100 Most Significant Americans of All Time](#),” SmithsonianMag.com.

"The prevailing sentiment of the speakers who addressed the congregations at St. Helena and at Richmond was that Mrs. White's most enduring monument, aside from her Godly life and conversation, was her published works, which tend to the purest morality, lead to Christ and to the Bible, and bring comfort and consolation to many a weary heart."⁷

St. Helena Star

(newspaper) July 23, 1915

"Mrs. White was a remarkable woman. Had she lived in an earlier period of the career of Christianity and escaped the bigots and the fire she would most surely have been canonized. She was of the flesh of which saints are made."⁸

Toledo Blade (newspaper) August 5, 1915

When asked if she was a prophet, Ellen White answered, "My commission embraces the work of a prophet, but it does not end there." 1SM 36.2 (For her full explanation, see 1SM 31.3-36.2.)

⁷ "Leader of Adventists Dead," "St. Helena Star", July 23, 1915.

⁸ "A Modern Prophetess," "Toledo Blade", August 5, 1915.

Though she refused to call herself a prophet because she did not want to be categorized by the commonly held definition of a prophet (a fortune-telling, miracle-worker), she certainly met all the Biblical requirements of a true prophet. She said, "I have had no claims to make, only that I am instructed that I am the Lord's messenger; that He called me in my youth to be His messenger, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus." 1SM 32.1.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE... To test the messages given to Ellen White by reading her works and comparing what she has written with the Word of God? Yes or No

Answer Key

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) prophets | 15) believe, prophets |
| 2) prophet, vision, dream | 16) church, prophets |
| 3) keep, commandments,
God, testimony, Jesus
Christ | 17) law |
| 4) prophecy | 18) pass |
| 5) prophets, till | 19) edification |
| 6) testimony, no gift | 20) confess |
| 7) spirit, try, false prophets | 21) Holy Ghost |
| 8) keep, commandments | 22) know |
| 9) come to pass | 23) i) open, ii) strength, iii)
breath |
| 10) this word, light | 24) Ellen White's writings
benefit God's people by
helping them better
understand the will of God
and lead them into a closer
relationship with Him. |
| 11) vision, counsel | |
| 12) Jesus Christ | |
| 13) no strength, breath | |
| 14) fruits | |



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