

Semester 4 – Week 11 - Class 21

PROPHETS & PROPHECY, VISIONS AND DREAMS

Today's topic is, "Prophets & Prophecy, Visions and Dreams."

There is an explosion of interest in prophecy and psychic phenomena in our present generation. Some are asking, "Would God raise up the true gift of prophecy today?" Could it be that the upsurge of interest in prophecy is because of the fact that there is and have been numerous false prophets? What does the Bible teach about prophets in these last days? What about the gift of prophecy?

The Bible predicts that in the last days of earth's history, that there would be an amazing interest in the subject of prophecy. People inquire regarding Nostradamus and his writings. Books on the Occult sell in the multi-millions. A book on the life of Jean Dixon has sold over a million copies. There's one man called Edgar Casey who is appealing to New Agers. A book on him called "The Sleeping Prophet" has also sold over one million copies.

Four times Jesus warns us against the deceptive counterfeits in the last days in Matthew chapter 24:

Matthew 24:4 **"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."**

Matthew 24:5 **"For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."**

Matthew 24:11 **"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."**

Matthew 24:24 **"For there shall arise false Christs, and (what else?) false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; in so much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very (what?) elect."**

People will be deceived because their attention was focused on outward signs and miracles which caused them to accept a lie in the place of truth.

Matthew 24:24 (signs and wonders); 2 Thes. 2:9,10 (power, signs and lying wonders); Rev. 13:13 (great wonders); Rev. 13:14 (deceives . . . by the means of those miracles); Rev. 19:20 (wrought miracles . . . with which he deceived)

The Bible predicted an increase in the area of deception and that there would be counterfeit prophets aiding in this.

Miracles prove only one thing—supernatural power.

Such power may come from either Satan or God.

Question: What types of false prophets are specifically condemned in the bible?

Deuteronomy 18:10-11 **"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, (fortune telling) [or] an observer of times, (astrologer) or an enchanter, (magician) or a witch, (psychic) Or a charmer, (person who casts spells or charms) or a consulter with familiar spirits, (spirit medium) or a wizard, (male psychic) or a necromancer (person who claims to speak with the dead)."**

Question: Are miracles definite evidence of a true prophet?

Revelation 16:14 **"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, ... "**

False prophets do not advertise themselves as false prophets. They do not declare that if you follow them they will deceive you. In Matthew 24:24 these false prophets would show great signs and wonders. There would be much deception.

Matthew 7:21, 22 predicts that there would be a counterfeit manifestation of the gift of prophecy. **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many shall say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not (done what?) prophesied in (what?) thy name? and in thy name (done what?) cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works."**

Whose name are they prophesying in and casting out demons and doing wonderful works? Well, if they were doing it in His name, they must be true prophets and true workers of miracles and healing. Isn't that right? What does Jesus say?

Matthew 7:23 **"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."** That word iniquity means "lawlessness." "You, who practice lawlessness." He never knew them even when they were working miracles in His name? Think about it. Wouldn't it be just like Satan to deceive men and women by raising up false miracle workers? If Satan can make somebody sick, obviously he can apparently heal them with a false miracle, make them think they're well, but let them continue to live a life of disobedience and in a false security.

Why would Satan try so hard to raise up the counterfeit gift of prophecy in the last days if there were no genuine gift of prophecy to be manifest in the church? Satan would not counterfeit something unless there would be a genuine of what he was counterfeiting. Jesus didn't say "Beware of all prophets in the last days." He simply warned against accepting false ones.

Satan has two great strategies. **1)** Get men and women to accept the counterfeit prophets and thus be deceived. **2)** Make people so weary, so skeptical, of any manifestation of the gift of prophecy because of all the false prophets, that they throw the whole idea out, and therefore don't get the benefit of the genuine.

Question: To whom does the lord reveal his final plans?

Amos 3:7 **"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."** Would this mean modern Prophets too? In other words will God's end-time church have the gift of prophecy?

Ephesians 4:8, **"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, (that's Jesus ascending on high) he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."**

Question: What were these gifts?

Ephesians 4:11, **"And he gave some, apostles;** (those are missionaries who are sent out) **and some, prophets; and some, evangelists;** (that is those that can proclaim the Word of God and lead people to Christ) **and some, pastors** (that is those faithful shepherds who teach God's Word and love the people and equip them for service), **and teachers;** (those that can clearly teach the Word)."

Do we need faithful teachers of the Word of God in the church today? Do we need pastors who watch over the flock of believers? Do we need evangelists? Do we need apostles, modern day missionaries sent out into the world field? But what about prophets? The Bible says that God gave these gifts to the church and He gave us the reason in the following verse.

Ephesians 4:12 **"For the perfecting of the saints,"** (that's the people of God). Are all the people of God perfect yet? Not at all. **"... for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (that means the upbuilding) of the body of Christ:**

Question: How long would these gifts remain in the church?

Ephesians 4:12 **"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:"**

1 Corinthians 1:6, 7 **"Even as the testimony of Christ** (or the testimony of Jesus. And what's the testimony of Jesus? The Spirit of Prophecy!) **was confirmed in you** (The Church): **So that ye come behind in (what?) no gift; (for how long?) waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:"**

Question: Would God's end-time church awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ have the gift of prophecy?

According to the scriptures, Apostles or missionaries, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, the gifts of the Spirit including the gift of prophecy, would be in the church right to the end.

Joel 2:28, 29 **"And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. "**

Acts 2:3 **"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. "**

Acts 2:16-18 **"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: "**

Question: Would God's last-day church be guided by the gift of prophecy?

As we have just read in Peter's sermon in Acts 2, Peter prophesied that in the last days that God would pour out His Spirit and prophets would arise. He didn't just mean men. Peter said men and women. God is not a respecter of persons; He will choose whom He will—not whom we want. If you and I want to find God's last-day, Revelation, remnant church, we need to find a church that's had or has the guidance of the gift of prophecy.

In Revelation 12:17 God gives the identifying marks of His last-day remnant church. His church was in the wilderness for 1260 years during the reign of the papal church. But after those years ended in 1798, there would be an open manifestation of that church.

Revelation 12:17, **"And the dragon (who's that? Satan) was wroth (what does that mean? Angry) with the woman (who's that? The church), and went to make war with (what?) the remnant (what's the remnant? The last part. The remnant does not mean its different, it just means its at the end), of her seed, which (do what?) keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."** God's remnant church is indeed the object of Satan's attack.

So how do you tell the remnant church? They keep what? "The commandments of God". And have what? "The testimony of Jesus." Well, if you're going to find the remnant church of Revelation, you must find a church that keeps God's commandments but also has the testimony of Jesus.

The two distinguishing characteristics of God's "remnant" church are," **1) They lovingly obey the commandments of God. 2) They have the testimony of Jesus.** The word "have" is possessive and means In possession of. Find a church with both points, both co-ordinates if you please, and you've found Revelation's remnant church. Now according to the book of Revelation, what is the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 19:10.

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 (what?) spirit of prophecy."**

So the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. And who has the Testimony of Jesus? The brethren! Who are the brethren that had the Testimony of Jesus?

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 showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the (who?) prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."**

- 1) According to the Bible, the brethren of John are the prophets. (Revelation 22:9)
- 2) And the same brethren have the Spirit of Prophecy. (Revelation 19:10).
- 3) And the Spirit of Prophecy is what? – The Testimony of Jesus. (Revelation 19:10)
- 4) And the Testimony of Jesus would be in what church? (Revelation 12:17) – The remnant church or the last day church.

1 Corinthians 1:6, 7 **"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:"**

So let's put it all together and give the bottom line. In God's last day remnant church we will find the gift of prophecy, as manifested through an earthly prophet. In other words, in the time of the end, where we are today, Jesus would testify through an earthly prophet once more. The spirit of prophecy is only manifested through prophets. (Amos 3:7) The Bible makes it clear that the remnant church would have this gift. Jesus promised the gift of prophecy would be revived in the last days.

They would have **THE LAW:** They would have **THE PROPHET** With obedience to God's commandments and the gift of prophecy you will find God's last day church..

This leads us right to our next question: "Well, where are the prophets?" Why have they stopped? What has taken place? We find the answer in the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 26:4,5 **"And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened; Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth. "**

The law of God and the gift of prophecy, or prophets go together. When God's church drifted away from Him and when pagan practices came in, He withdrew the gift of prophecy, that is to say, God would no longer communicate with His people on the same basis.

But when the church was obedient and faithful and began keeping His commandments again, He would restore the gift of prophecy. It happened in the days of ancient Israel, and it would happen in the last-day church.

Ezekiel 20:2-4 **"Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying, Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God, Are ye come to inquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you. God is saying to them, I am not going to listen to you!! Why? What was happening? Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:"**

Ezekiel 20:12, 16 **"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them." "Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols."**

God said he wasn't going to listen to or speak to Israel. Why? Because they rejected the Sabbath. Whenever God's people reject the sabbath and the law, the gift of the prophets cease to be manifested in the church. When Israel drifted away from God and became disobedient to God, God withdrew the gift of prophecy. When Israel was faithful to God, He restored that gift.

Lamentations 2:9, **"Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her kings and her princes are among the Gentiles."** In other words, Israel drifted away from God and Jerusalem was destroyed "... the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the Lord."

When there is no law, there is no (what?) prophets! When Israel disobeyed God, what did He do with the gift of prophecy? When God's church, Israel, drifted away from Him, He withdrew the gift of prophecy. When they were faithful to Him, He restored the gift of prophecy. When you find the faithful, obedient people of God, you should correspondingly look for the gift of prophecy. Why are so many of the Christian churches of today left in darkness? They have taught the rejection of the law of God, and even more specifically, they've rejected the true holy Sabbath—God's special sign of faithfulness to His law.

Proverbs 29:18 **"Where there is no vision the people perish."**

In Isaiah 58:12, the Bible tells us that in the last days there would be a breach that would have to be repaired. There would be a path that would have to be restored. Something has been torn down. Something has been taken away. Then verse 13 goes on to tell us it is the holy Sabbath that must be brought back to its proper place.

Question: What about modern prophets?

God's last-day church in Revelation would lead people back to keeping the commandments of God, through their connection with Christ. and when that remnant church is raised up to put the law back in its proper place, then guess what God will restore to His church?

Revelation 12:17 **"And the dragon was wroth with the women, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have (now look what's coming back!) the (what) testimony of Jesus Christ."**

And the testimony of Jesus is the what? "The spirit of prophecy." The law and the prophets always go together.

TESTS OF A PROPHET - The Bible gives us specific tests that we can test the gift of prophecy by. A false prophet doesn't meet the tests. A true prophet meets every one of the tests.

Somebody may say, "I don't want the gift of prophecy. I accept the Bible and the Bible alone." Yes, the Bible is our final authority of faith and practice for the Christian. But if you accept the Bible, you must accept what the Bible says about the gift of prophecy. Remember that it is the Bible that says: 1) The gift of prophecy will exist in God's church until the end (Eph. 4:11) 2) Jesus' end-time church will have the gift of prophecy (Rev. 12:17; 19:10) 3) To reject a prophet's counsel is to reject God's counsel (Lk. 7:28-30) 4) We are commanded to test prophets and follow their counsel if they live and speak in harmony with the Bible.

1 Thessalonians 5:20,21 **"Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."** God says, "Don't despise the gift—prove the gift!!

Here's an important point: If God has within the church, the gift of prophecy, and if that gift of prophecy is going to bless the church, then God's last-day church will have it, because God's last-day church needs it. If His church didn't need it, God wouldn't have given it. God never bestows a needless gift.

Question: How can we tell the difference between the true and the false? What are the tests of the genuine gift of prophecy?

Test #1. The first test of the gift of prophecy is that as God raises up the genuine gift of prophecy it will be accurate in its predictions. There are many so-called prophets whose predictions are inaccurate.

Jeremiah 28:9, **"The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him."**

So the Bible just stated that if the prophet makes predictions and if those predictions come to pass, that is one way of knowing that the prophet is accurate. It makes a great deal of sense because when you really think about it, Who is it that gives the message to the prophet? It's God! So then, if the prophet is inaccurate in the message he gives, he or she it is not from God.

Studies were done on all the major predictions made by psychics in the 1980's. There were 250 of them. The psychics predicted 250 separate measurable events that would take place in the 80's. **Out of 250 specific published predictions, it was found that less than 3%, that is less than 6 that could be listed as reasonably fulfilled. 97%, or 244 missed the mark completely.**

Somebody may say, "What about Jonah in the Bible who predicted that Nineveh would be destroyed and Nineveh was never destroyed?" The reason was that it was a conditional prophecy dependent upon whether the people repented of their sin or didn't repent. The promises of blessings and curses from God are alike conditional. As a result, the prophecy that God gave through Jonah was not fulfilled because the people repented. God's intention was that if they repented Nineveh wouldn't be destroyed. So it was a conditional prophecy.

Some ask, "Is Jean Dixon a true or false prophet?" The predictions of Jean Dixon are by an exceptionally large proportion inaccurate. Anyone who claims to have the gift of prophecy, the gift of prophecy first will be 100% accurate in prophecies that are non-conditional. Secondly, the gift of prophecy is not given to lead men and women away from the Bible, but it's given to lead them back to the Bible.

Listen very carefully to this next point. A so-called prophet may make a prediction, and that prediction of the so-called prophet may come to pass, but the prophecy may lead away from the Bible. For the prophet to be a genuine prophet it means that every prediction must not only be accurate, but must be in harmony with the Bible.

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, ..."**

So here the prophet has made a prediction, and it comes to pass, but the prophet teaches things that are not in harmony with the Bible, and the Bible says, "Don't go follow after that prophet because the prophet must be tested by the Bible." In other words, the genuine gift of prophecy leads back to the Bible and never takes away from Scripture.

Test #2 Be sure the prophet is faithful to the Bible.

By the way, not every prophet has their writings in the Bible. For example Enoch, Elijah, and John the Baptist, were all prophets but wrote no books in the Bible. But Jesus said this about John the Baptist in Luke 7:28-30, **"For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. And all the people that heard [him], and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."**

Question: If God sent John the Baptist to prepare people for the first coming of Jesus, wouldn't the church have a great need for the gift of prophecy before the second coming of Jesus as well?

Test #3 The genuine gift of prophecy exalts Jesus Christ. The prophet does not speak about him or herself, but it exalts Jesus. It is a witness for Jesus. 1 John 4:1,2 **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:"** What does the Bible say we are to do? Try the spirits, test them, **"... because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** Now if there are many false prophets, there also has to be what? True! Because the false is only compared by the what? True!

Notice 1 John 4:2, **"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of (what?) God."** Many so-called prophets aren't even Christians! Horoscopes can be read in over 2,000 newspapers.

Test #4 The fourth test of the gift of prophecy is the relationship to the Law. Let's notice Isaiah 8:20 **"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is (what? how much?) no light in them."**

The Bible says, "To the law." Any so-called prophet that does not exalt God's law, that does not lead back to commandment-keeping is not a true prophet but a false prophet. As you look through the Bible, God always raised up the genuine gift of prophecy to lead men and women back to obedience. God's Word says that any so-called prophet that leads away from the law cannot be a genuine prophet because in the true remnant church, the entire law of God, and the gift of prophecy go together—according to the Bible.

Test #5 There would be certain physical tests that a genuine prophet would manifest. 1. As the prophet went into vision, he or she had their eyes open while in vision. 2. The prophet In vision had no physical strength. 3. The prophet In vision does not breathe for the duration of the vision. The Bible says that all the prophetic revelation comes by inspiration of God. (literally says, It is "God-breathed"). So the prophet Daniel when he was in vision had no human breath. (Dan.10:17). He was sustained miraculously by God. These physical manifestations were true of Daniel and other Bible prophets. So a genuine prophet would have these genuine tests.

Test #6 A genuine prophet would have spiritual fruitage. The prophecies would center mainly around spiritual matters and not secular matters. The gift of prophecy would be given to the church, not to Hollywood or some worldly person making meaningless predictions. The genuine gift of prophecy is placed within God's church to prepare the minds of men and women, boys and girls for the coming of Jesus. Matthew 7:15, 16 **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"** Matthew 7:20, **"Wherefore by their (what?) fruits ye shall know them."**

What is the spiritual fruitage? That is to say, what effect or influence has this had on the church, the body of Christ?

As a diamond set in a signet ring, the true gift of prophecy is set in the true church. 1 Corinthians 12:28.

1. The true church would have the gift of prophecy that is accurate in its predictions through the years. (Jer.28:9)
2. The true church would lead men and women back to the Bible. (Deut.13:1-3) The true church would lead them to Jesus. The true gift of prophecy would not take the place of the Bible, but lead people back to it.
3. The true gift of prophecy wouldn't take the place of Jesus, but be a witness for Jesus. (1 John 4:1-3).
4. The true gift of prophecy wouldn't lead people away from, but rather back to the law. (Isaiah 8:20).
5. The true gift of prophecy would have physical tests: No breath; eyes open; no human strength. (Dan.10:7,8,16-19) (Num.24:4).
6. The true gift of prophecy would be a blessing to build up and edify God's church. (Eph.4:12,13).
7. The true gift of prophecy would show by its spiritual fruitage that it is of God. (Matthew 7:15,20).

God's Prophet Involves speaking for God; Reveals God's purposes; Strengthens and guides leaders; Encourages people to faithfulness; Preaches and teaches; Brings others to a knowledge of truth.

The Bible says the remnant church is a "commandment-keeping people" with "the Spirit of prophecy."

Does the Seventh-day Adventist church have the testimony of Jesus Christ and how did that gift of prophecy rise within the Adventist church?

Here is 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. These Adventists were Baptists, Presbyterians, Catholic and Methodist Christians; looking forward to the coming of Jesus. They thought Jesus was coming then in 1844. 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 the Scripture so they began to study the Bible, and as they did, an amazing thing happened. Amos 3:7 **"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."**

Faithful to His Word, God was going to take this little band of believers and weld them together in a last-day movement with a prophetic message whose 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."** Has God blessed the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the gift of Prophecy?

God blessed the mind of a young seventeen year old woman named Ellen Gould Harmon by giving her the spiritual gift of prophecy. She later married a minister named James White and became known as Ellen G. White. 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 December 1844, the exact year that the Bible tells us the "time of God's judgment" began.

1. 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.
2. During her life she wrote over 50 books and some 100,000 manuscript pages, an estimated 25 million words. She met all the Bible tests for a true prophet. Her work carries its own evidence of coming from a divine source. It is of such a godly nature that it is the very "testimony of Jesus."
3. During her life she lectured to many thousands on three continents.

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

Never going past the third grade in public education, she is almost entirely self-educated and has written and published more books in more languages which circulate to the greater extent than any other woman in history.

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; Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1983, p.21)

She was a much sought after public speaker before Adventist and 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 and all heard her.

Sometimes when she was in vision she received extra-ordinary strength. Once in vision in 1845, she held a very large 18.5 pound family Bible at arms-length for about a half hour as she pointed to the texts without even looking, that were being told her in vision. There were a number of witnesses. No one has been able to duplicate the feat for even 5 minutes.

In keeping with Daniel 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 vapor formed on the mirror. She was examined by amazed doctors while in vision. God supernaturally sustained her.

During her life she wrote what have become over sixty different books; books on a variety of topics, such as:

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.

The **Seventh-day Adventist** educational system is the second-largest Christian **school** system in the world, after the Roman Catholic system. Seventh-day Adventists have, with kindergartens, elementary schools, academies, colleges and universities. There are a total of 7,806 educational institutions. 1,668,764 students around the world. Evolution is not taught!

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? God gave her the revelations and she wrote. Her writings were not to take the place of the Bible, but to lead people to a better understanding of the Bible. 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 were considered strange when she wrote them, but normal today and 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 her book on health***, 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 327 is recorded a prophecy she made in 1864 regarding tobacco. "Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. In the same book 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.

Through the writings of Ellen White 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.

Does Ellen White meet the prophetic tests of a true prophet of God?

The first test of a true prophet is to lead men and women back to the Bible exalting the Bible and its accuracy. 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." Her writings make it clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.

The second test of a true prophet is Biblical faithfulness. 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.

She wrote the following in her book Great Controversy page VII *"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."*

In Great Controversy page 204-205 *"In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle--the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty."*

In Great Controversy page 595 she wrote, *"God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms."*

The third test of a true prophet is that the true gift of prophecy would exalt Jesus Christ. 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."

"My preference or choice would be guided by what I wish to get from the book or books to be read, but let me put it this way: I would put The Desire of Ages, by Ellen G. White first for spiritual discernment and practical application. An official of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

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."* *"With His stripes we are healed."* Jesus is exalted throughout the writings of Ellen White.

***But there were times that the prophet had to warn the church. Ellen White predicted (book Evangelism page 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.

***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 called "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.

In Gospel Workers Page 160 she wrote, *"Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people, lift Him up in sermon, in song, in prayer. Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to 'the Lamb of God.'"* God's prophet exalts Jesus.

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

Ellen White met all the prophetic tests of a true prophet, including test #4, exalting all of God's Ten Commandments and test #5 the physical tests such as no breath while in vision and the eyes remain open.

The Bible says, **"By their (what?) fruits ye shall know them."** Matthew 7:20

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 are schools teaching a true Biblical education, things of God, not of the world. An outreach to the whole world. From our pioneer days the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been sending missionaries abroad. Bringing the real truths to many continents.

In most of the 226 countries listed by the United Nations, Seventh-day Adventists operate over 70,188 churches, 173 hospitals, 132 Nursing Homes and Retirement Centers, 216 Clinics and Dispensaries, 36 Orphanages and Children's Homes, 10 Airplanes and Medical Launches. The spiritual fruitage are consecrated physicians giving their lives in remote jungle places. Dentists operating in out of the way places.

Today Seventh-day Adventists have 63 publishing houses, publishing Christian literature in 377 languages using many more languages orally. A total of almost a thousand tongues are used to proclaim Jesus Christ.

This little group that came together in the 1800's, caught the vision— Expand. Tens of thousands of consecrated medical missionaries, hospitals and schools around the world.

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 and a membership of more than 17 million members.

No Ellen White doesn't take the place of the Bible. Not at all! Seventh-day Adventists 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!

"By there fruits, ye shall know them." Here are some quotes by non-Adventist people of her day: 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."

Paul Harvey, famous news broadcaster had all of her books and spoke of her many times on the air. He said, *"Women have been honored on American postage stamps for more than 100 years starting with one woman who was not an American, Queen Isabella in 1893. Since then, 86 women have been honored ranging from Martha Washington to Marilyn Monroe; Also many women authors like Louisa May Allcott, Emily Dickerson, ... But I can name an American author who has never been honored thus, though her writings have been translated into 148 languages. More than Marx or Tolstoy, more than Agatha Christie, more than William Shakespeare. Only now is the world coming to appreciate her recommended prescriptions for optimal spiritual and physical health: Ellen White. Ellen White! You don't know her? Get to know her."*

James Dobson from "Focus on the Family," said the following, *"I greatly appreciate you sharing Ellen G. White's material with me. I have all of her books. They are excellent! If she were alive today, she and I no doubt would share a kindred spirit."*

Seventh-day Adventists as no other church in the world, meet the characteristics of the remnant church of Revelation 12:17 & 14:12. 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 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 one 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."

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.

End Semester 4 – Week 11 - Class 21

The Next Class Semester 4 – Week 11 - Class 22 “The Unpardonable Sin”

The Following Class Semester 4 – Week 12 - Class 23 “Secret to Overcome”

The Last Class Semester 4 – Week 12 - Class 24 “Heaven – Is it For Real?”