

## Revelation's Gift of Prophecy

Today, we have an exciting study about how God speaks to His people. Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God has used messengers called prophets--Men and women, willing to be used by God, to deliver life-saving messages to God's people. What God has established, as a way to communicate, will continue till Jesus comes. Let's begin in...

### Revelation 12:17

"And the **dragon** was **wroth** with the **woman**, and went to make **war** with the **remnant** of her seed, which **keep** the **commandments** of **God**, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

We want to re-look at the testimony of Jesus Christ. This should sound familiar; for we have studied this before, when identifying God's true Church.

### 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 prophecy."*

This verse tells us, "The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy." But our next passage even makes it clearer. Look for the comparison in the Scriptures from the last text to this next text.

### Revelation 22:8-9

*"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."*

The spirit of prophecy is the, "Gift of prophecy." Since the fall of man, God has used messengers, known as prophets or spokespersons. They have been men and women. Should God's last day Church be any different? **No!**

### Amos 3:7

*"Surely the Lord GOD will do **nothing**, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."*

God has used prophets to speak to mankind since the fall of man. Men, like Noah, Moses, Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel in the Old Testament, and John the Baptist, Simeon, Peter, Paul, Agabus, and John the Revelator. God also used women as prophetesses, such as Miriam, Debra, and Anna. The gift of prophecy has continued through time and God tells us what He uses this gift for.

### Ephesians 4:11-15

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; 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: Till 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: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness,*

whereby they lie in wait to **deceive**; But speaking the **truth** in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

God gave his people five special gifts--apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Those gifts should be in His Remnant Church.

### **1 Corinthians 1:6-10**

"Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that **ye come behind in no gift**: waiting for the **coming** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**"

Notice, how the Bible describes some of the characteristics of a prophet:

### **Deuteronomy 13:1-3**

"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."

Just because a sign, or miracle, happens, doesn't mean that it is from God! So, you can't follow a person based on a fulfillment of a sign, but, from the Word of God.

### **I John 4:1**

"Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but **try the spirits whether they are of God**: because many **false** prophets are gone out into the world."

How do we try the spirits or voices? Notice our next text!

### **Isaiah 8:20**

"To the **law** and to the **testimony**: if they speak **not** according to this **word**, it is because there is **no light** in them."

The Law is God's Ten Commandments and the Testimony is the whole Bible--all sixty-six books. A true prophet will speak in harmony with the whole Bible, or there is NO LIGHT in them!

### **Isaiah 58:1**

"Cry **aloud**, spare **not**, lift up thy **voice** like a **trumpet**, and **shew** my people their **transgression**, and the house of Jacob their **sins**."

A true prophet will share straight truth--even if it hurts!

### **Deuteronomy 18:18**

"I will raise them up a **Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will **put my words** in his **mouth**; and he shall **speak** unto them **all** that I shall **command** him."

A true prophet will share all that God says.

**Matthew 7:15-20**

*“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”*

The fruit is what they produce. A true prophet will always, with both lifestyle and speech, point you to the Jesus and the truth from the Word of God.

**Daniel 10:15**

*“And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.”*

While in vision, Daniel couldn't speak. Verse 17 continues to describe how Daniel was 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 no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.”*

Not only could Daniel not speak, but he had no strength and he wasn't breathing. So, let's review. A prophet will:

1. Speak in harmony with the whole Bible.
2. He/she will share ALL that God said.
3. While in vision, the Prophet will not speak, breathe, or move.

The Bible tells us in Amos 3:7, that the Lord. *“Revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* Next we will see that God has established a pattern, that, before a major event, God raises someone to look ahead to the event, and at the time of the event, God raises someone to call attention to it. Let's see!

**Genesis 6:13**

*“And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”*

God raises Noah to look ahead and prepare for the coming flood, by building an ark. Noah preached for 120 years about the destruction of the earth by a flood. He gave testimony, that he believed God by building the ark. So, God uses Noah to pointed ahead to the flood and the destruction of the earth. Let's see who he raised at the time of the Flood.

**Genesis 7:1-5**

*“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.”*

God not only used Noah to point ahead to the destruction of the world by a flood, but also at the time of the flood to give that last call to safety. What a sight it must have been to see the animals coming to the ark and Noah and his family guiding them to their stalls. Then after that he makes his final appeal for the people to come onboard to safety. Then the door shuts. After seven days it begins to rain, and only those inside the ark were saved. Let's look at another example.

### **Genesis 15:12-14**

*"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."*

God now foretells, through Abraham, that his people were going to be in bondage for 400 years. Did this happen? **Yes!** Israel was in bondage for 400 years to Egypt. But at the end of the 400 years, who does God raise to point His people to deliverance? **Moses!**

### **Exodus 3:2**

*"And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."*

Notice, as we read verse 7.

### **Exodus 3:7**

*"And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;"*

Are you starting to see a pattern? God raised Noah to point ahead to the destruction of the world by a flood and raised Noah at the time of deliverance from the flood, by building an ark for safety. Then, God tells Abraham that the Israelites are going into bondage for 400 years, and then will come out with great substance. Once again, at the time of deliverance, God raises Moses to get His people ready to leave Egypt. But, that's not all, Let's see it again.

### **Jeremiah 25:11-12**

*"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."*

God now raises Jeremiah to foretell of Israel going into bondage for 70 years. But, once again, we see that God raises Daniel to get His people ready to go home.

### **Daniel 9:2-3**

*"In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"*

Daniel, after studying the prophecy of Jeremiah, understands that the 70 years is about over, and begins to pray and intercede for Israel. So, let's review the pattern we have seen so far.

### **Raised ahead**

Noah  
Abraham  
Jeremiah

### **Event**

Flood  
Israelites Captivity (400 yrs.)  
Israelites Captivity (70 yrs.)

### **Raised at the time**

Noah  
Moses  
Daniel

Are you beginning to see a pattern of how God works? God points someone ahead to an event and then raises someone else to look at the event. Let's look at another one.

#### **Jeremiah 29:10**

*"For thus saith the LORD, That **after** seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."*

God, through the prophet Jeremiah, points ahead to the restoration of Jerusalem, that would take place after the 70 years of desolation, as a result of the captivity to Babylon. As we continue the pattern, we see that Jeremiah pointed forward to the restoration of Jerusalem after the 70 years of captivity. Now God calls Ezra at the time of restoration to go begin the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

#### **Ezra 1:1-4**

*"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an **house at Jerusalem**, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in **Jerusalem**. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."*

Ezra now points us to the decree by Cyrus to go back and build the "House of the Lord," the temple back in Jerusalem. He not only tells them that they can go, but also for those that are choosing not to go back, that they can support with their gold, silver, animals and goods. We now continue our journey.

#### **Isaiah 7:14**

*"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."*

Here Isaiah, over 700 years before Jesus birth, looks forward to the first coming of Christ. Born of the virgin Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem. In our next passage, we see that John the Baptist was raised to prepare Israel to accept Jesus as the Christ-Anointed One.

#### **John 1:6-8**

*"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."*

There was around 400 years between the last prophet given to Israel in the Old Testament and John the Baptist. But the ministry of Jesus-the Anointed One, was too important to let pass. God raises John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Let's continue to follow the pattern by looking at the second coming of Jesus.

**John 14:1-3**

*"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many **mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

There are a lot of different prophets we could go to that foretell the second coming of Jesus. But I think Jesus says it best, "I will come again." By following the pattern does it make sense that God would raise someone close to the time of the second coming to point people to get ready?

**Daniel 8:13-14**

*"Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, **How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.**"*

Daniel now looks ahead to the cleansing of the sanctuary or the Day of Atonement. The beginning of Judgment. Does it make sense that God would also raise someone at the beginning of Judgment, to wake people up? I believe that He continued His pattern, so let's continue our chart we have going.

<u><b>Raised ahead</b></u>	<u><b>Event</b></u>	<u><b>Raised at the time</b></u>
Noah	Flood	Noah
Abraham	Israelites Captivity (400 yrs.)	Moses
Jeremiah	Israelites Captivity (70 yrs.)	Daniel
Jeremiah	Restoration of Jerusalem	Ezra
Isaiah	1 <sup>st</sup> Advent	John-Baptist
Jesus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Advent	Ellen G. White
Daniel	2300-year prophecy	Ellen G. White

Does it make sense that God would continue His pattern and raise someone at the end time to point people to the second coming of Jesus and to the Judgment hour? **Yes!** The Bible declares that the Remnant Church would have the Gift of Prophecy! The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes that Ellen G. White manifested this gift. Ellen G. White is dead and waiting for the resurrection of the Just, when Jesus comes. She was a sinner, just like Paul, John, James, or Peter, were. The Seventh-day Adventist Church doesn't worship Ellen G. White and none of the Doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church come from Ellen G. White. All Doctrines come from the Bible and the Bible ALONE! We do recognize that God inspired her in a mighty way with information on spiritual growth, understanding the Bible, education, and health reform, and much more; but, the only way for you to know for yourself, whether she was a prophet or not, is to take the time to read some of the material she has written.

Has the remnant church been guided by the gift of prophecy? Has the Adventist church had the testimony of Jesus Christ? Has the Adventist church been blessed in its formative years with the privilege of the gift of prophecy? And that's what it is friends. It's a privilege of the highest kind for God to bestow this gift. How did that gift of prophecy rise within the Adventist church? What really happened?"

**Let me tell you the thrilling story of how God restored this gift to His church.**

After 1798, shortly after the dark ages, men and women of a variety of faiths and creeds believed

that Jesus was coming in the 1840's. They were Baptist Christians and Presbyterian and Methodist Christians; they were looking forward to the coming of Jesus. They thought Jesus was coming then in the 1840's. They studied their Bibles, but as Jesus did not come, they were bitterly disappointed. But they saw that the churches they left were not following the Bible. They saw that they could not conscientiously go back into any of those churches. What was God going to do? How could He weld these Catholics and Baptists and Presbyterians and Methodists together in His last-day movement? These people saw that the churches were not following Scripture. They began to study the Bible, and as they did, an amazing thing happened.

God wanted to send them a message of hope and encouragement back there in the 1840's, to keep going, keep advancing in the light of Bible truth, and complete the reformation that had been started years before. God wanted to send them a message that He was going to be with them. He was going to take this little band of believers and weld them together in a last-day movement with a prophetic message who's time had come—a message that would go around the globe. The Lord blessed that little group with the true gift of prophecy. How does He do that?

### **Numbers 12:6**

***"And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."***

Crystal balls, palm reading, tea leaf deciphering, star gazing, Ouija boards, and trying to communicate with the dead are not God's methods of communication with a prophet. Jesus testifies through the earthly prophet by visions and dreams.

A prophet is not one who is appointed by his fellow men, nor is he self-appointed. The choice of a person to be a prophet is entirely in the hands of God. Both men and women have from time to time been chosen by God to speak for Him. God blessed the mind of a young seventeen-year old woman named Ellen Harmon by giving her the spiritual gift of prophecy. She later married a minister named James White and became known as Ellen White.

In the Bible there were prophetesses as well as prophets. Deborah was a prophetess. Anna, Huldah, and Miriam were all prophetesses.

Ellen White was born in 1827 in Maine and died in 1915 in California. At the age of 14 she gave her life to the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized. From that point on she tried to walk as closely with the Lord as she knew how. God first called her to be a spokesperson for Him in Dec. 1844, the exact year that the Bible tells us the *"time of God's judgment"* began.

Over her lifetime, Ellen White had an estimated 2,000 prophetic visions and dreams. As a young girl, her formal education ended at the third grade, and yet she wrote on a highly educated level. The Lord instructed her to write out what she had been shown in dream or vision. During her life, her life production of some 100,000 manuscript pages, an estimated 25 million words, meet the Bible tests for a true prophet and carry its own evidence of coming from a divine source. It is of such a godly nature that it seems to be the very "testimony of Jesus." There is a depth and power to her writings that cannot be explained by human wisdom alone.

She wrote volumes on subjects she had never studied. She set forth principles and scientific facts that were unknown to the most learned men of her day but today are accepted as proven scientific facts. Her books have spoken with spiritual effectiveness to people of many cultures and languages. Her little book "Steps to Christ" has sold an estimated 50 million copies and has been translated into at least 120 different languages, making Ellen G. White apparently *"the fourth most translated author in the history of literature, its most translated woman writer, and the most translated American author of either sex."* (Roger W. Coon, *A Gift of Light*, p.21)

Her writings include counsel on victorious Christian living, diet and health, prenatal care, drugs, marriage and the home, child guidance, education, and much, much, more.

Despite her initial shyness to speak, she was a much sought after public speaker, not only at Adventist meetings but also before Non-Adventist audiences where she lectured on temperance. In 1876 she addressed her largest audience—estimated at 20,000—at Groveland, Massachusetts, for more than an hour without the aid of a microphone. Sometimes when she was in vision, she received extra-ordinary strength. Once in vision she held a very large family Bible at arms-length for over a half hour as she pointed to the texts that were being told her in vision. I've seen that very Bible and I couldn't hold that Bible at arm's length for 2 minutes let alone half an hour.

In keeping with Dan.10:17, she didn't breathe while in vision. Sometimes her visions lasted 30, 40 minutes even over an hour or more. They put a candle right in front of her mouth and the flame would not flicker. They put a mirror right in front of her mouth and there would be no breath formed on the mirror. God supernaturally sustained her.

During her life she wrote what have become over sixty different books; books on a variety of topics.

### **EDUCATION:**

She wrote on how to have Christian schools. God revealed to Ellen White that the school system in America would go down. That the school system around the world would be filled with secular evolution. How could she know that? She wrote books on education that were just educational giants in their day.

Her philosophy of education, as expressed in her book *Education*, has been read and given resounding praise by high educational officials around the world.

Ellen White wrote about Christian schools. Seventh-day Adventists have a total of 5,600 educational institutions. 1.1 million students around the world, students, many of whom have had their education in Adventist schools committed to preparing the world for the coming of Jesus. Schools in which evolution is not taught! Schools in which young people have a purpose. Schools that have high moral standards.

Seventh-day Adventists have, kindergartens, elementary schools, academies, colleges, universities. How could a woman with only a third-grade formal education be an architect of this? How could she outline a blueprint for an educational system that is the largest Protestant educational system in the world and the admiration of many in the world? How could she know that the public-school educational system would go down? How could she know that immorality and drugs would run rampant? I praise God for Christian education that has purpose and meaning, all gotten as a gift.

**Were her writings to take the place of the Bible? Not a bit of it! But God wanted to train Christian young people in Christian schools, so He blessed her mind to write on the subject.**

### **HEALTH:**

God blessed the mind of Ellen White to write on health. Her instructions for better health—so strange when she wrote them, so normal today—have been praised by various experts. Books on health that baffle modern health experts today with their accuracy. God knew that the health practices of men and women would be destroying their bodies. In the 1800's physicians were prescribing as medicine tobacco, cigars, pipes and cigarettes because they felt that the smoke would cure lung diseases. God wanted a people with pure bodies ready for the coming of Jesus.



In that book, she wrote over a hundred years ago that:

- 1) Cigarette smoking and tobacco are related to cancer.
- 2) She talked about a high-fat diet bringing on heart disease.
- 3) Ellen White wrote before anybody knew about pre-natal influence – that the diet of the mother affected the unborn.
- 4) Ellen White, before anybody knew about the fact that diet or the attitude of the mother affected the baby.

***Absolutely amazing predictions!***

Ellen White wrote a book called, *The Ministry of Healing*. Dr. Clyde McCay, the late professor of nutrition at Cornell University said that this book was a hundred years ahead of its time.

In her book "**Ministry of Healing**" Page 313 is recorded a prophecy Ellen White made regarding Cancer. She made two points:

- 1) Cancer can be in the form of a germ
- 2) Cancer can be transmitted through eating diseased meat.

**Newsweek magazine, March 27, 1961**

***"There isn't the slightest doubt in our minds, that human cancers are caused by viruses. To this extent, they are simply infectious disease."***

Medical science establishes this incredible statement she made back in 1905 and says there isn't the slightest doubt about it. Ellen White wrote what became a book called *Counsels on Diets and Foods*, to help us to know how to be the healthiest possible before the coming of Jesus.

There are those that sometimes say to Seventh-day Adventists, "We understand that you believe that the gift of prophecy was manifested in your church. Do you have another Bible?" Not at all!

Friends, every study I've been speaking to you from the Bible. Have you seen me bring another book here and say, "I've got my book of Adventist?" Absolutely not! I've use just one textbook and that's the Bible! The Bible and the Bible only. However, according to the Bible, God's last day church would possess this prophetic gift in the time of the end.

***No, her writings don't take the place of the Bible at all, but they help us in these traumatic last days of earth's history to prepare for the soon coming of Jesus Christ.***

***God gave us a magnifying glass to expand our knowledge of the Bible and help us to see ever more clearly the beautiful truths that are already there in Scripture.***

**This gift was to lead us back to the Bible and give God's Holy Word the place it deserves.**

What are those prophetic tests?

- 1) The first test of a true prophet is to lead men and women back to the Bible. The first test of a true prophet is to exalt the Bible. Ellen White once wrote of herself. She said, "***My writings are like a lesser light. Exalt the Word of God. My writings are to lead people back to the Bible because they've neglected it so much.***"
- 2) Her writings make it clear that the *Bible* is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.
- 3) Great Controversy: "The Scriptures our Safeguard"

If you've read any of the writings of Ellen White, you've noticed that page after page is filled with Bible texts. She exhausts the treasure-house of God's Word and does not lead men and women away from the Bible. Remember the Bible said, that the true gift of prophecy would exalt Jesus Christ. The true gift of prophecy would exalt Jesus first and foremost.

Ellen White wrote a book called, *The Desire of Ages*, on the life of Christ. In 1948 W. E. Bemont, who was the then librarian for the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., was asked which book is the most outstanding. And W. E. Bemont, the congressional librarian said, "Of all the books in the Library of Congress on the life of Jesus, there's one that makes you feel as if you're there on the sea of Galilee; there's one that makes you feel as though you're there when Christ is being crucified. There's one that exalts Christ more than any other. *The Desire of Ages* by Ellen White."

The true gift of prophecy leads back *to* the Bible. The true gift of prophecy leads *to* Jesus Christ. Listen to these beautiful words penned by Ellen White on Jesus. ***"He was treated as we deserve in order that we might be treated as He deserves. 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. He suffered the death which was ours that we might receive the life that was His."***

Jesus is exalted throughout the writings of Ellen White.

But there were times that the prophet had to warn the church. Ellen White predicted (Evangelism p.403-404), in 1902 because of the wickedness of San Francisco, because it was like Sodom and Gomorrah, that God's wrath was soon to come against it. Because of that warning, hundreds of Christians left San Francisco. Four years later the San Francisco earthquake came. Thousands died. Fires raged in the city. But God sent prophetic messages for that city beforehand.

Ellen White predicted in the mid-1800's the character of America would change. That things like spiritualism and Ouija Boards and astrology would grow. She said that even children would begin tampering with spiritualism. Dungeons and Dragons—a popular game today. Spiritualistic seances, three thousand astrology columns in American newspapers. How could a woman with only a third-grade formal education over a hundred years ago know exactly how to warn God's people?

**These writings are not to take the place of the Bible. Not at all! But they're to give us that help that we need in these last days. Jesus knows that as the church approaches the end that it would need special assistance to prepare.**

The Holy Spirit blessed this amazing woman with a third-grade formal education to write on the Christian home and the Christian family. Ellen White wrote a book called, *Child Guidance*, how to raise happy, loving, Christian children that love Jesus. Do we need guidance for our children today? Do we need special help?

Ellen White wrote a book on *The Adventist Home*. Would homes be falling apart in the time of the end? Conflict between husbands and wives? She wrote a book on how to have a happy home.

***Keep in mind, the gift is not the person, the gift is the prophetic influence and instruction from Jesus!***

The Bible says, **"By their fruits ye shall know them."** God's true prophet would be placed in His commandment-keeping church, and you look at the fruits. What is the spiritual fruitage? Her entire life was devoted to saving the lost in the name of Christ. The spiritual fruitage is

hospitals and schools and churches. Things of God, not of the world. The spiritual fruitage are consecrated physicians giving their lives in remote jungle place. Dentists operating in out of the way places.

In over 202 out of 228 countries listed by the United Nations, Seventh-day Adventist's operate more than 16,000 churches, 321 mission hospitals, 23 launches, flying doctor planes. This little group that came together in the 1800's, caught the vision— Expand. Tens of thousands of consecrated medical missionaries around the world. Hospitals and schools around the world. Today Seventh-day Adventist's have 46 publishing houses, publishing Christian literature in 273 languages using another 642 languages orally. A total of more than 915 tongues are used to proclaim Jesus Christ.

What are the fruits of Ellen White's labor? Hospitals, schools, missions around the world, books in a variety of languages, a world-wide church that is committed with a passion to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**No Ellen White doesn't take the place of the Bible. Not at all! Seventh-day Adventist's don't consider her writings above the Bible, but when the early church was disappointed in 1844, God blessed and redirected its vision. Through the guidance of the gift of prophecy, through the testimony of Jesus, people's attention was focused back to the Bible with a message to go to the world today. The gift of prophecy is always to exalt Jesus. The remnant church does not exalt the messenger. We always want to exalt Jesus Christ. We are to point men and women to Jesus Christ. The gift of prophecy is not the person—it's the message from Jesus!**

**As I've read Ellen White's books, I have always found them to be in perfect harmony with what the Word of God says. I can't ask you to believe them. All I can ask you to do is to read them and test them for yourself. And as you read them, I think you'll be clearly convinced that she was led by God in a special way.** When I read the Desire of Ages, and Steps to Christ, the same gentle, loving Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, that I find in the Bible comes through in clear tones and uplifts my soul. Read them for yourself and see if you don't find your eyes opened to things as you've never seen them before. I can't recommend them to you too highly.

It would be very easy for me to come here and give you a quote from somebody from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church about her, but I won't do that because people would say it was biased. Of course, you're going to say nice things about her. But I'm going to give you some statements from non-Seventh-day Adventist's who lived in her day, what they said about Ellen White.

*"By there fruits, ye shall know them."*

**Saint Helens California Star Magazine, July 23, 1915**

**"Her death marks the calling of another noted leader in religious thought and one who's almost ninety years were full to overflowing with good deeds, kind words, and earnest prayers for all man-kind."**

At her death in 1915 the newspaper, the *New York City Independent*, another non-Adventist source, said of her, *"Here is a notable record and she deserved great honor. She showed no spiritual pride and she sought no filthy lucre. She lived the life and did the work of a worthy prophetess."* Her primary concern in life was the salvation of human beings. She made an almost unparalleled spiritual impact on the lives of millions from one end of the earth to the other.

Many of you have been looking, you've been desiring God's true remnant church, praying to Jesus and saying, "Lord, where is your church?" And Jesus says to you, "**And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the women (wroth with the church) and went to make war with those that keep the commandments of God and those that have (the what) testimony of Jesus**" or the gift of prophecy.

Seventh-day Adventists as no other church in the world, meet the characteristics of the remnant church of **Revelation chapter 12 & 14**. It's thrilling to sense that God has a last-day movement to which He is calling men and women to prepare them to meet Jesus when He comes. The devil wants to bring such prejudice in the mind. He wants to get us to *"throw the baby out with the bath water"* by rejecting any idea of modern-day prophets. The devil has tried so much to discredit the genuine gift of prophecy. The devil does not want men and women, boys and girls to get ready for the coming of Jesus. The devil wants homes broken up. He wants people to be sick, he doesn't want them to have the counsel in the gift of prophecy. The Bible has on more closing text for us.

### **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; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."*

The devil doesn't want men and women to sense that God has a world-wide movement that's more than a church, more than a denomination. Oh, don't let the devil bring prejudice to you. Open your heart and your mind. Tell Jesus, "Oh, Lord, I want to investigate this. I want to read. I want to study. Jesus is always first. The Bible is always first— but God, if you have a gift for me, I don't want to refuse it."

**We look to no human being as our leader—only Jesus. But if Jesus has given the church a gift, the least we can do is open it and be blessed by it. May the Lord continue to lead us all as we study and pray and grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

As you can see, God has always used the Gift of Prophecy to speak to His people! It is no different today; God's last day Church will also have the Gift of Prophecy. Do you agree that one of the identifying marks of the Remnant Church is the Gift of Prophecy? **Me, Too!**