

# 01 The Prophetic Gift and Ellen White

## 1. What is a prophet?

- a. Many are the theories of what constitutes the prophetic gift. The Bible defines what a prophet is:
  - i. **Hebrews 1:1-2:** "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."
  - ii. **2 Kings 17:13:** "Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.""
  - iii. **Exodus 4:16, 7:1:** "So he [Aaron] shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ... So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.""
- b. A prophet is God's primary method for communicating with humanity. They are God's spokesmen/women. In some cases God has made His will known through an audible voice from heaven (e.g. Exod 19:18-19, John 12:28-30). But most of the time, God reveals His will through His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7). God, of course, communicates to us through the Bible. But the Bible is in fact nothing else but the writings of the prophets. If it wasn't for the prophetic gift, there would be no Bible today.
  - i. **Romans 1:1-2:** "Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,"
  - ii. **Matthew 26:56:** "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."
  - iii. **2 Peter 1:21:** "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

## 2. The Holy Spirit and the Gift of Prophecy

- a. One does not become a prophet through education, hard work or much practice. To be a prophet is a gift that the Holy Spirit, according to His own will, distributes to a person:
  - i. **1 Corinthians 12:8-11:** "for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."
  - ii. **Numbers 11:25:** "Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again."
  - iii. **Acts 19:6:** "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."
- b. The gifts of the Spirit are different for each person. The prophetic gift is not something that all receives or can receive. Paul clarifies: "Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?" (**1 Corinthians 12:29**). The implied answer is obviously *No!*

- c. How then can you tell if you have received the prophetic gift? The Bible teaches that a prophet is neither called through a feeling in his/her bosom nor through the ordination of any church leader, but through God revealing Himself to a prophet in supernatural visions and dreams.
- i. **Numbers 12:6:** "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream."
  - ii. **Hosea 12:10:** "I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."
  - iii. **Job 33:14-16:** "For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction."
  - iv. **Numbers 24:16:** "The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty..."
  - v. **Joel 2:28:** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions."
- d. We all dream. Most dreams arise from the common things of life, with which the Spirit of God has nothing to do (see Jeremiah 29:8). But the visions and dreams that are the result of the prophetic gift are often given in connection with concrete signs, which prove them to be of supernatural origin.
- i. **Numbers 24:16:** "The utterance of him who hears the words of God, And has the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open." See also verse 4.
  - ii. **Daniel 10:8-10, 17-18:** "...when I saw this great vision... no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ... For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me." Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me." See also **Daniel 8:17-18, Revelation 1:17, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4** and **Ezekiel 1:28**.
  - iii. **Acts 9:8-9:** "Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank."
- e. Daniel, Balaam, Ezekiel and John lost all their strength and fell down to the ground when they received a heavenly vision. As they were in vision Balaam had his eyes opened and Daniel did not breathe. Paul was completely unconscious of what was happening around him and could not see for a long time after a vision. But they were strengthened by the Lord so that they could proclaim God's word.

### **3. The testimony of Jesus and the Spirit of Prophecy**

- a. The Holy Spirit sometimes has different names depending on which function He assumes. Therefore He is also called "the seven spirits" in Revelation 1:4.
  - i. **Isaiah 11:2:** "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."
  - ii. **Ephesians 1:17:** "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,"

- b. When the Holy Spirit works in a prophet He is called the Spirit of Revelation or the Spirit of Prophecy. See for example **1 Corinthians 14:32**.
- c. The Holy Spirit is sent to bear witness of Jesus, about what Jesus has said and about future events (see **John 14:26 & 16:13-14**) The message of the Holy Spirit through the prophets is therefore nothing else than a testimony from Jesus Christ Himself. It was the Spirit of Christ who spoke through the prophets.
  - i. **1 Peter 1:10-11**: "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow."
  - ii. **Revelation 19:10**: "And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.""
  - iii. **Revelation 22:8-9**: "Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.""
- d. John's brethren are said to have the Testimony of Jesus and in the next verse John's brethren are said to be the prophets. It is therefore the prophets who have the Testimony of Jesus which is declared to be the Spirit of Prophecy.

#### **4. The Law and the Prophets**

- a. Whenever God is about to perform some great work among His people, He has the custom of sending a prophet.
  - i. **Amos 3:7**: "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."
  - ii. **Revelation 1:1**: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,"
- b. Before God sent the flood over the inhabitants of the earth he warned them through the prophets Enoch and Noah (**2 Peter 2:5, Jude 1:14**). Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah he said: "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" (**Genesis 18:17**). Before God's people were brought into captivity in Egypt God warned them by revealing it to His prophet Abraham (**Genesis 15:13**). Before the seven years of famine in Egypt transpired God revealed it through dreams to Pharaoh and Joseph (**Genesis 41:15-32**). When the time had come to escape from Egypt, God raised up a prophet by the name of Moses (**Exodus 3:1-10**). When Nineveh had filled up the measure of their sins and God was about to destroy it, God warned the city through the prophet Jonah (**Jonah 1:1-2**). Before God's people were brought into captivity by the Babylonians for their sins, God revealed the time of their captivity to the prophet Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 29:10**). When God's people were called out of that captivity they were strengthened by revelations and visions from the prophets Zechariah and Haggai (**Ezra 5:1-2**).
- c. But as God's people rejected God's law and will, they started persecuting the prophets of God. God warned His people time and again that if they would not cease persecuting and despising the prophet's message, He would take the gift away from them.
  - i. **Zechariah 7:11-13**: "But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by

His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen," says the LORD of hosts."

- ii. **Ezekiel 7:23, 26:** "Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence. Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses... Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders."
- d. At times in Israel's history the gift of prophecy had temporarily been removed. During the time of the judges, morality was so perverse that "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (**Judges 21:25**). As a result we read that "the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation." (**1 Samuel 3:1**). This pattern is seen throughout Israel's history when they persecuted God's prophets and despise their message.
  - i. **Jeremiah 18:18:** "Then they said, "Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.""
  - ii. **2 Chronicles 36:14-16:** "Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy."
  - iii. **Lamentations 2:9:** "Her gates have sunk into the ground; He has destroyed and broken her bars. Her king and her princes are among the nations; The Law is no more, And her prophets find no vision from the LORD."
  - iv. **Micah 3:5-7:** " Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who make my people stray; Who chant "Peace" While they chew with their teeth, But who prepare war against him Who puts nothing into their mouths: "Therefore you shall have night without vision, And you shall have darkness without divination; The sun shall go down on the prophets, And the day shall be dark for them. So the seers shall be ashamed, And the diviners abashed; Indeed they shall all cover their lips; For there is no answer from God.""
  - v. **Psalms 74:9:** "We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet; Nor is there any among us who knows how long."
- e. What a lesson is this for us living in the last days. Why are not more prophets sent to us? Why are there not more visions and dreams? Can the answer be that we have despised the gift of prophecy and God's Commandments? Ellen White wrote: "I saw that the reason why visions have not been more frequent of late, is, they have not been appreciated by the church." (*Testimonies for the Church 1*, p. 119). Let us not fall under the same condemnation as Israel of old.
- f. But God did not abandon His people. Though Israel had despised His prophets, and the prophetic gift had ceased to be active for some time, God still gave a conditional promise in the last book of the Old Testament.
  - i. **Malachi 4:4-6:** "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

- g. If Israel would return to the Law of God and follow Him to the best of their ability, He would restore the prophetic gift. This prophecy received a partial fulfillment in the life of John the Baptist. Many people tried to reform their lives and sought God with all of their heart. And God sent the greatest of all the prophets – John the Baptist.
  - i. **Luke 1:17:** "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
  - ii. **Matthew 11:11-14:** "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ... And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come."
- h. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the New Testament Church so that they lacked no spiritual gift (**1 Corinthians 1:7**). But soon after the death of the apostles a great apostasy would occur in Christianity.
  - i. **Acts 20:29-30:** "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."
  - ii. **1 Timothy 4:1:** "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"
  - iii. **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4:** "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."
- i. This Apostasy power would oppose and exalt itself above God, His truth and especially the Ten Commandments.
  - i. **Daniel 8:12:** "And he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered."
  - ii. **Daniel 7:25:** "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time."
- j. Antichrist would reign for 1260 years (see Daniel 7:25, Revelation 13:5 and Ezekiel 4:6). This time period stretched from 538 to 1798 AD. Antichrist persecuted God's people brutally in the name of God. They received false doctrines, claimed to be God on earth and said that the Ten Commandments had been changed. The common people were deceived and there was little knowledge about the Bible and God's Law. During this Dark Age we should not expect to find the prophetic gift in the church. In this spiritual drought God's witnesses prophesied in sack-cloth (Revelation 11:3, 6). The rain of the Holy Spirit did not fall. The woman (God's true church) had to hide out in remote and desolate places.
  - i. **Revelation 12:6:** "Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days."
  - ii. **Revelation 12:14:** "But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent."
- k. But after the 1260 years the woman would come out of her hiding place. The Gates of Hell would not prevail against God's Church (**Matthew 16:18**). The last battle between God's people and Satan is revealed in the last verse of the chapter.
  - i. **Revelation 12:17:** "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

- ii. **Revelation 14:12:** "Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."
- I. In the end times there would be a group of people that keep God's Commandments. What Antichrist had destroyed will be restored through a last reform movement that will turn God's people back to the Law given on Sinai. And when this would happen, God would again restore the prophetic gift. This Remnant of Christ's true Church are said to have "the testimony of Jesus" which is "the Spirit of Prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

## **5. Who was Ellen White?**

- a. Is there a church that arose after 1798 which keeps the Commandments of God and has a prophet? If so, this must be the Church described in Revelation 12:17. There is one, and only one that fulfills both characteristics: the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. This does not mean that Adventists are the only ones who will be saved or that Adventists somehow are better than anyone else. It simply means that the Seventh-Day Adventist Church is a prophetic movement that has unique and special mission from God to unite the Christians of the world under the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus. Satan is enraged with this denomination. Has God blessed this denomination with the prophetic gift? The answer is yes. The name of the prophet is Ellen G. White.
- b. Ellen and James White's ministry was vital in the development of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. They founded publishing houses, wrote books, established churches, schools, health centers, hospitals etc. During her lifetime, Ellen White received over 2000 prophetic visions and dreams. She wrote more than 40 large books and 5000+ articles, in spite of her limited education (only 4<sup>th</sup> grade). These books have transformed millions of lives. She is considered the world's most translated female author through all times. The book *Steps to Christ* has been translated into more than 140 languages. A large portion of her life work consisted in writing personal testimonies to individuals, churches and institutions of what she had been shown in vision concerning them. In total, she wrote over 60 000 pages. The Adventist Church grew from a mere 50 people, after the disappointment, to a worldwide church of almost 140 000 members within her lifetime. Today the membership is more than 18 million members and considered among the fastest growing churches in the world.

## **6. Visions and supernatural signs**

- a. Just like Daniel and Balaam, Ellen White also experienced supernatural signs when she had a vision. James White writes the following:
  - i. "1. She is utterly unconscious of everything transpiring around her, as has been proved by the most rigid tests, but views herself as removed from this world, and in the presence of heavenly beings.
  - 2. She does not breathe. During the entire period of her continuance in vision, which has at different times ranged from fifteen minutes to three hours, there is no breath, as has been repeatedly proved by pressing upon the chest, and by closing the mouth and nostrils.
  - 3. Immediately on entering vision, her muscles become rigid, and joints fixed, so far as any external force can influence them. At the same time her movements and gestures, which are frequent, are free and graceful, and cannot be hindered nor controlled by the strongest person.
  - 4. On coming out of vision, whether in the day-time or a well-lighted room at night, all is total darkness. Her power to distinguish even the most brilliant objects, held within a few inches of the eyes, returns but gradually, sometimes not being fully established for three hours. This has continued for the past

twenty years; yet her eyesight is not in the least impaired, few persons having better than she now possesses." (James White, *Life Incidents*, s. 272, 1868)

b. Other Eye-witnesses testify:

- i. **A.F. Fowler:** "We were present when (in February, 1857) 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.'" Signed, "A. F. Fowler, Mrs. A. F. Fowler, Hillsdale, Mich., Jan. 1, 1891." ([whiteestate.org/issues/eyewitns.html](http://whiteestate.org/issues/eyewitns.html))
- ii. **Ellen's family:** "Early in 1845, while in vision at her parents' home in Portland, Maine, 17-year-old Ellen Harmon (later White) picked up their large family Bible and held it on her outstretched left arm for 20 to 30 minutes. The story was documented by J. N. Loughborough who interviewed those who witnessed the vision, including Ellen's father, mother, and sister. The Bible (on display at the Ellen G. White Estate) weighs 18½ pounds (8 kilos)" ([www.whiteestate.org](http://www.whiteestate.org))
- iii. **Opponents of E.G. White:** "Mr. Thayer, the owner of the house, was not fully satisfied that her vision was of the devil, as Robbins declared it to be. He wanted it tested in some way. He had heard that visions of Satanic power were arrested by opening the Bible and laying it on the person in vision, and asked Sargent if he would test it in this way, which he declined to do. Then Thayer took a heavy, large quarto family Bible which was lying on the table, and seldom used, opened it, and laid it upon Sister Ellen while in vision, as she was then inclined backward against the wall in the 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 as high as she could reach, and with her eyes steadily looking upward, declared in a solemn manner, "The inspired testimony from God," or words of the same import. While the Bible was thus extended in one hand, and her eyes looking upwards, and not on the Bible, she continued for a long time, to turn over the leaves with her other hand, and place her finger upon certain passages, and correctly repeat their words with a solemn voice. Many present looked at the passages where her finger was pointed, to see if she repeated them correctly, for her eyes at the same time were looking upwards." (*Life Sketches 1888*, s. 233, 234)
- iv. **J.N. Loughborough:** "I will state some facts relative to the visions. The first time I saw Mrs. E. G. White (formerly Miss Harmon) was in October, 1852. On that day I saw her in a vision that lasted over one hour. Since that time I have had the privilege of seeing her in vision about fifty times. I have been present when physicians have examined her while in this state... 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... 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 color of her face as florid as in her natural state."

- c. These signs resemble what Daniel, Balaam, John and other Bible prophets experienced when they were in vision. All these signs prove that whatever happened to this woman, it was no self-caused mental ecstasy, hypnosis or epileptic seizures. In her own words:
  - i. "The visions are either of God or the devil. There is no half-way position to be taken in the matter. God does not work in partnership with Satan." (*Manuscript Releases 1*, s. 307)

## 7. Test the Prophets

- a. But how can we know if Ellen White was a true prophet? Jesus warned ardently against false prophets in the last days.
  - i. **Matthew 24:11, 24:** "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ... For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."
  - ii. **Matthew 7:15:** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."
- b. The problem with the false prophets is that they never claim to be false prophets. To know if a prophet is true or false we need to test him/her with the Biblical tests of a prophet.
  - i. **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21:** "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."
  - ii. **1 John 4:1:** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- c. The Bible gives us a number of tests which each prophet needs to pass in order to be received as a true prophet. In this study we shall look at the following five tests:
  1. *The prophet must uplift Jesus as both God and man.*
  2. *The prophet must speak in accordance with the Bible.*
  3. *The fruit of his/her ministry must be good.*
  4. *The prophet invokes obedience to the Ten Commandments.*
  5. *The prophet predicts the future correctly.*

### 1. Uplifts Jesus

- a. The first test emphasizes the importance of a correct understanding of who Jesus was and is.
  - i. **1 John 4:2-3:** "By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God."
  - ii. **John 1:1, 14:** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became 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."
  - iii. **1 Corinthians 12:3:** "Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."
- b. According to these verses only a false prophet denies the fact that Jesus is the Christ, that He had a real humanity, or that He preexisted as a member of the Godhead before His incarnation. The last quote from Paul, cited in the context of the spiritual gifts, shows that if a prophet speaks by the Holy Spirit, s/he will confess that Jesus is Lord, i.e. Jehovah of the Old Testament.
- c. Does Ellen White pass this test? Let us examine what she taught about Christ's nature.



- i. **1 Selected Messages, p. 247:** "Christ did not make believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. ... He is declared to be a man, even the Man Christ Jesus."
  - ii. **Desire of Ages, p. 507:** "Looking upon Him in His humiliation, as He walked a man among men, they had not understood the mystery of His incarnation, the dual character of His nature. Their eyes were holden, so that they did not fully recognize divinity in humanity."
  - iii. **Evangelism, p. 615:** "He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. . . . He is the eternal, self-existent Son."
  - iv. **Desire of Ages, p. 530:** "In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. "He that hath the Son hath life." The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life."
- d. Countless other quotes could be cited, but, without doubt, Ellen White teaches that Christ was 100 % God and 100 % man. She passes the test on this point, for sure.

## 2. Does not Contradict the Bible

- a. The second test might be the most comprehensive test. The words of the prophet must be tested by what earlier prophets have said. A new prophet will never contradict what an earlier prophet has been shown. Jesus is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." (**Hebrews 13:8**). His Spirit will not contradict Himself. It was the Holy Spirit that inspired the Bible authors (**2 Peter 1:21**). Therefore the new prophets must be in full harmony with the Bible Canon.
  - i. **1 John 4:6:** "We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."
  - ii. **Isaiah 8:20:** "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."
  - iii. **Acts 17:11:** "These [in Berea] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."
- b. To ensure whether Ellen White's writings agree with the Bible or not, one needs to read her writings. For obvious reasons, we cannot in this document examine all her writings. I would encourage you, dear reader, to actually read her writings and come to your own conclusion. But what we can do here is to look at what Ellen White said about the Bible.
  - i. **Great Controversy, p. vii:** "In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. 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."
  - ii. **Early Writings, p. 78:** "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."
  - iii. **3 Selected Messages, p. 29:** "The Lord desires you to study your Bibles. He has not given any additional light to take the place of His Word. This light is to bring confused minds to His Word, which, if eaten and digested, is as the lifeblood of the soul."
  - iv. **1 Selected Messages, p. 18:** "Brethren, cling to your Bible, as it reads, and stop your criticisms in regard to its validity, and obey the Word, and not one of you will be lost."
- c. From these quotes we can at least determine what attitude Ellen White had to the Bible. In any case, she was not giving the impression that her writings came to take the place of

the Bible. Neither did she claim that the Bible contains mistakes which need correction. According to her, the Bible should be read and understood literally (except for when an obvious symbol was used) and in its entirety. She agreed with the old Reformation principle, Sola Scriptura.

### **3. By the fruits you shall know them**

- a. The third test deals with the fruit of the prophet's ministry.
  - i. **Matthew 7:15-20:** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."
  - ii. **James 3:12:** "Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh."
  - iii. **Galatians 5:22-23:** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."
- b. The fruit refers to good works or the results of the prophet's work. How did Ellen White live and what was the fruit of her ministry? Even her sharpest critics have to admit that her life was a noble, genuine life, in accordance with her profession.
  - i. **D.M. Canright:** "I know Sister White to be an unassuming, modest, kindhearted, noble woman. These traits in her character are not simply put on and cultivated, but they spring gracefully and easily from her natural disposition. She is not self-conceited, self-righteous, and self-important, as fanatics always are. ... She is ever looking after the needy, the destitute, and the suffering, providing for them, and pleading their cause. ... She studies God's word carefully and constantly. I have heard Sister White speak hundreds of times, have read all her testimonies through and through, most of them many times, and I have never been able to find one immoral sentence in the whole of them, or anything that is not strictly pure and Christian; nothing that leads away from the Bible and from Christ; but there I find the most earnest appeals to obey God, to love Jesus, to believe the Scriptures, and to search them constantly." (D.M. Canright, quoted in *Review & Herald*, April 26, 1877)
  - ii. **Walter Martin:** "After reading the publications of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and almost all the writings of Ellen G. White, including her *Testimonies*, the writer believes that Mrs. White was truly a regenerate Christian woman who loved the Lord Jesus Christ and dedicated herself unstintingly to the task of bearing witness for Him as she felt led. ... But no one can dispute the fact that her writings conform to the basic principles of the historic gospel, for they most certainly do. ... All that she wrote on such subjects as salvation or Christian living characterizes her as a Christian in every sense of the term." (*Kingdom of the Cults*, 1985 revised edition, s. 445-446)
- c. After her death, the prestigious newspaper The New York Independent wrote an article about Ellen White:
  - i. **The New York Independent:** "Did she really receive divine visions, and was she really chosen by the Holy Spirit to be endowed with the charisma of prophecy? Or was she the victim of an excited imagination? Why should we answer? One's doctrine of the Bible may affect the conclusion. At any rate, she was absolutely honest in her belief in her revelations. Her life was worthy of them. She showed no spiritual pride and she sought no filthy lucre. She lived the life and did the

work of a worthy prophetess, the most admirable of the American succession.”  
(*New York Independent*, “An American Prophetess”, August 23, 1915, quoted in 6BIO 444)

- d. Vincent Ramik, a Catholic lawyer from Washington, was hired for private funds to investigate charges against Ellen White. After spending 300 hours in investigating and comparing Ellen White’s writings he came to this conclusion:
  - i. **Vincent Ramik:** “Too many of the critics have missed the boat altogether. And it's too bad, too! I, personally, have been moved, deeply moved, by those writings. I have been changed by them. I think I am a better man today because of them. And I wish that the critics could discover that!” (Interview in *Adventist Review*, September 17, 1981)
- e. A study was made in 1982 by Andrews University in which Adventists that read Ellen White’s writings on a regular basis were compared to Adventists who did not. The study involved 8200 Adventists and the result was the following:
  - i. “The study indicates that readers have a closer relationship with Christ, more certainty of their standing with God, and are more likely to have identified their spiritual gifts. They are more in favor of spending for public evangelism and contribute more heavily to local missionary projects. They feel more prepared for witnessing and actually engage in more witnessing and outreach programs. They are more likely to study the Bible daily, to pray for specific people, to meet in fellowship groups, and to have daily family worship. They view their church more positively. They actually bring more people into the church.” (Roger Dudley & Des Cummings Jr., *Ministry Magazine*, October 1982)
- f. Another testimony from a former Luther priest gives an insight of Ellen Whites evangelical views of salvation.
  - i. **Raymond C. Holmes:** “In all her works, Ellen G. White presents and uplifts Christ. ... Her little book *Steps to Christ* gives one of the best instructions in the way of salvation that has ever been written.” (*Stranger in my home*, p. 54)
- g. If you were the devil and had hired Ellen White to be your false prophet to lead people away from Jesus, you would do well to fire her quickly, since her writings are responsible of leading countless people to salvation in Jesus and His ministry.

#### **4. Invokes Obedience to the Ten Commandments**

- a. The fourth test shows the importance of the prophet upholding the standard of God’s moral law.
  - i. **Deuteronomy 13:1-3:** “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'-- which you have not known--'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”
  - ii. **Isaiah 8:20:** “To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
  - iii. **Acts 5:32:** “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”
- b. Did Ellen White uplift the Ten Commandments, including the Sabbath commandment? By all means, she did.
  - i. **Desire of Ages, p. 283:** “The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. Of that law of which the fourth

commandment forms a part, Christ declares, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law." So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power."

## 5. Predictions come true

- a. The fifth test requires the future predictions of the prophet to come to pass.
  - i. **Jeremiah 28:9:** "As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known *as* one whom the LORD has truly sent."
  - ii. **Deuteronomy 18:21-22:** "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'--when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."
  - iii. **John 14:29:** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe." See also **Isaiah 41:22**
- b. Have Ellen White's predictions come to pass?
- c. **The American Civil War:** On December 20, 1860, South Carolina demanded secession from the American Union, and rumors of rebellion and war began to arise. However, very few people took it seriously.
  - i. **Horace Greeley, New York Tribune, January, 1861:** "A few old women with broom sticks could go down there and beat out all of the rebellion that there is in South Carolina." (cited in J.N. Loughborough, *Heavenly visions*, p. 55)
  - ii. **Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861:** "I have felt all the while justified in concluding that the crisis, the panic, the anxiety of the country at this time is artificial." (*Works of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 103).
- d. Even after the outbreak of the war president Lincoln thought that only 70 000 soldiers during three months would suffice to quench the rebellion. But in January 12, 1861, Ellen White received a vision that sharply contradicted public opinion.
  - i. "People are making sport of the secession ordinance of South Carolina, but I have just been shown that a large number of States are going to join that State, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw the dead and dying on every hand. ... There are those in this house who will lose sons in that war." (*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, January 31, 1893)
- e. Soon 11 states had joined the secession and elected their own president. The American Civil War continued for four years and cost over 600 000 lives. It was the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. At least 10 of the people present when Ellen White had her vision lost sons in the war.
- f. **Health:** At a time when modern medicine was in its infancy and tobacco was recommended for lung problems, Ellen White received many visions about health.
  - i. **Ministry of Healing, p. 327-328:** "Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. ... it is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible." (this was first written in 1864)
  - ii. **Spalding and Magan Collections, p. 48:** "Cancer, tumors, and all inflammatory diseases are largely caused by meat-eating. From the light which God has given me, the prevalence of cancers, and tumors is due to gross living on dead flesh."
- g. Only about 100 years later science started to catch up. Today science confirms her visions on health.

- i. **Professor Clive McCay, Cornell University:** “In spite of the fact that the works of Mrs. White were written long before the advent of modern scientific nutrition, no better overall guide is available today.” (*Review and Herald*, Feb. 26, 1959)
- ii. **The China Study:** “In 2005, Dr. T. Colin Campbell’s *The China Study* — backed by the most extensive study of nutrition ever conducted and bolstered by dozens of additional studies and cases — gave us a simple but powerful answer: The key to good health is nutrition. By adopting a diet based on whole, plant-based food you can reduce your risk of degenerative diseases like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. The China Study told us what to eat and provided the revolutionary, scientific proof for this answer.” ([www.thechinastudy.com/whole/about](http://www.thechinastudy.com/whole/about))
- iii. **Professor Colin Campbell, Cornell University:** “I am not aware of anyone who was more on point than Ellen White... I am convinced that almost 100% of her statements are now substantially supported by the scientific evidence that has been developed during the past 2-3 decades.” (Interview with Don Mackintosh, Feb. 24, 2005)
- iv. **American Institute for Cancer Research:** “Our methods and specific conclusions differ from Dr. Campbell’s in several ways, but our bottom-line message is the same: Diets that revolve around whole plant foods – vegetables, whole grains, fruits and beans – cut the risk of many cancers, and other diseases as well. This advice has been translated into AICR’s 10 Recommendations for Cancer Prevention.” ([www.aicr.org/about/advocacy/the-china-study.html](http://www.aicr.org/about/advocacy/the-china-study.html))
- h. Ellen White’s visions are the secret behind the fact that Seventh-Day Adventists is the people group that on average lives the longest on the planet.
  - i. **National Geographic, November, 2005:** “Funded in part by the U.S. National Institute on Aging, scientists have focused on several regions where people live significantly longer. ... In Loma Linda, California, researchers studied a group of Seventh-day Adventists who rank among America’s longevity all-stars.”
  - ii. **Professor Christoffer Johansen, Southern Danish University:** “Danish scientists have compared data of just under 12 000 church members with data of Danes in general and the results were obvious; the cancer frequency was 30 percent lower among the men and 14 percent lower among the women – and the biggest difference was seen among the Adventists.” (*Dagen*, “Adventister och baptister mindre cancersjuka”, August 31, 2012)
- i. From where did this woman get her information of advanced health science more than a hundred years before her time? Was it a lucky guess? Or was she inspired by God?
- j. **World wars:** Ellen White received visions of the American Civil war. But war on a much larger scale was also shown her.
  - i. **Testimonies for the Church 1, p. 268:** “I was shown the inhabitants of the earth in the utmost confusion. War, bloodshed, privation, want, famine, and pestilence were abroad in the land. ... My attention was then called from the scene. There seemed to be a little time of peace. Once more the inhabitants of the earth were presented before me; and again everything was in the utmost confusion. Strife, war, and bloodshed, with famine and pestilence, raged everywhere. Other nations were engaged in this war and confusion. War caused famine. Want and bloodshed caused pestilence. And then men’s hearts failed them for fear, “and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.””
  - ii. **Signs of the Times, April 21, 1890:** “We shall see troubles 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. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames.”

- k. These predictions are much too large to find its fulfilment in some small scale, local war. Ellen White foresaw war involving many other nations. Thousands of ships and big navies would be sunk. Millions of people would die. What a startling fulfillment these predictions received in the terrors of the First and Second World War! In these wars casualties were indeed counted by the millions.
- l. **The Ecumenical Movement:** In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was a huge rift between Catholics and Protestants. The papacy was considered to be the Antichrist of the Bible by the Protestants and the Catholics denounced the Protestants sharply. But Ellen White was shown that a change would take place.
  - i. **Great Controversy, p. 588:** "The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."
  - ii. **Great Controversy, p. 444:** "It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government... before the coming of the Lord there will exist a state of religious declension similar to that in the first centuries. ... When this state of ungodliness shall be reached, the same results will follow as in the first centuries. The wide diversity of belief in the Protestant churches is regarded by many as decisive proof that no effort to secure a forced uniformity can ever be made. But there has been for years, in churches of the Protestant faith, a strong and growing sentiment in favor of a union based upon common points of doctrine. To secure such a union, the discussion of subjects upon which all were not agreed--however important they might be from a Bible standpoint--must necessarily be waived."
- m. The Ecumenical Movement is a striking fulfillment of these predictions. The prophetic interpretations of the Reformation have almost completely been discarded by the majority of the Protestants. Many Protestant churches are now coming back to Rome.
- n. **The spreading of Spiritualism:** Spiritualism was almost unknown in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. But in 1848, mystical rappings started to take place in the home of the two sisters Kate and Margaret Fox. This was the beginning of modern spiritualism. Ellen White predicted that spiritualism would be one of the three greatest entities by which Satan would deceive the world in the end of time. Today we see movements like the New Age and other spiritualistic manifestations have spread all over the world.
- o. **America's worldwide power:** At a time when America was a small, non-influential nation, in comparison with the mighty monarchies of Europe, Ellen White received visions showing that America would be a worldwide power that eventually would force the world into false worship. This was unthinkable in her days, but today we see that America is the only superpower that could be capable of such a thing.
- p. We could look at many other fulfillments, but time will not allow. Without a doubt, this woman did receive revelations from someone who knew the future.

## **6. The dragon is enraged with the woman**

- a. Ellen White passes the biblical test of a prophet on every point! God has indeed sent a prophet in these last days to lead the movement that is to prepare the world for the Second Coming. But there is one who especially hates that fact.
  - i. **Revelation 12:17:** "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [i.e. the Spirit of Prophecy]."
  - ii. **Luke 6:26:** "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets."

- b. If Ellen White is a true prophet, we should therefore expect that there will be a lot of criticism and opposition against her. And this happens to be the case for Ellen White, which is more evidence of the fact that Ellen White actually is a true prophet. But we shall finally look at some of the most prominent criticism of Ellen White's ministry. Some claim that some of her prophecies did not come to pass.
- c. **England will declare war on the USA:** Critics say for instance that Ellen White unconditionally declared that England would declare war on USA in connection with the American Civil war. Here is the quote:
  - i. **Testimonies for the church 1, p. 259:** "This nation will yet be humbled into the dust. England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. ... When England does declare war, all nations will have an interest of their own to serve, and there will be general war, general confusion."
- d. But the critics often leave out the full quote:
  - i. **Testimonies for the church 1, p. 259:** "This nation will yet be humbled into the dust. England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. She is weighing the matter, and trying to sound other nations. She fears, if she should commence war abroad, that she would be weak at home, and that other nations would take advantage of her weakness. Other nations are making quiet yet active preparations for war, and are hoping that England will make war with our nation, ... but if England thinks it will pay, she will not hesitate a moment to improve her opportunities to exercise her power and humble our nation. When England does declare war, all nations will have an interest of their own to serve, and there will be general war, general confusion. England is acquainted with the diversity of feeling among those who are seeking to quell the rebellion."
- e. Obviously this was not an unconditional prediction. Ellen White wrote this before President Lincoln decreed the famous Emancipation Declaration, which demanded that all slaves would be set free on January 1, 1863. Ellen had previously sharply criticized the divided opinions about slavery within the North's government and army. It was these divided opinions within the North's Government that made England consider waging war against America. But after the Emancipation Proclamation the Northern states were united and the conditions of England declaring war on America were no longer in place.
- f. **The Second Coming within Ellen White's lifetime:** Ellen White received visions that predicted the Second Coming to be very soon. Since her calling as a prophet in 1844 she had never set a date for the Second Coming. She was however shown that it would be within the lifetime of people living in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century:
  - i. **1 Testimonies for the Church, p.131-132, (1856):** "I was shown the company present at the Conference [in 1856]. Said the angel: "Some food for worms, some subjects of the seven last plagues, some will be alive and remain upon the earth to be translated at the coming of Jesus.""
- g. Obviously, this prediction did not come to pass. But, why is this? Does this mean she was a false prophet? We must understand that God many times gives conditional prophecies:
  - i. **Jeremiah 18:7-10:** "The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it."

- h. **Jonah's** story is an example of this. He predicted (without stating the conditions) that Nineveh would be destroyed within 40 days. But since the city repented, this did not take place. Jonah was still a true prophet. It was the people's response that changed.
- i. God had promised the Israelites who left Egypt that they would enter the promised land:
  - i. **Exodus 6:7-8:** "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD."
- j. But because of Israel's unfaithfulness and murmuring God's prediction did not come to pass in that generation, even though God swore they would.
  - i. **Numbers 14:29-31:** "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised."
  - ii. **Hebrews 3:19:** "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."
- k. Why has modern Israel not yet come in to their heavenly Canaan, which God promised them? Ellen White was shown the reason:
  - i. **Evangelism, s. 695 (1883):** "Had Adventists, after the great disappointment in 1844, held fast their faith and followed on unitedly in the opening providence of God, receiving the message of the third angel and in the power of the Holy Spirit proclaiming it to the world, they would have seen the salvation of God, the Lord would have wrought mightily with their efforts, the work would have been completed, and Christ would have come ere this to receive His people to their reward. But in the period of doubt and uncertainty that followed the disappointment, many of the advent believers yielded their faith. . . . Thus the work was hindered, and the world was left in darkness. Had the whole Adventist body united upon the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, how widely different would have been our history!"
- l. If we should reject Ellen White on the basis of this prediction, we also need to reject Moses and Jonah by the same token.