

A Bible Prophecy Series

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Wizards, Psychics, and Prophets Lesson #19

Introduction:

Many people wonder, does the Bible speak of prophets and miracles in the last days? Let's go to the Bible, our source of authority, for the answers. Let's pray.

1. **What did Jesus say about this subject?** - Matthew 24:24
Notice what Jesus didn't say. He did not say beware of prophets, He said beware of false prophets indicating there must also be true prophets. After all, God speaks to His church through prophets (Amos 3:7)
2. **Should we disregard anybody who claims to be a prophet?** – 1 John 4:1
We are not told to disregard them we are told to try them. We've seen where false prophets like David Koresh, Jim Jones, the Heaven's Gate cult, etc... have led people. We need to be extremely cautious about anyone claiming to be a prophet, we must try them to see if they are from God.
3. **Shouldn't we then reject all prophets?** - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
If the devil can get us to follow a false prophet he has succeeded. If the devil can get us to reject all prophets, he has succeeded. We must know how to accept the true and reject the false.
4. **What are the unclean things?** – 2 Corinthians 7:1
We are to be cleansed of filthy things that are of the flesh (physical things) and of the Spirit (things that are spiritually unclean).
5. **Who will have the testimony of Jesus and what is it?** - Revelation 12:17, 19:10
God's remnant church will have the testimony of Jesus Christ which is the spirit of prophecy. This is the gift of and understanding of prophecy.
6. **Who are these brethren?** – Revelation 22:8, 9
John falls before the angel to worship and the angel tells him not to do this. He is a created being just like John and is his fellow servant and his brother "the prophet". According to verse 9 these brethren are the prophets.
7. **Did Paul predict that the gift of the testimony of Jess would be in the church down to the end?** - 1 Corinthians 1:5-7
If God thought the early church needed prophets, how much more does the last day church? Acts 13:1, 15:32, 21:8-9 are examples of prophets in the early church which even included women prophets.

8. **Why don't we see many true prophets today?** - Jeremiah 26:4-6
Obedience to God's law is connected to prophets. Prophets bring us back to God, if people do not listen to prophets and the law, God cannot bless them.
Proverbs 29:18 – People perish when God ceases to send visions to the prophets, but happy is he that listens and keeps the law.
Ezekiel 7:26 – Again when the law was rebelled against, they lost the true gift of prophecy.
We do not see much of the gift of prophecy today because churches teach God's law doesn't need to be kept.
Ezekiel 20:3, 11-13 - When we reject the seventh-day Sabbath God will not be inquired of through His prophets just as in Bible times.
Revelation 12:17 tells us God's last day remnant people will manifest to them the testimony of Jesus Christ (the spirit of prophecy) because they keep His commandments.
10. **How does God speak to a prophet?** - Numbers 12:6, 8
God's speaks to prophets in visions, dreams, or face to face.
11. **What are the physical evidences of a true prophet in vision?**
A – Daniel 10:8 – Will initially lose physical strength.
B – Daniel 10:18, 19 – May later receive supernatural strength.
C – Daniel 10:17 – No breath in body.
D – Daniel 10:16 – Able to speak.
E – Daniel 10:5-8, 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 – Won't be aware of earthly surroundings.
F – Numbers 24:4 - Eyes will be open.
Though the preceding six Bible points are physical evidences of a true prophet in vision, not all of them always appear together, a prophet's vision may be genuine without manifesting all six evidences.
12. **Are miracles proof that a prophet is of God?** - Revelation 16:14
No, we must remember the devil and his angels are capable of performing miracles too. Our only safety is to test everything from the Bible (Is. 8:20). If the prophet's teachings and behavior contradict the Bible it is because there is no light in them.
13. **What types of false prophets are named and condemned in the Bible?**
Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Revelation 21:8
A. Charmer – One who casts spells or uses charms.
B. Observer of times – Astrologer.
C. Sorcerer – One who claims to contact the spirits of the dead.
D. Consulter with familiar spirits – Medium, or channeler.
E. User of divination – Fortune teller.
F. Enchanter – Same as a charmer.
G. Necromancer – Another name for sorcerer
H. Witch – Female psychic.

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I. Wizard – Male psychic.

Crystal balls, palm reading, leaf deciphering, astrology, and talking with supposed spirits of the dead are not God's ways of communicating with His people.

14. **Is this gift seen in the remnant church?**

In the history of this church God gave Ellen White the gift of the spirit of prophecy. Although she never claimed herself to be a prophet, she humbly called herself "a servant of God". Even people outside the Adventist church the divine gift within her. But before we proceed let's look at the tests of a true prophet and then apply them to the life of Ellen White and see if she passes the Bible tests. Both men and women will prophecy in the last days (Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17).

15. **What are the tests of a true prophet?**

Test #1 – 1 John 4:1, 2 – A prophet must confess Jesus

Ellen G. White 1827-1915

 not deny Jesus divinity or claim they are Christ like so many false prophets did to do.

Did Ellen White pass this test – Ellen White wrote

"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 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).

Test #2 – Isaiah 8:20 – The prophets must agree with the Scripture. They must not teach people to disobey God's law. Ellen White pointed people back to the Bible for the source of all their doctrines.

Did Ellen White pass this test – "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 saw her writings and work as a way to lead people back to the Bible and not 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).

Test #3 – Jeremiah 28:8, 9 – A prophet's predictions must come to pass.

Did Ellen White pass this test – Ellen White wrote on current events, health and science, education, and numerous other subjects. In 1904 she wrote, "Soon the great trouble will arise among the nations – trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes" (Review and Herald, February 11, 1904). Shortly thereafter, the world's fiercest wars began to break out.

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Modern science is still learning that Ellen White was light years ahead by the insights God gave her on how to maintain health. During a time when physicians prescribed tobacco smoke for people with emphysema, Ellen White 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)

Test #4 – Matthew 7:20 You will know a true prophet by the fruit of their life. Do they live a life consistent with Christian teaching?

Did Ellen White pass this test – Even those not of her faith recognized Ellen White was a true Christian. She ministered as God’s servant for more than seventy years and her life was open for inspection. Listen to what a secular newspaper published about her.

“The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by al... 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).

Ellen White is a person who is respected by people of many faiths. Paul Harvey mentioned her often with great respect. The Library of Congress lists her monumental book on the life of Jesus as one of the top books on Christ.

Adventists’ beliefs are all based on the Bible. You will notice that in our studies I’ve never appealed to Ellen White to prove what the Bible teaches. Mrs. White herself taught we should make sure we get our doctrines from the Bible and not extra biblical writings. Her role was simply to instruct, build the work of God, and reprove the church when it tended to stray. Her influence has helped the remnant church grow into a worldwide church.

Some of Ellen White’s most popular books are Steps to Christ, The desire of Ages, Counsels on Health and Diet, and Education are held in high regard by universities and point a person only to Christ and to a healthy life. I would encourage you to obtain a copy of Steps to Christ and see for yourself if it does not lead you to the Bible and into a deep relationship with Jesus.

16. **What advice does the Bible give regarding prophets?** – 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 We need to test all who make this claim and hold fast to those that pass the test and reject those who don’t. God will have prophets in the last days that testify of Him.

Conclusion:

Are you willing to follow Jesus instruction and test modern prophets by the Bible and follow the counsel of those who agree with Scripture? Let’s pray and once again thank God for guiding us through the Scriptures and ask for His continual guidance.