

## What does the Bible say about Prophets in the Last days?

1. **Why does God send prophets to His people?** (Amos 3:7; Deuteronomy 18:15-18)
2. **Do Jesus and the other Bible writers warn us to watch out for false prophets?** (Matthew 24:24; 1 John 4:1) *Does Jesus say there would be no true prophets, or, just to look out for the false ones? Does John say to reject every one and anyone who claims to have that gift? Or should we “test the spirits”?*
3. **Were there prophets in the early church?** (Acts 11:28; 13:1; 21:8-10)
4. **Does God promise there would be prophets in the last days?** (Acts 2:17,18) *Would there be only male prophets or also female? (see also Luke 2:36; Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14).*
5. **Is the gift of prophecy one of the Spiritual gifts that Jesus promised to give to some leaders in His church?** (Ephesians 4:8, 11-13) *What is the purpose of this gift; what should it produce in the church? \_\_\_\_\_ Do we still need pastors and teachers today? \_\_\_\_\_ Prophets? Is prophecy among the spiritual gifts that God wants to give to His people?* (1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30). *Should Jesus’ church be deprived of such gifts as they await the second coming of Christ? (1 Corinthians 1:6,7)*
6. **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\_\_\_\_\_.”*
7. **Does the Bible mention about God’s last day church (after the 1260 years) being blessed with the prophetic gift?** (Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 22:8,9)
8. **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)
- 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!*
- 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).*
- 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!*

**Heart Question (s):**

**Does it seem clear to you that God gives the spiritual gift of prophecy (among other gifts) to His church (even in the last days)?** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Are you willing to follow the Bible’s command to “test all things and hold fast that which is good”?*** \_\_\_\_\_ (ref. 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

## The Gift of Prophecy Supplement on Ellen G. White

**Intro:** *Who is Ellen G. White, and what is she all about? Was she a faithful messenger of God, and perhaps even a prophet in the last days? Below we'll look at some facts, figures, and history about Ellen White.*

- She was one of the three founding members of the Seventh-day Adventist movement; the other two were James White (her husband), and Joseph Bates.
- As a young girl she was part of the “Advent Movement” which took place among a number of Christians in the 1840’s. Before this time, her family and she were members of the Methodist church.
- She experienced the “Great Disappointment of 1844” which the other Millerite “Adventists” had also gone through. *Note: William Miller was a Baptist Christian and a farmer who studied diligently the prophecies of the Book of Daniel. He, along with many others believed that Jesus was coming back in 1844 at the end of the 2300 year prophecy of Daniel 8:14. When Jesus did not return at that time, the people were very disheartened, but some of them continued to study their Bibles to discover how they had misunderstood the prophecy.*
- Ellen’s maiden name was Harmon (Ellen Harmon). At 17 years old, in December of 1844, two months after the “Great Disappointment,” Ellen received a vision from God that encouraged the Adventist people who had been so terribly disappointed. At first, when Ellen had received this vision, she did not want to share about it with anyone. She was afraid of how people might treat her, or perhaps they wouldn’t believe her. She tried to keep from telling about it, but she finally felt so convicted about it that she had to share it with others. A short time after this, she was married to a young Minister by the name of James White (August 30, 1846).
- Ellen’s formal education had only been up to the third grade. She had an unfortunate accident when she was young that prevented her from attending school past that time. Yet, in her life ministry of just over 70 years, she was able to write over 10,000 pages of manuscript on topics such as health, education, History, Bible prophecy, and Bible commentary. Some book titles include; the Desire of Ages, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, Steps to Christ, Christ’s Object Lessons, Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, Acts of the Apostles, The Great Controversy, Ministry of Healing, Counsels to Parents and Teachers, Education, Testimonies for the Church (9 volumes). These books help people to understand the Bible’s teachings better, and to live more productive Christian lives. None of them were ever meant to take the Bible’s place, and should not. These writings only point people back to the Bible’s teachings, and truly help people to study their Bible’s more closely!
- During her lifetime she received over 2000 visions and dreams. Many of these were in regards to specific situations within the church and also regarding some certain life situations with a number of different individuals who she met throughout her years. She gave counsel to people in regards to marriage and courtship, personal struggles with sin, church leadership decisions,

etc. Because of her work, the Adventist church has become what it is today. Without her counsels the SDA church would not have the same worldwide influence with the publishing work, world-wide church work, worldwide educational systems, and hospital systems. The SDA church today has more hospitals, and schools worldwide than another other Christian church besides the Catholic Church. The SDA church is established in more countries than any other protestant denomination.

- During her lifetime, Ellen White traveled to and lived in many different states throughout the US. She lived in Maine, Michigan, Texas, and California. She also spent time in Europe and Australia. She lived in Australia for nearly 10 years. After that, she returned to St. Helena, California (USA) where she spent her retirement years and finally passed away in 1915.
- Today she has become one of the most widely translated female authors of all time. Her book *Desire of Ages*, which covers the life of Christ, and brings out many lessons from Jesus' life and teachings as found in the four Gospels, has become a favorite of many! It is one of the most esteemed books on the life of Christ in the US Library of Congress. Today, some of her books can even be purchased through Barnes and Nobles booksellers. Many have come to love and appreciate her writings as a helpful Bible and spiritual resource in their Christian life. Even people not of the Adventist church recognized the divine gift within her.
- During Ellen's life and in her writings, she never called herself a prophet of God, but did not object to some calling her by that name. She simply referred to herself as a "messenger for the Lord."

## 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 it’s 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!

## Ellen White and her Critics

As a public figure in the divided Christian world, Ellen White is not without her critics either. Some criticize from the erroneous and ignorant belief that God would never send any more prophets to his church since the time of the first century. Others criticize because they do not agree with her biblical beliefs in the 7<sup>th</sup> day Bible Sabbath. Since she supported this Bible teaching, they must automatically try to discredit her as not having any prophetic gift—otherwise, they would have to admit that we should all be keeping the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment as it reads (Exodus 20:8-11). For those who disagree with her biblical teachings, they would not want to accept her as a messenger of God.

**If you read about the Bible prophets you will notice several things. They all uplifted the word of God, the Ten Commandments, and they called people back to God. When their words did not go in the way of the popular, but false practices of the people, they were often hated.** You will notice in the Bible that Nehemiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah were all calling people back to observance of the Bible Sabbath (Nehemiah 13:15; Isaiah 56:2; Jeremiah 17:21; Ezekiel 22:8,26). The messages of these prophets were often not popular with many people who were being disobedient to these commands. Often, they were hated, tortured, and even stoned to death (Jeremiah 37:15; Matthew 23:37). People still throw their verbal stones at a true messenger of the Lord today when they do not like their message.

Some have accused Ellen White of plagiarism in an attempt to discredit her as an honest person. What we can find in some of her writings is some information from other authors, in some places where she borrowed ideas, but rephrased in a similar way, with some of her own words. Of course this is in only some places where she borrowed some ideas. The vast majority of her writings are entirely from her own pen. In other places she refers to direct quotes from various authors, and the reference is clearly cited. Credit is fully given. Those who have thoroughly investigated this charge of plagiarism in an honest way have found that she did not do anything that would constitute an act of plagiaristic writing, especially by the terms of 19<sup>th</sup> Century plagiarism law.

In the early days of the Christian faith some of the “unbelieving Jews stirred up the minds of the Gentiles, and made them evil affected against the brethren” (Acts 14:2). This, the devil would always try to do towards any good message that God has for us. We must let truth speak for itself! God will show us what is clearly right. “If any man will do His will, he will know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or

whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17), Jesus said. Let us test everything by the Bible and Jesus will teach us what is good for us.

**For further information about Ellen White, please visit [www.Ellenwhitetruth.com](http://www.Ellenwhitetruth.com)** . This website was put together by the Amazing Facts Christian ministry in Roseville, California, and it gives many helpful resources in answer to questions that people may have about this author and figure.