



Revelation's Prophetic Movement at the End Time

23

We're witnessing a phenomenal explosion of interest in psychic phenomena today. There's a great fascination with the occult and astrology. More than 2000 of our leading newspapers carry astrology columns. Any bookstore offers scores of books on so-called supernatural revelations. Some have become bestsellers. Ruth Montgomery's book, *The Gift of Prophecy*, on the life of Jeanne Dixon sold more than a million copies. *The Sleeping Prophet*, a book on the life of psychic Edgar Cayce, continues to generate phenomenal sales. As we approach history's crisis hour, people seek answers outside themselves. But this desire carries certain risks: Some voices speak with great certainty—and lead people off a cliff. How do we know which ones to listen to? How can we be sure a prophet or a voice from beyond is genuine?

Jesus warned: "FALSE christs and FALSE prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to *deceive*, if possible, even the elect. . . . Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." **Matthew 24:24 & 7:15**. False prophets and astrologers and psychics are all around us today as a sign of the last generation. Satan has attempted to counterfeit the genuine gift of prophecy by raising up false prophets. The existence of a counterfeit indicates there must be a genuine. Ever see a counterfeit thirty-dollar bill? No counterfeiter bothers making *thirty-dollar bills* because there ARE no thirty-dollar bills in circulation! Counterfeiters imitate the real thing. And Jesus' warning against *false* prophets in these last days implies there must be an *authentic* manifestation of the gift of prophecy. If not, He'd simply tell us *never* to listen to anyone claiming to be a prophet, for there'd be none.

But instead of the gift of prophecy *ceasing* in Bible times, God actually PREDICTS the manifestation of this gift in these last days! **Ephesians 4:8, 11-13** tells us that when Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave special "GIFTS to men." Among those gifts was the gift of prophecy. It's purpose, according to this passage, was to perfect a people and prepare a church for Christ's Coming. And those gifts remain in God's church "TILL we all come to the unity of the faith . . . to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." That continual process of growth doesn't end until Jesus returns. That's why Paul wrote these words in **1 Corinthians 1:7**: "So that ye *come behind in no gift*; waiting for the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Testimony of Jesus = The Spirit of Prophecy: The Bible predicts that the prophetic gift will be restored in the last days within God's true church. **Revelation 12:17** says, "The dragon [Satan] was enraged with the woman [the church], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have *the testimony of Jesus Christ*." We know what "the commandments of God" are, but what is "the testimony of Jesus"? **Revelation 19:10** tells us plainly: "*the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*." The prophetic gift will be restored in God's last-day church, His remnant church.

Prophets receive messages in two basic ways: (1) An angel brings them a VISION while awake or a DREAM while asleep—**Numbers 12:6 & Revelation 1:1**. Or (2) The Holy Spirit

Revelation of Hope

impresses their minds, revealing to them heaven's Truth. True prophets don't teach their *own* ideas—they're heaven's messengers, part of God's channel of communication.

Not all prophets of God wrote BOOKS included in our BIBLE: For example, *Enoch* and *Elijah* did not contribute to the written Bible, but they served as God's prophets (**Jude 14 & 1 Kings 18:36**). There's no book of the Bible by *John the Baptist*—yet Jesus said in **Luke 7:28** there was never a greater prophet than the Baptist. Numerous *other* examples make the same point—such as *Abraham*, **Genesis 20:7**; *Nathan*, **1 Kings 1:34**; *Zacharias*, **Luke 1:67**; *Agabus*, **Acts 11:27-28**; *Silas*, **Acts 15:32**; *etc.*

God used WOMEN as well as men in the prophetic role: Bible examples of this fact are Moses' sister, "*Miriam* the prophetess," **Exodus 15:20**. *Deborah* was a prophetess in Old Testament times, **Judges 4:4**. *Anna* was a prophetess in the New Testament who saw the baby Jesus, **Luke 2:36**. And **Acts 21:8-9** mentions the *four daughters of Philip* who served as prophetesses to the church. Other examples are seen in **2 Kings 22:14** or **2 Chronicles 34:22**, **Nehemiah 6:14**, and **Isaiah 8:3**. See also **Joel 2:28-29 & Acts 2:17-18**. So perhaps we could say that God shows no partiality but is "*an equal-opportunity Employer.*"

The Bible actually gives us SIX SPECIFIC TESTS of a true prophet. Let's consider them at least briefly, for it's vital to test everything by God's Word.

1st TEST of a True Prophet: Accuracy. A true prophet must be 100 percent accurate. Some prophecies are conditional—like *Jonah's*, their fulfillment depends on how people respond to them. But otherwise prophecies must be 100 percent accurate. A true prophet's predictions *always* come to pass. There's no guessing involved. **Jeremiah 28:9**: "When the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent." Even the leading psychics have a very poor record here. We could do better just *guessing*. But the true gift of prophecy is 100 percent accurate 100 percent of the time.

2nd TEST of a True Prophet: Faithfulness to God and His Word. A true prophet always leads people to God and His teachings, never away. **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** condemns those prophets who say, " 'Let us go after other gods . . . and let us serve them,' you shall *not listen* to the words of *that* prophet. . . . [He] shall be put to death." A true prophet's writings always agree with the Bible. Read the entire writings of Ellen White, and you'll not find a single contradiction to God's Word.

3rd TEST of a True Prophet: A true prophet always exalts the law of God. He or she always calls people to obedience. **Isaiah 8:20** points us "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to THIS word, it is because there is NO LIGHT in them." True prophets *uphold* God's moral principles. Bible prophets were raised up in periods of apostasy to call people back to God and His commandments. *Elijah* called Israel back from idolatry, back from sun worship. *Nehemiah* called for a reform in Sabbath keeping. *John the Baptist* challenged Herod to repent of his adultery. EVERY biblical prophet exalted God's law, and that's what Ellen White did in her speaking and her writing.

4th TEST of a True Prophet: The true prophet's central focus should be Jesus. Christ should be exalted. Many so-called prophets today end up exalting themselves more than Jesus. What about Ellen White? Throughout her ministry, she magnified the name of Christ in a very marked way.

5th TEST of a True Prophet: Physical phenomena. THREE PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS help us distinguish the genuine gift from the false: (A) True prophets experience visions with their eyes open—their eyes remain *unblinkingly open* throughout the vision. **Numbers 24:3-4, 15-16**. (B) In

vision, true prophets have *no physical strength*. **Daniel 10:8.** (C) True prophets, while in vision, *do not breathe*. **Daniel 10:17.** Sometimes Ellen White's visions lasted for hours, sometimes only for minutes, but the physical phenomena surrounding her visions give evidence that they were supernatural.

6th TEST of a True Prophet: Jesus gave a very simple but profound test in **Matthew 7:20:** "By their FRUITS you will know them." True prophets are known "by their *fruits*"—by the *results* of his or her ministry, by its *impact* on people's lives. That is the acid test.

#23 - Revelation's Prophetic Movement at the End Time

"IT IS WRITTEN . . ."

Amos 3:7	God reveals Himself through His prophets.
Numbers 12:6	VISIONS and DREAMS are one way God communicates His will.
Revelation 12:17	The dragon makes war with the REMNANT who keep God's commandments and have "the testimony of Jesus."
Revelation 19:10	The TESTIMONY of Jesus is the gift of prophecy.
Revelation 22:6 & 9	The angel appearing to John was the angel of prophecy. That same angel appears in the last days.
Ephesians 4:8, 11-15	One of Jesus' gifts is the gift of prophecy. Like His other gifts, this one remains in the church until the end.
1 Corinthians 1:4-7	The church waiting for Jesus' coming will "come behind in NO gift."
1 John 4:1	The Bible invites us to "test the spirits." Each prophetic manifestation must meet the Bible tests of a true prophet. (See also Matthew 24:5, 11, 24.)

Tests of a True Prophet

Deuteronomy 13:1-4	True prophets always lead to FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE to God's will.
Jeremiah 28:8-9	The prophecies of the Lord's true prophets, when they are not conditional, ALWAYS come to pass—for God doesn't make mistakes!
Isaiah 8:19-20	God directs us to the law and the testimony, if prophets speak not according to <i>this</i> word—His Word, the Bible—there is NO LIGHT in them!
Ezekiel 7:26	When they disobey the law, God removes the vision.
Lamentations 2:9	LAW and PROPHETS go together: no law, no prophets or visions.
1 John 4:1-3	True prophets place emphasis on the centrality and divinity of JESUS CHRIST.
Daniel 10:17	While in vision, a true prophet does not breathe.
Matthew 7:15-20	The FRUITS of prophets' lives reveal their divine credentials.
2 Chronicles 20:20	Believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.
1 Cor. 12:27-28	God places true prophets in His church keeping His commandments to guide it through crises. Just as He sent John the Baptist to His people to prepare them for the FIRST Coming of Jesus, He promises that His LAST-DAY commandment-keeping church would be blessed by the Gift of Prophecy.

Revelation of Hope

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the genuine Gift of Prophecy was manifested in the church through the writings of Ellen G. White. *Her writings do not in any way take the place of the Bible.* They're a fulfillment of **Revelation 12:17** which declares the Gift of Prophecy WILL be manifested in God's last-day church. Her writings pass the critical Biblical tests of a true prophet.

Quick Quiz

#23 - Revelation's Prophetic Movement at the End Time

1. T F In sharp contrast to false prophets or phony psychics, one test of a true prophet is that his predictions, when they're not conditional, *always* come to pass—accuracy is 100%.

To check your answer, see Jeremiah 28:9.

2. "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; *believe* His _____, so shall ye _____."

To check your answer, see 2 Chronicles 20:20.

3. T F *No one* could be considered a true prophet of God who didn't *write* a portion of Scripture included *in the Bible*, God's Word..

To check your answer, see 1 Kings 1:10 & 18:36, Luke 1:67 & 7:28, Jude 14, etc.

4. "Beloved, believe *not* _____ spirit, but *try [or test] the spirits* whether they are of God: because many _____ prophets are gone out into the world."

To check your answer, see 1 John 4:1.

5. T F The Bible says we should *not despise* prophesying but that we should PROVE or TEST everything by God's Word—if it checks out as *good*, we should hold it fast.

To check your answer, see 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21.

6. The Bible says, "The dragon [Satan] was wroth [angry] with the woman [God's church], and went to make war with the remnant [the last church in the last days] of her seed, which _____ the _____ of God, AND have the _____ of Jesus Christ." **To check your answer, see Revelation 12:17.**

7. God's Word makes it quite clear that "the _____ of Jesus is the _____ of _____." **To check your answer, see Revelation 19:10.**

8. T F The Bible records many instances of God using MEN as His prophetic messengers, but He *never* used any FEMALES in that way.

To check your answer, see Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, Luke 2:36, Acts 21:8-9, etc.