

were human. But the general tendency of the life must be in harmony with the Word of God. (See Exhibit 1, Point B.)

**22. What is the fourth Bible test of a prophet? Jeremiah 28:9**

"When the word of the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."

NOTE: The final Biblical test of the prophet is fulfilled predictions. Bible prophets gave predictions that dealt with the main themes of the great controversy and salvation, not mundane things such as winning elections, astrology, etc. If the prophet predicts the future, it will come to pass. If the prophecy fails, the prophet would not be genuine. Like most Bible prophets, Ellen White did not give a lot of predictions. Her work was to edify, exhort and comfort the church. Yet there were times when she did give predictions, and on these she can be tested. Like Bible prophets, her predictions were sometimes conditional upon obedience, but her insights clearly reveal the prophetic voice speaking through her. (See Exhibit 1, Point C.)

As one examines the life and ministry of Ellen White in relationship to the four Bible tests of a prophet, it becomes very clear that she meets every one of the tests. The physical phenomena indicated that we are dealing with a supernatural force as being from God.

**23. What is the relationship of the writings of Ellen White to the Bible?**

She \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

(See Exhibit 1, Point D.)

NOTE: Perhaps the most important point of Ellen White's ministry is the fact that she consistently pointed people to Scripture. She always uplifted the Bible. The Bible predicted that this gift would come in the last days to be a tremendous blessing to the church. The evidence points out that it has come.

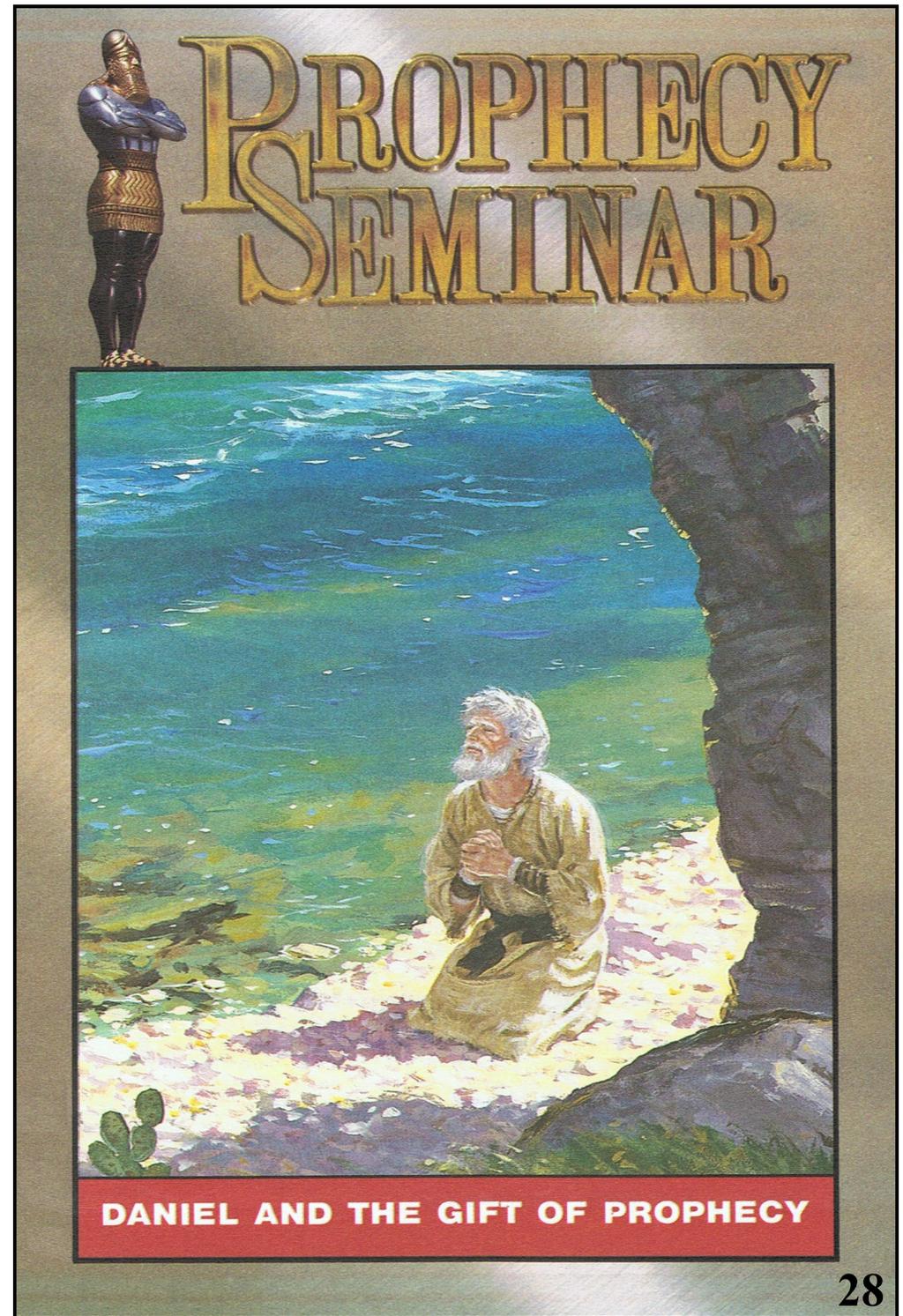
**24. Are you thankful that God has fulfilled His Word by restoring the prophetic gift to the remnant church in these last days?**

\_\_\_\_\_

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PS-28



Ever since the fall of humanity, God has communicated to us through the holy prophets. The prophet Daniel stands in direct line with many other great prophets of Scripture. The visions and dreams that Daniel saw and recorded in his book of twelve chapters are part of the collection of the prophets known as the Holy Scriptures. How thankful we are for this tremendous revelation that God has given to us in the Bible. How indebted we are to the prophets for the messages they have sent.

In this lesson, we wish to examine the gift of prophecy as it appears in the life of the prophet Daniel and in the rest of Scripture, and then discover if the gift of prophecy is still being manifested today.

## THE PROPHET DANIEL

### 1. How does God communicate to a prophet? Numbers 12:6

In \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: A dream occurs while the prophet sleeps, whereas a vision occurs while he is awake. These did not arise out of the ordinary experiences of life, but were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

### 2. Did Daniel have dreams and visions? Daniel 7:1; 8:1

\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Describe some of the physical phenomena that accompanied Daniel while in vision. Daniel 10:8, 9, 10, 17, 18

a. "No \_\_\_\_\_ remained in me."

b. "I was in a deep \_\_\_\_\_ on my face."

c. "A hand \_\_\_\_\_ me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands."

d. "Nor is any \_\_\_\_\_ left in me."

e. "The one ... \_\_\_\_\_ me."

NOTE: Certain physical phenomena accompany the prophets while in vision, demonstrating to those around them that they are receiving something that came from a supernatural source.

## THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN BIBLE TIMES

### 4. Who is the source of the messages that the prophets received in vision? 2 Peter 1:21

b. At times, like Daniel, she experienced a loss of physical strength, replaced by supernatural strength. During one vision, she held a seventeen-pound family Bible outstretched in her hand for thirty minutes. At that time, she weighed 97 pounds and was in frail health. Obviously, there was supernatural strength.

The physical phenomena accompanying the prophet indicate that there is something supernatural about their experience; however, the physical phenomena don't tell us whether the experience is from God or Satan. We must then examine the Biblical tests of a prophet to determine whether the prophet is from God or Satan.

### 19. What is the first Biblical test of a prophet? Isaiah 8:20

"To the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_!"

NOTE: The expression "the law and the testimony" was an Old Testament expression for the Bible. "The law" referred to the first five books of Moses, and "the testimony" referred to the testimony of the prophets, the rest of the Old Testament. The basic meaning of the text is that the prophet must agree with Scripture, or he is not a genuine prophet. This point must be very clear. Any person today who claims to be a prophet must be tested by Scripture. What God reveals to His prophets today will not disagree with what He has previously revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the supreme revelation. If a prophet disagrees with Scripture, that person is a false prophet. As one examines Ellen White in this area, he finds total agreement with Scripture. The student is invited to take any book written by Ellen White and examine what she says with the Bible. In every case, the student will find that Ellen White agrees with Scripture.

### 20. What is the second test of a prophet? 1 John 4:2

"Every spirit that confesses that \_\_\_\_\_  
has come in the \_\_\_\_\_ is of God."

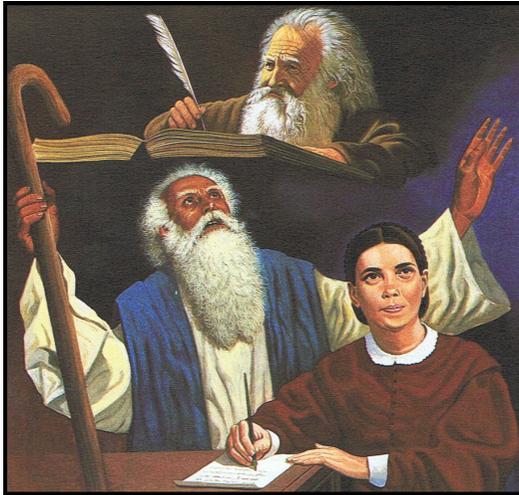
NOTE: True prophets will attest to the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ. They will elevate and exalt Jesus Christ. To test Ellen White in this area, one has only to read her books, such as **The Desire of Ages, Christ's Object Lessons, Steps to Christ, Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing**, etc., and one very quickly sees that she beautifully fulfills this test of the prophet. An example of Ellen White's constant uplifting of Jesus Christ is seen in the passage quoted in Exhibit 1, Point A. It is a passage that gives counsel to pastors on how they should preach.

### 21. What is the third Bible test of a prophet? Matthew 7:20

"By their \_\_\_\_\_ you will know them."

NOTE: The Bible prophets were not perfect, nor is any prophet perfect; they

## THE GIFT OF PROPHECY TODAY



PS-28

The Bible foretells that, in the last days before the coming of the Lord, God will raise up a remnant, a church that will keep all the commandments of God, and that will also have the gift of prophecy. In order to qualify as the remnant church, the church must have the gift of prophecy. It is one of the special marks of identification of the last-day church. The same gift that inspired the prophet Daniel will be duplicated in the end time by a restoration of the gift of prophecy to the church. Did God fulfill this prediction? Did He send the gift of prophecy to the remnant church after the darkening of the sun in 1780?

In December of 1844, a 17-year-old girl by the name of Ellen Harmon (later to become known as Ellen White), in frail health, possessing only a third-grade education, received her first vision while kneeling in prayer with a group of women in Portland, Maine. She shrank from the prospect of being called a prophet, yet she dared not be disobedient to the heavenly vision, and so she related what God had shown her. For 69 years she continued to receive visions and dreams from the Lord. She became one of the most prolific female writers in history, with over 50 books still published today. Was this a genuine or counterfeit manifestation? Was it a fulfilment of the Biblical promise that the prophetic gift would be restored to the church at the end time?

### 18. What physical phenomena accompanied Ellen White's visions?

Ellen White's experience was very similar to that of the prophet Daniel (see Question 3).

- a. She did not breathe during her visions. Sometimes her visions lasted for as long as four hours. Physicians who examined Ellen White in vision marvelled that she did not breathe, yet still lived.

"Holy men of God spoke as they were by the \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_."

### 5. Will God do anything on the earth without first telling His prophets? Amos 3:7

"Surely the Lord God does \_\_\_\_\_, unless He reveals His \_\_\_\_\_ to His servants the \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: Before God does anything of significance involving His people on the earth, He first of all reveals it to the prophets through dreams and visions. Throughout Biblical history, God spoke through a variety of individuals. Daniel was not unique in receiving the prophetic gift. God chose men, and sometimes women, such as Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Chronicles 34:22) and Anna (Luke 2:36). God chose to give the prophetic gift to those individuals who could best serve Him at the time.

As one examines the prophetic gift in Scripture, it becomes clear that there were two basic groups of prophets: **1)** Those whose written revelations are recorded in the Bible, such as Moses, Daniel and John the Revelator; **2)** Those whose writings did not form part of sacred Scripture or who only gave oral presentations, such as Enoch, Elijah, Elisha and John the Baptist, and yet these prophets were just as inspired as the other Bible prophets. Thus, people can be regarded as prophets and not have their writings regarded as a part of sacred Scripture.

### 6. What is one of the gifts that God has given to His New Testament church? Ephesians 4:11

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some \_\_\_\_\_, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers."

NOTE: The gift of being a prophet is one of the spiritual gifts that God has given the New Testament church. Do we still have evangelists, pastors and teachers today? Then why not prophets?

### 7. How long were these gifts, including the gift of being a prophet, to remain in the church? Ephesians 4:13

"Till we all come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith and of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ."

NOTE: This text makes it very clear that these spiritual gifts, including the gift of prophecy, are to remain in the church until the church reaches perfection, which will not be until the second coming of Christ. Paul's point

is very clear: as long as we are on this earth we will need all the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of prophecy.

**8. What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy? 1 Corinthians 14:3**

\_\_\_\_\_, exhortation, \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The gift of prophecy is not primarily the ability to predict the future. Many Bible prophets, such as Daniel, did predict the future, but many others did not. Their work was to edify, exhort and comfort the church. Thus, one can be a prophet without necessarily predicting the future.

## THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

**9. What counsel did the apostle Paul give the Thessalonians concerning the gift of prophecy? 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**

"Do not \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies. \_\_\_\_\_ all things; hold \_\_\_\_\_ what is good."

NOTE: If God did not plan to send prophets after Bible times, Paul would have cautioned the Thessalonians to disregard anyone in the future who would claim to have the prophetic gift. Instead, Paul tells them not to neglect the prophets, but to prove them and if they proved true, to hold fast to their teachings. Certainly Paul believed that prophets would exist in the future.

**10. What kind of prophets did Jesus warn against? Matthew 7:15**

\_\_\_\_\_ prophets.

NOTE: If there were not going to be any genuine prophets, Jesus would have warned against all prophets. The fact that He warned against false prophets indicates the presence of the genuine.

**11. Who does Malachi suggest will appear before the coming of the Lord? Malachi 4:5**

"I will send you \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

NOTE: Connected with the coming of Elijah is the gift of prophecy. It is not simply Elijah, but Elijah the prophet, who is to come before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

**12. What great revival of the prophetic gift did the prophet Joel foresee? Joel 2:28-30**

"Your sons and your daughters shall \_\_\_\_\_, your old men shall dream \_\_\_\_\_, your young men shall see \_\_\_\_\_."

**13. At what time will this great prophetic outpouring take place? Joel 2:31**

"The sun shall be turned into \_\_\_\_\_, ... Before the coming of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ day of the LORD."

NOTE: Joel predicted that sometime after the darkening of the sun, which was fulfilled on May 19, 1780 (see Lesson 23), and before the coming of the Lord, this great prophetic gift would be restored to the church.

**14. In what group of people would the prophetic gift appear at this time? Joel 2:28-32**

"Among the \_\_\_\_\_ whom the LORD calls."

**15. What are two key Bible identification points of the remnant? Revelation 12:17**

- a. Keep the \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Have the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Joel predicted that the remnant church would have the gift of prophecy. One of the identifying marks of the remnant church, according to Revelation 12:17, is that they not only keep the commandments of God, but that they also have the testimony of Jesus.

**16. What is the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 19:10**

"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_."

**17. Is the spirit of prophecy and prophets the same thing? Compare Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9**

"I am ... of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus." 19:10.

"I am ... of your brethren the \_\_\_\_\_" 22:9.

NOTE: Revelation 19:10 and 22:9 are identical, except that Revelation 19:10 refers to the spirit of prophecy, and Revelation 22:9 calls them prophets. Thus, one of the marks that identifies the remnant church is that it will have the gift of prophecy.