

Treasures of the Sanctuary—Lesson 29—“Prophet of the Sanctuary Message”

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TALK:

1. Have you ever been given an important message to tell somebody? What was it like?
2. *What is the best way for a king to tell a message to his people? Should kings just come themselves to tell messages to their people? Or, is it better for them to send messengers? Which way is more beneficial and practical? (Are there advantages and disadvantages to both?)*

READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. **How does God communicate important messages to His people? (Amos 3:7)** *Note: Often, people are too weak, feeble, and sinful to be able to withstand the presence of God. Often times, sinful people flee from God’s Holy presence, like in Eden, after sin, and also at Sinai when God appeared (Exodus 20:19). So, God must communicate through His prophets or messengers (like in Revelation 1:1-3; the message came from the Father to Jesus, from Jesus to His Angel, from the Angel to John—the prophet—and from John to a book, then from the book to the people, and we should receive this message from God).*
2. **What do all the major time prophecies in the Bible have in common? These major prophecies are...**
 - a. Enoch to Noah’s flood (**the life of Methuselah—969 years**) (*Genesis 5:21,22,25-28; 7:11*)
 - b. Abraham to Moses (**400 years**) (*Genesis 15:13,14*)
 - c. Jeremiah to Daniel (**70 years** in Babylonian Captivity) (*Jeremiah 25:11; Daniel 9:2*)
 - d. Daniel to John the Baptist and the time of Jesus (**490 years**) (*Daniel 9:25; Matthew 11:11*)
 - e. Daniel to _____?? (2300 years, ending in 1844 AD, Sanctuary prophecy) (*Daniel 8:14*) *Could the Lord possibly have had some notable prophet who was to appear around this time?*
 - f. **Note:** *each major time prophecy begins and ends with the appearance of some very notable prophet. The message was first given by one prophet, and then another prophet appeared at the closing of that prophetic time period!*
3. **What did Jesus warn us to be careful of in the last days? (Matthew 24:24)** *Note: Does Jesus say there would be no true prophets? No. In fact, since Jesus warned about the “false” ones, there must also be true ones as well. It would be foolish for the Devil to counterfeit a prophet if Jesus had said there would be no more. Just like it would be foolish for you to counterfeit a US \$3.00 bill, since they don’t exist!!*
4. **Does God warn us to be careful and to test whether someone is truly a messenger of God? Should we believe everyone who claims to be a prophet? (1 John 4:1)**
5. **For which purpose does God give prophets to His church? (Ephesians 4:11-13)** *Do we still need this kind of guidance and growth today? Do we still need pastors, teachers, and the writings of the Apostles today? Prophets?*
6. **Did God give the gift of prophecy to guide the early Christian church? (Acts 13:1; 15:32; 21:8,9)**
7. **What will God’s church in the last days have? Will they come behind in any gift? (1 Corinthians 1:5-7; Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 22:8,9)**
 - a. **Note:** *Revelation describes that God’s faithful church in the last days will keep the commandments of God and have the “testimony of Jesus” (Rev.12:17), which is also noted as the “spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10), or the gift of the “prophets” (Rev. 22:8,9).*

- b. **The prophecies of Joel** (found also quoted in the book of Acts) **tell us** that we can expect to see God communicating to His people through chosen messengers; through the **gifts of His Holy Spirit**, even as He did to various prophets of old (**See Acts 2:17,18**). Were these chosen messengers of God only “male” prophets, or were there also “female” prophets in the Bible? (For further reference, you may also see Luke 2:36; Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14).
- c. **Keep in mind also:** Not every prophet God sends has to write something in the Bible. In fact, many did not! For example, John the Baptist, though Jesus called him one of the greatest prophets who ever lived (ref. Luke 7:28), never wrote anything in the Bible!! The prophet Agabus (Acts 11:28; 21:10) didn't either. These men are only mentioned in the Bible since they were there at this time, and the Bible author's recorded their names and accounts.
8. **What does the Bible say should be our attitude towards anyone who seems to have the gift of prophecy?** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21) *Are you willing to live by the Bible's command and teaching? “T_____ all things. Hold fast that which is g_____.”* **Note:** Satan is happy to lead people to either accept false prophets, or to reject the true ones. The result is the same...darkness. This is how he cuts off the message of God from getting to us.
9. **How should we test anyone who appears to be a prophet, or claims to be one?** (The Bible gives us several tests that will help us to know for sure!!)
- a. **A true prophet must uplift Jesus as our Savior—the Divine son of God** (1 John 4:1,2) *Not ever pointing to themselves as the important one, but pointing people always to Jesus Christ!!*
- b. **A true prophet must live by the Bible, agree with, and uplift all of its teachings** (Isaiah 8:20; 1 Corinthians 14:32,33) *“the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”—this means a true prophet cannot and will not differ from the true teachings of God's Word—the Bible! Like Jesus, and all His faithful followers, they will point people to the Bible, saying, “It is written” (Matthew 4:4,7,10), as an answer for their teachings. New light will not disagree with Scripture.*
- c. **If a true prophet makes any kind of predictions, we should be able to see those words coming true** (being fulfilled; happening) (Deuteronomy 18:22). *However, if their words do come to pass, but they are teaching you to disobey God, do not follow them!! They must pass ALL the tests of a true prophet! A true prophet will teach us to be obedient to all of God's commandments (See Deuteronomy 13:1-5). Many of the Biblical prophets especially called people to walk in holiness, and to keep holy the Sabbath day!*
- d. **A true prophet must bear the “fruits” of a true and faithful Christian in their life** (Matthew 7:20). *This verse also teaches us that the “fruit” of their ministry will lead souls closer to Jesus!*
10. **Note:** *In the early days of the Advent movement in America (1840's) there was a young woman, named Ellen Harmon. She later became known as Ellen G. White. She saw some visions from God that encouraged God's people. She was a very humble and sincere Christian woman. She received much wisdom and guidance from God throughout her life. Her lifework of more than 70 years was to help build up the work of God, with the Sabbath-keeping movement known as Seventh-day Adventists. Her husband James, a young minister, a friend Joseph Bates and others, also lent their efforts to build up God's last day Sabbath-keeping movement! Ellen wrote many things and her writings are still a source of strength, encouragement, and guidance to God's people today. She always pointed people to Jesus as a humble servant of Christ. She actually never called herself a prophet, but rather “a messenger of God.” The least we can do is read what she has to say, check it by the Bible, and see what lessons may be given there for us. Millions all around the world have been greatly blessed by her deeply spiritual, Biblical, and wisdom-filled writings. Ellen always referred people to the Bible for their faith!! In all of our lessons together, we have never appealed to Ellen G. White for any of our answers. Our answers come from the Bible only, and so did hers! Will you see what words of strength may be found in these writings for you? (For additional information please see handout or visit the Amazing Facts Ministries website www.ellengwhitetruth.com)*

HEART QUESTION(S):

1. Are you willing to “test all things and hold fast [keep close and precious] that which is good”? _____

NOTES:
