

# Who is Ellen G. White?

Treasures of the Sanctuary Series L-29 supplement

*The Bible tells us that when God has a message to send to His people, then he will raise up a prophet to send it through (Amos 3:7). However, we are to realize that not everyone who claims to be a “prophet” can be trusted as one. Jesus warned that we should be careful because “false Christs” and “false prophets” would arise to deceive many, even “the very elect” (Matthew 24:5, 24). While Christ warned us to watch out for the false ones, he did not however say there would be no true prophets. In fact, it wouldn’t make sense for the Devil to send false ones, if there were going to be no true ones. Why counterfeit something that doesn’t really exist?! Jesus would have simply told us that there were to be no more true prophets (if that was the case)! The Bible tells us, “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophesyings. Test all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). “...Believe not every spirit, but **test the spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The New Testament Bible writers are very clear!! “Do not despise prophesying” but “test the spirits” and see what is coming from God!*

*Although we’ve seen many false prophets in the world such as Mohammed, Jim Jones, Harold Camping, Joseph Smith, and others, we do find a last day prophet who clearly had a gift from God. But, don’t just take anyone’s word for it. See for yourself. Test her experience and writings by the Bible. In the year 1844, just after the experience of the “Great Disappointment” when the 2300 year prophecy had come to its end, God raised up someone with the gift of prophecy to give sound judgment and guidance to His people in the Last Days. Her name was Ellen Harmon. She later married a young minister by the name of James White. Her name became known as Ellen G. White. Although many commandment-breaking people have tried to criticize her, her life work and incredibly uplifting spiritual writings cannot be denied or written off. They stand the test of time. Ellen wrote over 10,000 pages of manuscript during her life. She ministered for 70 years and lived and worked on three different continents during her lifetime (North America, Europe, and Australia). At the young age of 17 she saw her first vision to encourage God’s people. She later married her husband, James. During her lifetime she saw over an estimated 2000 visions from God; a number of things she saw are recorded in her writings. Ellen lived from 1827, born in Gorham, Maine (USA) until 1915, when she died peacefully at her California residence “Elmshaven.” She was a well respected servant of God until the very end!*

***Ellen White never called herself a prophet**, but she did not object to those who did. She simply and humbly referred to herself as “a messenger of the Lord.” **Her writings were never given to take the place of the Bible!** She said this numerous times throughout her writings and she scolded anyone who misused her writings in that way. She said that her writings were simply “**a lesser light to lead people to the greater light [the Bible].**” The writings of Ellen G. White always appeal to “the Bible and the Bible only” as the true source for all of our beliefs and teachings. Her writings quote very heavily from the Bible and tend to point out the most amazing Bible teachings. She wrote on many topics like health, education, the Bible, history, prophecy, Evangelism, Christian business principles, the right use of the voice for speaking and singing, marriage and dating relationships, etc. etc. When you read from her writings you will find that your heart is uplifted to love Jesus more, and to respect, love, and follow the Bible more sincerely!*

*In Ellen’s young life she suffered from a terrible accident. While still in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of elementary school, a young school mate angrily threw a rock at her back. Ellen turned around just in time for the rock to hit her face. She suffered many things from that experience and could not continue her schooling due to poor health. She had to give up her formal education from the third grade and onward. By God’s grace, He enabled her to become a*

*great author and church leader in His service. Her writings all bear the mark of literary excellence!! She became a well read and able writer, in spite of never attending any formal schools after the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.*

*Although some of Ellen's critics suggest that she only claimed to see some visions because of her injury at a young age, an overall study of her life and writings will prove such a notion to be entirely wrong. Ellen's writings are so incredibly sound, well reasoned, and educated, you could not possibly attribute them to some kind of delusional authorship. Not only that, but she was also married for many years to a very influential and capable minister (Pastor) and author. In the end, she even outlived her husband. Beyond that, many people (even skeptics) witnessed seeing her in vision and were convinced of the reality of the situation. They were also convinced by realizing the things she saw in vision were a reality. By the wisdom and guidance God gave to this woman, the Seventh-day Adventist church has become what it is today; A whole network of churches, school systems—from kindergarten through doctoral studies, and hospitals and medical work; A world-wide church with currently over 16 million members world-wide (in nearly every country of the world). No other church, besides the Catholic Church, has as many schools and hospitals around the world, as does the Seventh-day Adventist church. Without the early wisdom and guidance of God through Ellen White, this would not have happened.*

*Ellen is one of the most translated female authors of all times! And certainly the most successful female author from the 1800's! Her writings have been a source of blessing to millions of people—both Adventist and non-Adventist people alike. Her great book on the life of Christ, "The Desire of Ages" is one of the most highly respected and asked for books on Christ's life at the Library of Congress in the United States. One famous radio spokes person, Paul Harvey, said about Ellen White, "You don't know her? Then get to know her!" Generally it seems, those who have had a real dislike for Ellen White are those who disagree with the Bible's teaching of the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath and the like (a teaching which she fully supports, as do all the Bible prophets themselves). As you may have noticed from our Bible lessons together, we've never appealed to Ellen White for any answers to our Bible questions or teachings. We want to get all our fundamental beliefs straight from the Bible! In our lessons, we've only uplifted Jesus Christ and His word as our great standard and authority! We want a Bible religion!! Ellen White and her writings do the same!! The least we can do is to see what she has to say for us in her writings, and then test it by the Bible! See for yourself if God has or has not sent us a very special blessing in her counsels!*

## **Did Ellen White Pass the Bible tests of a true prophet?**

### **1. Test #1: Must believe in and lift up Jesus Christ—The Divine Son of God (1 John 4:1,2)**

- a. Continually you will find this to be the case in Ellen's personal life and writings. Listen to some of her words about Jesus: "Christ is the preexistent, self-existent Son of God.... The Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father" (*The Faith I live By*, p.46).

"Search the Bible, for it tells you of Jesus. I want you to read the Bible and see the matchless charms of Jesus. I want you to fall in love with the Man of Calvary, so that at every step you can say to the world, His 'ways are ways of pleasantness, and all' His 'paths are peace" (*In Heavenly Places*, p.354).

### **2. Test #2: Must uplift, live by, and support the Bible (Isaiah 8:20)**

- a. Ellen White always pointed people back to the Bible as the place where they should get their beliefs. “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” (*The Great Controversy*, p. vii).

She viewed her writings as a way to lead people back to the Bible and its teachings; and not ever to take the place of the Bible. “The Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light” (*Review and Herald*, January 20, 1903).

**3. Test #3: If a true prophet writes some predictions, they must come to pass** (Deuteronomy 18:22)

- a. In 1904 she wrote, “Soon great trouble will arise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes” (*Review and Herald*, February 11, 1904). Shortly after this time some of the worst wars in history began to break out.

Ellen White was light years ahead of “modern science” on her counsel in regard to health. At a time when some physicians were telling people to use tobacco smoke as a cure for emphysema, she counseled, “Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison” (Ms 29, 1886, pp.1-4. “Gaining a Fitness for Heaven,” Talk at Nimes, France, October 31, 1886).

**4. Test #4: A true prophet must reveal the fruit of a true Christian life, and also have the effect to lead people closer to Jesus and the Bible** (Matthew 7:20)

- a. Ellen White was respected as a true Christian by even those who were not of her faith. Her ministry as a servant of God lasted for more than seventy years and her life was wide open for inspection. Here is what a secular newspaper published about her.

“The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by all... She was a humble, devout disciple of Christ, and ever went about doing good... honored and respected by all who appreciate noble womanhood, consecrated to unselfish labor for the uplifting and betterment of mankind” (*Saint Helena Star*, St. Helena, California, July 23, 1915).

She has been widely respected by people of many faiths. The fruit of her life work has brought many souls closer to Jesus and to a much greater understanding, and closer study of the Bible!

If you would like to find more good information about the life and writings of Ellen G. White you may visit the website, [www.ellengwhitetruth.com](http://www.ellengwhitetruth.com), which is sponsored by *Amazing Facts Inc.*, an excellent world-wide Christian ministry based out of Roseville, California (USA).