



PROPHETS: True or False?



A Unit on the Spirit of Prophecy By Rebecca K. Fraker





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Preface: My Own Story

It seems like a very short time, but it has now been over three decades since Jesus got my attention and I got pointed in the right direction. I can say whole-heartedly that even if an eternity in Heaven were not waiting for me, I would still praise the Lord with all my soul for the years spent on this earth with Him. I cannot imagine what a horrible, twisted mess my life would be had I spent it outside the sheepfold.

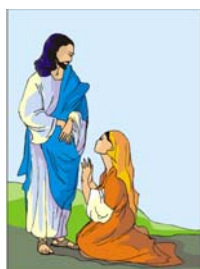
Each of us has her own story of conversion. I am convinced that Jesus designed it that way, so that each of us can add one little unique dot of paint on the portrait that is our Savior.



As far back as I can remember, I had trouble sleeping. I was afraid of the dark, and often spent the night with the light on and a shotgun loaded and ready in my closet. I had good reason for those terrors, which I will not elaborate on. I went into adulthood convinced that there was some evil, malevolent, personal entity bent on terrorizing me.

I married young, and for many months after the marriage, I was not troubled. My husband has a kind, gentle, soothing spirit. It was bliss to escape those night terrors for a while.

But then one night they came back with a vengeance. This time, though, there were not just vague shadowy fears. For three nights in a row, I felt a terrible suffocating oppression. Some entity wanted entrance to my mind. I found it difficult to breathe, and my chest felt crushed. I was terrified.



I tried to get the attention of my husband, who was lying next to me. I couldn't do it. As my mind sluggishly tried to find help, an idea formed. There was a name just out of reach that would help me. It took many minutes for that name to come to me, and more time until I could finally say it in my mind. Then there were more minutes until I could say it out loud. As my brain curled around that name, the evil began to recede, until I was free. I lay gasping.

Part of me wanted to still be afraid, but most of me felt safe and at peace. I woke up my husband and told him what had happened. Both of us had attended Sunday Schools as children, but after we were married we did not attend. Our denomination, the Evangelical United Brethren, had recently merged with the Methodists to become the United Methodists. Doctrines were changed and compromised to try to make everyone happy. Pastors were swapped. The end result had been something that neither of us was able to tolerate. We no longer went to church.





As you can imagine, I approached the next night with anxiety. Would there be a repeat of the previous night?



Soon after I fell asleep, though, I began to have the most vivid dream I had ever experienced. In it I was walking across a large, grassy field. There was a huge circle of light, and many people in it, but the circle was slowly shrinking. In order to stay in the light, a person had to keep moving toward the center of the light.

Hundreds of people were moving, but hundreds more didn't bother to move, and slowly the shadows would cover them until they were in utter darkness outside the edges of the light.



Many people encouraged each other to keep moving. I began to recognize people: my uncle, my father, my grandmother, my husband. As we came closer, the message ran through the crowd that Jesus was returning, and that we needed to get as close to the center of the light as possible. Looking up, we saw a small cloud. I put my fist up and it was about as large as my closed hand.



Now, beautiful angels appeared, encouraging us to keep our eyes on the cloud, and to keep moving toward the brightest of the light. Many of us were overjoyed as the cloud got bigger and bigger and we could see Jesus getting closer. He looked at each of us. I remember looking into His eyes, and there I saw such love and forgiveness and acceptance. He knew me down to all the depths, the real me, the me that a person keeps hidden, and yet He loved me. What joy and relief to be able to have one person who loved me knowing all things and yet not rejecting me. Years later, I would hear the Gaither song "I Am Loved" that has the line "I am loved....I can risk loving you, for the one who knows me best loves me most." That song described this experience.



I could have stared into those eyes forever, but now the angels were urging us onward. Groups began to form. One of the groups had a woman who gathered her Sunday School class around her. She told them to get out the banner that they had prepared for Jesus. When it was unfurled, it was blood red with a black dragon on it. Many of her group looked yearningly toward Jesus, but she kept telling them to follow her and the banner, and she would lead them to Jesus.

Some of us went over to this little group, and pointed them to Jesus, and tried to get them to move toward Him. But the leader kept pulling them back, and gradually the darkness swallowed them up.



I was very upset over this, and went to another group. I tried to tell this group that Jesus would soon be here, and that when He got here He was going to take those in the light along back with Him. The rest would be left in darkness and would have no other chance. But this group was busy talking about fishing trips, and vacations, and were bored with my talking. Little by little, they, too, were covered by the darkness.

Now Jesus was very close, and we could see that the "cloud" was actually a large group of angels. Frantically, we would worship Him and regain strength, and then, accompanied by angels, we would go out and try to get people to come to the light. Some came, but many did not.

The circle of light grew tighter and smaller. To stay in the light, a person had to get closer and closer to Jesus. A horrible, urgent feeling came over me, because it was evident that soon time and chances would be ending. Many of my friends and loved ones were not turning to Jesus. They would not be going along.

At one point, I turned to an angel and asked, "Tell me. Many of the people that are choosing darkness have been Christians all their lives. Like the Sunday School teacher. Why won't she come?"

The angel looked deep into my eyes, and with infinite pity and compassion said, "Some people know Jesus in their heads, but not their hearts."



At last there was no more time. Jesus stood right above the earth.

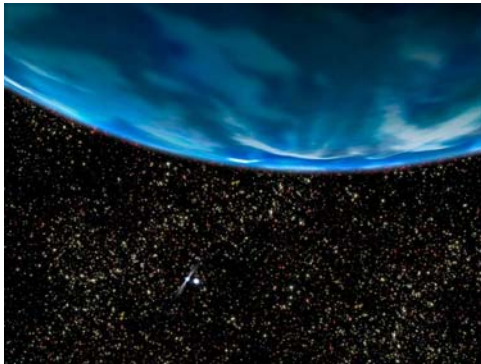
I know that there are those who think that there will be total joy when Jesus returns. But I do not think so. Because in those last few minutes on this earth, we began to realize that many of our children, our friends, our parents, our cousins would be lost forever. The agony of that loss, and the feeling that we could have---should have---done more was deeper than any feeling that I have ever had. We took one last look.

And then we turned back toward the Heavens, and as we did our old bodies dropped away, and suddenly, we were made new, and were in robes of white. Peace and joy and healing washed over us.

The angels made two glittering columns on a pathway reaching up through space. Those of us from earth began to lift off from earth, and formed an orderly procession toward the stars.



The stars were so huge, and brilliant, and the robes glistened and the faces glowed.



And then an angel told me that it was not yet time, and that I should go and tell others. I began to awaken. I began to breathe, as if I had not been breathing for a time. I fought against going back. My bedroom seemed darker than any dark I had ever experienced. It took several minutes before I felt oriented again. I had never had such a vivid, real dream before.

I went over the dream again. The angel had said go and tell others. But what was I supposed to tell? I knew nothing of Jesus' coming, other than it was supposed to happen. When a child, I used to sing the song "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" which has the line "on that bright and shining morning when the dead in Christ shall rise, and the glory of His resurrection share". But the dream sure didn't have a "bright and shining morning".

So I did my best. I shook my poor husband awake, and in the middle of the night told him every detail of the dream.

I went to my college classes the next day and proceeded to tell any one who would listen about the dream. None of us knew anything about end times. I tried to find information. I even asked two Seventh-day Adventists. But all they told me was that the dream didn't match the way Jesus would come back. (I have since made those two people apologize for not offering to give me Bible studies! I was ripe for harvesting! 😊)

Months rolled on, and I did not find any answers. Eventually, I forgot all about the dream.

Years later, faced with a boring journey, I bought a book. This book told of the adventures of a traveling missionary. He described how he tithed, and how the Lord provided for him. I was intrigued. I decided to give tithing a try, even though all I knew was that it was ten percent of something that was to go somewhere. I sent some tithes to a Bible Society and used other amounts to "do good deeds". I spent some to buy medicine for the elderly.



I began to experience tithe blessings. Intrigued, I got a Bible and tried to find out more about tithing. When the small print KJV stymied my attempts, I bought a New Testament in the newly-released New International Version. Wow! Within days of reading the gospel of John, I was so hungry for the word of God and the freedom Jesus promised that I spent all my waking hours reading the Bible.



At the end of three months, the Holy Spirit had revealed many new doctrines to me. I knew the truth about the state of the dead, hell, and baptism by immersion. Gradually my reading, viewing, and eating habits were changing. I prayed that God would lead me to the church that, doctrinally at least, had the most truth. I even knew I was looking for the Laodicean Church, which appeared to me to make Jesus want to throw up. So I wasn't looking for a church of wonderful people.

As my search progressed, I bought and read literature from dozens of denominations. Each time I would find glaring errors, doctrines that were not Biblical. At last I began to study the Seventh-day Adventists. By this time I had discovered that the Bible Sabbath was Saturday. But I was not sure if a Christian needed to observe it.

I called the local congregation and asked that a group be sent out to me. When a young couple and their son arrived, I warned them that everything they presented had better be Biblical. I had heard of Ellen White, their prophet. What I had heard was that she ended her life in a mental institution (sanitarium), and that SDA doctrine was based on her writings.

Some months of Bible studies went by. I became convinced that this SDA denomination had more Bible truth than any of the others I had studied. I was horrified. For days, on my knees beside my rocker, I begged the Lord to spare me the humiliation of having to join a group who ate rubber meat. I offered to stand on street corners and start a new church. But God remained firm. It was either this church, or the wonderful fellowship I enjoyed with Him would be marred.



I resigned myself to my fate. I asked my mentors to give me something by Ellen White to read, for I didn't want to go into this new church and be surprised later. They gave me The Desire of Ages. I read it with a Bible in the other hand. Every time a statement was made that seemed a stretch (I remember in particular the one about Judas being in charge of the money bag), I went back to the Bible until I was satisfied that the statement was Biblical. I applied every logic technique I knew.

I couldn't find anything to criticize. So it was on to more EGW books. And then one day I gasped, for I encountered her description of the small cloud as a sign of Jesus' coming. Suddenly, all the details of my long-ago dream came back. I had seen that cloud!

I read more and more of her writings. I found the descriptions of her not breathing, of the earth being so dark when she "came back", of how hard it was to get oriented again. I had experienced those things myself! I knew they were

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possible! (Today, I am convinced that God sent me an actual vision. However, to this date I have rarely told it, for I believe that the message for me was not to tell the vision, but to go and tell others that Jesus is coming soon. I am sure not a prophet! Rather than feeling “special”, I think God had to use extreme measures to get my attention!)

Now I began to attend church. Members were only too happy to loan me the Conflict of the Ages series, the Testimonies, stacks of old Reviews—you name it! I read it. I am a very fast reader. By the time I was baptized 8 months later, I had read about 28,000 pages of literature from all denominations. (My pastor asked me to count up if I could. You have probably guessed that I was unemployed and had no children at this point!)

Because I read Mrs. White's writings in one big gulp, I was able to see large and wide principles rather than narrow little proof-texts. I was trained in high school to do primary research; in other words, find out what that person actually said in context, rather than what others say about it. (I approached Bible study the same way. Read the whole book, find its time period, research the history of the era, and that way many passages become clear.)



Because of my experience, I knew that the Holy Spirit was more than willing and capable of shedding light and understanding on the Scriptures. I found the White writings to indeed be what she said: a lesser light leading to the greater light.

I found a lot of humor in her writings. I loved where she suggested that perhaps it was time that a brother be capable of asking God for a prayer answer and getting one, rather than writing and asking her to be a go-between.

I knew that the doctrines I was now embracing had not come from EGW. I got them straight from the Bible and the Holy Spirit.



I could see growth in her, from her writings in her early days, to the end of it. I could see broad principles, and I could see things that could be pulled out and misinterpreted. For instance, she warned against buying a bicycle. I know there is no sin in buying a bike. If you read further, in the context, you discover that people were jumping on the latest technology, spending huge amounts of money in proportion to their incomes, and generally being unwise financially.

I took from that warning a principle that I still apply today. I love technology, but I refrain from buying anything “new” while the old still suits me. And then I carefully analyze whether the upgrade is really worth the money. I price things not only with





the cost in cash but the cost in the time it takes me to earn the cash. Usually by the time I make a purchase, the price has come down or I can find a used one. An example would be the recent decrease in the cost of flash drives. It is now possible to get a large one for less than a fourth of the price that a smaller one cost several years ago.

When I was finally baptized, I was amazed at how many Adventists knew a few quotes of Mrs. White's (generally out of context), but had never read any book the whole way through. For that matter, I am still stunned at how many haven't read the Bible either.

Through the years I have found that Mrs. White's writings have benefited me greatly. No principle I have found and applied has ever steered me wrong.

It is my prayer that the reading of Mrs. White will bring all of us back to the Bible itself, and closer to our Lord.

Oh, and by the way, from the time I accepted Christ as my Savior, I have no longer had night terrors. Although I still frequently wake up at night because of my diabetes, I now talk to God in those times and use the time to pray until I drift off to sleep in peace.





Introduction



Sunset from my mountain

I am sitting away from my family, miles away from civilization, looking out on green hills and listening to birdsong. I have had to come here, retreating from my job and family to be alone and to seek the voice of God.

I have been praying and reading for months now. I have sought the prayer of many others. I have been given this assignment, and I don't have any ideas of my own. And so I am here, in the silence, praying.

Right now, I have no idea of how this will end. I do not consider myself an expert on this topic. There are others who are far, far more qualified. There is much better material than mine. I feel presumptuous attempting to instruct others.

Nevertheless, for some reason I have been given this task.

I think it is important in this day and age for students to learn to "try the spirits" and test new theories against the Bible teachings. So my approach to this unit is not to focus entirely on Ellen G. White as a prophet, but to expose students to prophecy through the ages, to give them tools to test self-proclaimed prophets, and finally to allow them to read some passages from Ellen White.

My prayer is that somewhere out there, something that I say will bring a teacher or a student to our great Savior.

Read your Bible. Don't settle for reading about the Bible. Don't starve while reading the menu and the meal descriptions; eat the meal itself!

Becky Fraker





Lesson One: What is a Prophet?

A. Write some short answers to the following questions.

Later, we will share.

1. What is your definition of a "prophet"?
2. How would a prophet look? (You may submit a sketch.)
3. What would a prophet do and say?
4. Name a few Bible prophets.



B. Discuss and tabulate the answers to these questions.

Can you come to an agreement about the answers? If the idea does not come up, introduce the thought that there may be more to a prophet's job than telling the future.

What is a Bible Prophet?

There are several words in the Bible that are translated "prophet". The Hebrew: **nabi** comes from a root meaning "to bubble forth, as from a fountain," hence "to utter." *Nabi* is the first and the most generally used word for a prophet.

In the time of Samuel another word, **ro'eh**, "seer", began to be used (1 Sam. 9:9). It occurs seven times in reference to Samuel. Afterwards another word, **hozeh**, "seer" (2 Sam. 24:11), was employed. In 1 Ch. 29:29 all these three words are used: "Samuel the seer (ro'eh), Nathan the prophet (nabi'), Gad the seer" (hozeh).

In Josh. 13:22 Balaam is called (Hebrew) a **kosem** "diviner," a word used only of a false prophet.

A "prophet" proclaimed the message given to him; a "seer" had a vision from God. So a prophet was a spokesman for God; he spoke in God's name and by his authority (Ex. 7:1). He is the mouth by which God speaks to men (Jer. 1:9; Isa. 51:16), and so what the prophet says is not of man but of God (2 Pet. 1:20,21). Prophets were the way that God communicated His mind and will to men (Deut. 18:18, 19).



The whole Bible is in a sense a prophecy, since it was written by men who were passing on the communications they received from God. The foretelling of future events was not a necessary thing but only a part of the prophet's job. The great task assigned to the prophets whom God raised up among the people was to correct moral and religious abuses, to proclaim the great moral and religious truths which are connected with the character of God and which lie at the foundation of his government.



A Unit on the Spirit of Prophecy



Any one being a spokesman for God to man might thus be called a prophet. So Abraham, Enoch, Moses, Miriam, Deborah, and Daniel are ranked among the prophets.

The seventy elders of Israel (Num. 11:16-29), "when the spirit rested upon them, prophesied." The title "prophet" has a general application to all who have messages from God to men. Jesus is frequently spoken of as a prophet (Luke 13:33; 24:19). He was and is the great Prophet of the Church.

A Bible prophet might have been seen as a "church officer" such as Samuel. But many prophets had other jobs: king (David), government leader (Daniel), fisherman (John), farmers, shepherds, and so on.

A Bible prophet may have written extensively, or may only be known for a few quotes. There are two books in the Bible that have Samuel's name. However, he did not write them, nor do we have any long-term prophecies about the future in them. Samuel predicts what is going to happen to King Saul, but he doesn't tell us anything about what will happen a thousand years from that time. Samuel is also a teacher and a judge.

On the other hand, Daniel writes about a vision that predicts far into the future until Jesus comes again. Daniel is an extremely skilled diplomat, known through many administrations for his integrity.





Lesson Two: The Lord God and His Prophets

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



When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in _____, I speak to him in _____.

A dream occurs while the prophet sleeps. A vision occurs while he is awake. These do not come from ordinary experiences of life but are 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

- Daniel had no _____ left.
- He fell into a deep _____, his face to the ground.
- A hand _____ him and set him trembling on his hands and knees.
- His _____ is gone.
- He _____ him.

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.

4. Who is the source of the messages that the prophets received in vision?

2 Peter 1:21

But men spoke from God as they were _____ along by the _____.



5. Will God do anything on the earth without first telling His prophets?

Amos 3:7. Surely the Sovereign Lord does _____ without revealing his _____ to his servants the _____.

Throughout Biblical history, God spoke through a variety of individuals. Daniel was not unique in receiving the prophetic gift. God chose women too, 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.





Lesson Three: Gift of Prophecy

If you look at the prophetic gift in Scripture, it becomes clear that there were two basic groups of prophets:

- I. Those whose written revelations are recorded in the Bible, such as Moses, Daniel, and John the Revelator;
- II Those whose writings did not form part of sacred Scripture or who only gave oral presentations, such as Enoch, Elijah, 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.

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

Who gave some to be apostles, some to be _____, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers . . .



The gift to be 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?

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

Until we all reach _____ in the faith and in the _____ of the Son of God and become _____, attaining to the whole measure of the _____ of Christ.

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 Jesus. 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.

3. What is the purpose of the gift of Prophecy? 1 Corinthians 14:3

_____, encouragement, and _____

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



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

Do not treat prophecies with _____,
_____ everything. Hold _____ to the good.



If God did not plan to send prophets after Bible times, Paul would have cautioned the Thessalonians to disregard anyone in the future who could claim to have the prophetic gift. Instead, Paul tells them not to treat them with contempt, but to test them, and if they prove true, to hold on to their teachings.

5. What kind of prophets did Jesus warn against? Matthew 7:15 _____

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.

6. Who does Malachi suggest will appear before the coming of the Lord?

Malachi 4:5

I will send you the prophet _____ before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

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.



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

Your sons and daughters will _____ Your old men will
dream _____ Your young men will see _____

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

The sun will be turned into _____.... before the coming of the _____
and _____ day of the Lord.

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





9. In what group of people would the prophetic gift appear at this time?

Joel 2:28-32 Among the _____ whom the LORD calls.

The survivors are the last of God's people in the last days -- the remnant.

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

- a. Those who obey God's _____ And hold to the _____ of Jesus.

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 they also hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Bible Universe at <http://www.bibleuniverse.com/> is an excellent place to explore the prophecies of the end times. Here is their account of "The Dark Day".

The Dark Day



"Almost if not altogether alone as the most mysterious and as yet unexplained phenomenon of its kind, . . . stands the dark day of May 19, 1780,--a most unaccountable darkening of the whole visible heavens and atmosphere in New England." That the darkness was not due to an eclipse is evident from the fact that the moon was then nearly full. It was not caused by clouds, or the thickness of the atmosphere, for in some localities where the darkness extended, the sky was so clear that the stars could be seen. Concerning the inability of science to assign a satisfactory cause for this manifestation, Herschel the astronomer declares: "The dark day in North America was one of those wonderful phenomena of nature which philosophy is at a loss to explain."

"The extent of the darkness was also very remarkable. It was observed at the most easterly regions of New England; westward, to the farthest part of Connecticut, and at Albany, N. Y.; to the southward, it was observed all along the sea coast; and to the north, as far as the American settlements extended. It probably far exceeded those boundaries, but the exact limits were never positively known. With regard to its duration, it continued in the neighborhood of Boston for at least fourteen or fifteen hours."

"The morning was clear and pleasant, but about eight o'clock there was observed an uncommon appearance in the sun. There were no clouds, but the air was thick, having a smoky appearance, and the sun shone with a pale, yellowish hue, but kept growing darker and darker, until it was hid from sight." There was "midnight darkness at noonday."

"The occurrence brought intense alarm and distress to multitudes of minds, as well as dismay to the whole brute creation, the fowls fleeing bewildered to their roosts,





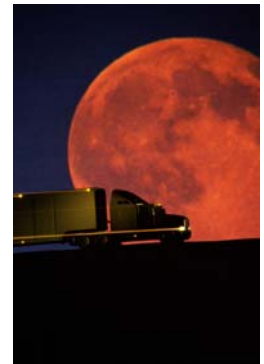
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and the birds to their nests, and the cattle returning to their stalls." Frogs and night hawks began their notes. The cocks crew as at daybreak. Farmers were forced to leave their work in the fields. Business was generally suspended, and candles were lighted in the dwellings. "The Legislature of Connecticut was in session at Hartford, but being unable to transact business adjourned. Everything bore the appearance and gloom of night."

The intense darkness of the day was succeeded, an hour or two before evening, by a partially clear sky, and the sun appeared, though it was still obscured by the black, heavy mist. But "this interval was followed by a return of the obscuration with greater density, that rendered the first half of the night hideously dark beyond all former experience of the probable million of people who saw it. From soon after sunset until midnight, no ray of light from moon or star penetrated the vault above. It was pronounced 'the blackness of darkness!'" Said an eye-witness of the scene: at the time, that if every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable darkness, or struck out of existence, the darkness could not have been more complete." Though the moon that night rose to the full, "it had not the least effect to dispel the death-like shadows." After midnight the darkness disappeared, and the moon, when first visible, had the appearance of blood.

The poet Whittier thus speaks of this memorable day:

***"'Twas on a May-day of the far old year
Seventeen hundred eighty, that there fell
Over the bloom and sweet life of the spring,
Over the fresh earth, and the heaven of noon,
A horror of great darkness."
"Men prayed, and women wept; all ears grew sharp
To hear the doom-blast of the trumpet shatter
The black sky."***



May 19, 1780, stands in history as "The Dark Day." Since the time of Moses, no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by the poet and the historian, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, recorded by the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come."
Joel 2:31.



Lesson Four: Prophets in the Bible

There are sixteen “major” prophets of the Old Testament, whose writings form part of the Bible. **These are divided into four groups:**

The prophets of the northern kingdom of Israel:

Hosea, Amos, Joel, Jonah.

The prophets of Judah:

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.

The prophets of the captivity in Babylon:

Ezekiel and Daniel.

The prophets after the return to Jerusalem:

Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

There are other prophets mentioned in the Bible. Many were important but did not write books. Their jobs were varied. Look up the story of Baby Jesus being taken to the temple to be dedicated. There is a prophecy there.

It is also probable that there were other prophets whose writings were destroyed or who did not write anything or are not mentioned in the Bible. The Bible makes references to some books that did not survive. (See the reference to Enoch in Jude 1:14).

Other People Considered Prophets

Abraham	Asaph	Barnabas	David
Deborah	Elijah	Elisha	Enoch
Jesus	John the Baptist		
Joshua	Miriam	Noah	Paul
Samuel			

Assignment: Language Arts

Look up the words **prophecy** and **prophecy**.

Write the differences in pronunciation.

What are the differences in meaning?

Use each one correctly in a sentence that shows you know the difference.





Assignment: Social Studies

Find a Bible map and mark the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Then mark Babylon. Using the list above, place the prophets in the approximate areas of their time period.

Assignment: Bible

Choose a book of the Bible that is named after a prophet. Look in the first few verses to find who the prophet is and the people he/she is writing for, where he/she is from, when he/she is prophesying, why the prophet is giving a message, and what the message is.

Write this short report as a “newspaper” article or use a recording program to tape a “radio” report about the prophet and his/her message.

Assignment: Bible

Choose a Bible prophet. Read portions of the Bible that either mention this prophet or are the prophet’s writings. Look up this prophet in the SDA Concordance. You may use other sources as well.

Write a short biography of this prophet. Include some of the jobs this prophet did.

Assignment: Art

Illustrate some scenes from one of the prophets’ lives. Elijah and Elisha have some great stories!





Lesson Five: How Do I Know A False Prophet?

Introduction:

God knew that we would need help to identify true and false prophets. We are going to look at some Bible verses that will help us "test" each person who claims to be speaking in God's name.

This lesson will probably take several class periods to do thoroughly. Divide the class into 6 groups. Give each group two of the Bible verses in the chart below. Have each group look up the verses in another version of the Bible. Copy the verses in the new version and have them ready to read. Then, go through the "tests of a prophet" one by one. After reading the verses in two versions, discuss what "test" the verse describes. Condense each one to one or two sentences. CREATE a poster-sized chart for the wall that can be used in later lessons.

<http://www.biblegateway.com/> has many different versions of the Bible available for reading and printing.

(verses are from King James Version)

Test Number One: Deuteronomy 18:21-22:	<i>"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."</i>
Test Number Two: Numbers 12:6	<i>"And he said, hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."</i>
Test Number Three: Numbers 24:4 and 16	<i>"He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open...He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:"</i>
Test Number Four: Daniel 10:17	<i>"For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me."</i>
Test Number Five: Daniel 10:18	<i>"Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me."</i>
Test Number Six:	<i>"The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of</i>



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Jeremiah 28:9	<i>the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him."</i>
Test Number Seven: 2 Peter 1:20	<i>"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."</i>
Test Number Eight: 2 Peter 1:21	<i>"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."</i>
Test Number Nine: 1 Corinthians 14:3	<i>"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."</i>
Test Number Ten: Isaiah 8:19-20	<i>"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."</i>
Test Number Eleven: 1 John 4:1-3	<i>"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world."</i>
Test Number Twelve: Matthew 7:15-16	<i>"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. . ."</i>



A Discussion of the Tests:

Test Number One: Deuteronomy 18:21-22:

"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

In other words, if a prediction a prophet makes does not come to pass, he is a false prophet. Not some predictions, but every prediction must come just as prophesied. If you check out some of "prophecies" made in the National Enquirer, you will discover that each year very few of the prophecies made (and some of them are truly bizarre) come true.

Some may say, "But what about Jonah? He prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed. He was God's prophet, but it never happened. What about that?"

God told Jonah that *if Nineveh didn't repent*, He would destroy it, but they heeded Jonah's word and they repented, so God didn't destroy it at that time. Those are known as "conditional prophecies". They are much like your mother saying "If you touch that hot stove, you will get a bad burn." If you choose to be smart and NOT touch the stove, you will not have a burn. However, if you go ahead and put your hand on that red-hot burner, you will discover that Mom is a pretty good predictor of the future!



If a person is God's prophet, that prophecy comes to pass according to the conditions given, period!

Test Number Two: Numbers 12:6

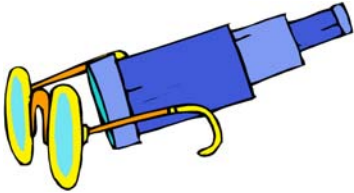
"And he said, hear now my words: if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream."

According to the Bible, a true prophet of God receives his communications from God by two distinct methods: dreams and visions. That's what the Bible says, and no further comment should really be necessary. No Bible prophet ever dug up a secret message. The only written communication ever given was the Ten Commandments, which were written by God's hand and given to Moses



Test Number Three: Numbers 24:4 and 16

"He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open...He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:"



Therefore, test number three of these divine manifestations that God gives to identify a true prophet while in vision is that their eyes can remain open in vision.

Test Number Four: Daniel 10:17

"For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me."

Another test of true prophets is that they have no breath while in vision. In other words, they don't breathe. According to scripture, this is one of the miracles God performs to identify a genuine prophet. While in vision, they don't breathe.

Test Number Five: Daniel 10:18

"Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me."

Before a vision, a prophet may be very weak in physical strength. But when taken in vision, a true prophet may suddenly receive supernatural strength.

Test Number Six: Jeremiah 28:9

"The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him."

A true prophet absolutely does not lie. His predictions will be one hundred percent fulfilled.

Test Number Seven: 2 Peter 1:20

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

A true prophet does not give his own interpretation of scripture. Every prophecy he or she proclaims will agree with already established truth. If they receive new light, it must agree with the old light God has already given. In other words, they



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will not choose a passage of the scriptures and announce that God told them "what it really means". God's laws do not change.

Test Number Eight: 2 Peter 1:21

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

So, a true prophet prophesies in the name of the Lord, not in his own name. A true prophet will manifest the fruits of that same spirit of God because he or she speaks through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Prophets will not be able to "go into a trance" or "call up a vision" on their own. Visions are given by God at the time of God's choosing.

Test Number Nine: 1 Corinthians 14:3

"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."

In other words, a true prophet gives direction to God's true church. And a true prophet's messages will cover all of these three areas: Edification -- to instruct morally; Exhortation -- this means to strongly advise; and Comfort -- to soothe in distress or sorrow, to console. All of these three things will be exemplified by a true prophet. Prophets will not manipulate their words in order to benefit themselves financially. (Although the Bible does tell us to support our ministers and workers, it does not instruct us to enable them to buy yachts or huge mansions.)



Test Number Ten: Isaiah 8:19-20

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

God gives a clear distinction between false prophets and true prophets here -- between the works of hellish darkness, and the works of heavenly light.

How could it be any plainer? God says, "To the law." What's the law? It is the ten commandment law of God, " . . . and to the testimony . . ." What's the testimony? The "testimony" is the rest of scripture. " . . . If they speak not according to this word [the 10 commandments and the Bible], it is because they have no light in them." That means a true messenger of God will keep all of God's



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ten commandments. In other words, a true prophet of God is going to be a seventh-day Sabbath-keeper.

The Bible is pretty clear that a true prophet will not be involved in any manner with witchcraft. That includes tarot cards, Ouija boards, séances, mediums, spells, and so on. According to the Bible, there is no such thing as "white magic."

Test Number Eleven: 1 John 4:1-3



"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world."

A true prophet believes in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and will never question the fact that Jesus came in man's fallen nature, in our fallen flesh. But Jesus never yielded to temptation; He was sinless, and you and I can be victorious over all sin in our life through the power, and the blood, and the strength of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our perfect Example. Hebrews 4:15: *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* **There is not one sin in our life that Jesus cannot give us victory over, if we will just let Him do so.**

This test tells us not to be gullible! God wants us to be cautious about those claiming to be prophets. He very clearly tells us to try these people. Obviously, those who say they are Jesus come back should never be listened to! And God clearly warns us that there are "many" of these false prophets.

Test Number Twelve: Matthew 7:15-16

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. . ."

In other words, look at what their ministry produces. If all they produce is a good time, with theme parks and water slides, and all they spend their time doing is telling people to send them money, on the authority of the Word of God, that person is a false prophet.

Look at the fruits of the messenger and ministry. Are they preaching the truth, or lining their own pockets? When people follow their teachings, do they come closer to Jesus? Do the teachings of a prophet lead people to read the Bible more, love their spouses more, become better parents, and live healthier lives?





Assignment: upper grades, critical thinking

Here are two actual examples from the writings of two people who claim to be prophets. Examine the claims of one of them. Note the places where the “prophet” does not meet the Biblical tests. Use your chart. What tests are they failing?

Name: MOHANDRA

Mohandra's Claims: Early Training and Background:

I was born in 1967 in a small town in northern India, to a Hindu family, traditionally the most respectable caste, known as gurus or advisers.

My father and grandfather had both been astrologers before me, and I began taking an active interest in this discipline when, at the age of 9, my grandfather's eyesight began to fail, and I asked to help him.



Evidence of Accuracy:

At age 14, I joined astrological institutions in Bombay, INDIA, while continuing lessons from my grandfather. During this period I began advising and consulting with my grandfather's clients.

I was amazed that even at that early period many of my predictions were coming true and people began to seek me out, in spite of my being so young, mainly because my predictions, it seems, were accurate.

I made many predictions and advised many people when in college in Bombay where I ended up devoting all my spare time to astrology.

Astrology and Me:

Nothing to do with any religion, country, community or anybody.

I try to read tomorrow like meteorologist read for weather forecast.

I read the planets and their movements like sun, moon etc this do not belong to any religion community or any country. In fact we human and nations are alive because of the sun, moon and the universe.

I do not want to say more on astrology because I can write 1000 pages on astrology or I can give a lecture for months and years without ever finishing. I am not 100% accurate and I don't think I can ever be even if I tried, this is because in the world day by day thousands of things happen and I can't reach on each. That is why I try to focus on the key and current issues.

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Name: MICHAEL TYRRELL, prophet

Michael Tyrrell's Claims: "When you have a "seer" gift you not only see but you taste, touch, smell and feel things as well. In this New Year we will suddenly find a new sensitivity to the things of the Spirit. During the last 14 months I became aware of a "cadence" or rhythm in the earth. It was a constant series of 3's in an unbroken pattern. This rhythm or cadence caused me to feel lost, out of sorts, discouraged and generally out of synch. On December 10th, 2006 as I awoke, I felt a complete shift in the sequence and my response was immediate. Suddenly hope, peace and a sense of destiny returned. I felt the synchronicity of heaven, the cadence had changed and I could count it 3-1-3, 3-1-3, 3-1-3. It wasn't an unbroken sequence of 3's any longer; it felt more like a waltz! I said "Lord, what is happening?" and He replied "I put myself back into the equation, I'm short circuiting the cycle of death so that my people will be synchronized with the cycle of life in the 7th year."



I believe that 2007 is the eclipse of a 40 year cycle of death and the beginning of a cycle of life. I believe that by 2008, when we check the statistics of 2006 we'll find an increase in deaths throughout the world and 2007 will be remembered for an increase in births, 2007 is a year of new life! If this year was a color it would be green! This is the first 7th year in the new millennia. It is the year 5767 on the Hebrew calendar and amazingly that number when applied to the Pythagorean skein, comes out to be the number "7", in other words, jubilee, jubilee, jubilee! I don't have to tell you the significance of the number 7; I will say however that it is a positive number significant of fullness, increase, birth, Father, Son and Spirit. It is a year of order and alignment. 7 is a perfect number "when that which is perfect comes: His plan ends in utter perfection, on Earth as it is in Heaven". We will begin to experience the rhythm or cadence of heaven. When I asked the Lord about the number 40, He said, "Look at the year 1967".

As I looked through several news archives, one in particular caught my eye. It was "Time Magazine". Each of the monthly covers possessed a haunting similarity to the headlines of 2006. Though there is no doubt that the 60's brought a major shift to our nation, I believe that the disengendered spirit of Jezebel permeated our culture at the gate of the year 1967. You will see it in culture, global unrest, but most obviously in the music. This is the time when the messengers of that era began to reinvent their sound. The Beatles released "Sgt. Pepper's" and when asked by the critics why the dramatic change in their sound they replied, "we have experimented with a new hallucinogenic drug called LSD and have been spending time in India and abroad with a man called Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

As a nation we welcomed the British invasion and their gods. Musicians like Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, The Beatles, and Jimi Hendrix were suddenly hailed as cultural prophets. In the same way, cultural prophets or messengers of the new millennia are being released into this New Year. I see a new breed... a cross-breed, half psalmist, half visionary, a "musicianery". These musical messengers will be shot like arrows through our country and the nations. Like the troubadours of old, they will travel from city to city bringing a true awakening. In their vapor trail people will experience supernatural manifestations, angelic visitations and administrations. These messengers will bring heaven to earth. These iconoclasts are not waves, they are breakers. When they arrive things will change. They will possess wisdom far beyond their age. They will understand resonance frequencies, the correlation between sound and light, notes and colors. They will carry a profound healing gift that will manifest spontaneously as they play their instruments and open their mouths."





Lesson Six: A Woman Named Ellen White Has a Vision

Note to teachers:

Rather than spoon-feed your students, I urge that they research directly from official church sites. I recommend that they use the official EGW Estate site, and the accompanying children's site. Allow a good amount of time to investigate the claims of Mrs. White and the church. Please note that there are a HUGE number of "unofficial" sites of dubious quality, along with great numbers of sites that attack her. Unless a person is widely and deeply read, it is very difficult to sort through the claims made.



Students: As you read or listen to this short biography of Ellen G. White, keep the tests of a true prophet in mind. Pray that God will show you whether her claims to be a messenger from God are true or not. You would, of course, need to do more research into her life and teachings.

"Ellen Gould Harmon was born in Gorham, Maine, on November 26, 1827. From an early age, she had a strong interest in spiritual things. Ellen gave her heart to Jesus at age 12 after hearing William Miller lecture on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. At age 14, Ellen was baptized by immersion and became a member of the Methodist Church, which disfellowshipped her and her family the next year for believing in the literal, soon-coming return of Jesus.



"Two months after the Great Disappointment of October 22, 1844, Ellen, frail and ill, went by wheelchair to a prayer group at the home of her friend, Mrs. Haines. As they were praying, the Holy Spirit came close with a special sense of assurance, and Ellen received her first vision. She saw a path elevated above the earth. At the beginning of the path was a light, which the angelic commentator told her was the Midnight Cry.

Those who rejected that message were represented as falling off the path to heaven into the dark world below.

"A week after that first vision, God sent Ellen another vision, in which He called her to be His messenger. Because Ellen was shy and sensitive, she was at first very reluctant to speak or pray publicly, and especially to deliver messages about God's disappointment and disapproval of people's attitudes or activities. Gradually, she came to understand that God sent these messages because of His love and desire for the people to change their lives and be able to enjoy His presence for eternity. Ellen Harmon married her good friend, James White, in 1846. The couple had four boys, two of whom lived to adulthood.



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"Together with Joseph Bates, Ellen and James founded the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During Ellen White's 70 years of public ministry, she received about 2,000 visions, which she incorporated into more than 100,000 handwritten manuscript pages. These pages formed the basis for more than 135 books. She is the world's most-translated woman author and the most translated American author of either sex. Her writings on salvation (her favorite topic), wellness, education, relationships, parenting, evangelism, social justice, and the authority of Scripture have unified the Seventh-day Adventist Church despite the diversity of culture, understanding, and religious practice of its 12 million members.

"During Ellen White's long career, she helped establish schools, colleges, hospitals, and publishing plants in North America, Europe, and Australia. She loved youth and was a favorite devotional speaker of students of all ages. She also enjoyed hiking, sailing, gardening, baby animals, and sewing. Ellen White was a "real" person: She sometimes had her feelings hurt by her friends, struggled with her weight, and had occasional misunderstandings in her marriage. She loved her children and sent them many letters when she was traveling to spread the gospel, occasionally enclosing a piece of candy. Most of all, Ellen White loved Jesus and wrote and preached more about Him than any other topic.



"Ellen White promoted social activism in her writings, urging Christians to respond to the needs of the poor and suffering. She practiced continual acts of compassion and mercy in her personal life, even supporting movements to combat systemic injustice, such as slavery. She became a popular orator at temperance rallies. Mrs. White was a bold

and fearless champion of the law of God and its claims on humanity, particularly the observance of the seventh day Sabbath as a response to Christ's work of grace upon the heart. Ellen White urged children and youth to become an army of workers to carry the "Good News" of the gospel to their friends, family, and communities."

Ellen White died at age 87 at her home in northern California. Her last words were, "I know in whom I have believed."

Pg. 6, **Journal of Adventist Education**, February/March 2002
User-Friendly in the New Millennium by Cindy Tutsch

Assignment: Language arts

The writer in the passage uses some words that you may not know the meanings of. Find the meanings of each of these words:

Disfellowshipped, activism, systemic, assurance, commentator, diversity



Lesson Seven: A First Vision



Assignment: Bible

Use this website to find the Pathways of the Pioneers stories. In volume 5, listen to the story of "The First Vision" of Ellen White (she wasn't much older than you!). You also might have this set in your classroom. <http://www.whiteestate.org/>

Assignment: Bible and Art

After reading or listening to White's first vision, split it into sections. As a class, create a mural that illustrates different sections.

Ellen White's own account of her vision, taken from Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White (1922), Chapter 6, page 57, follows.

Ellen White's First Vision

"It was not long after the passing of the time, in 1844, that my first vision was given me. I was visiting Mrs. Haines at Portland, a dear sister in Christ, whose heart was knit with mine; five of us, all women, were kneeling quietly at the family altar. While we were praying, the power of God came upon me as I had never felt it before.

I seemed to be surrounded with light, and to be rising higher and higher from the earth. I turned to look for the advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, "Look again, and look a little higher." At this, I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the advent people were traveling to the city which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the "midnight cry." [See Matthew 25:6.] This light shone all along the path, and gave light for their feet, so that they might not stumble.



If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the advent band, and they shouted "Alleluia!" Others rashly denied the light behind them, and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and

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lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below.

Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai.

The 144,000 were all sealed, and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, "God, New Jerusalem," and a glorious star containing Jesus' new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet, and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet.

Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. His hair was white and curly, and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns. His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet. His eyes were a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out: "Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?" Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you." At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sung again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth.

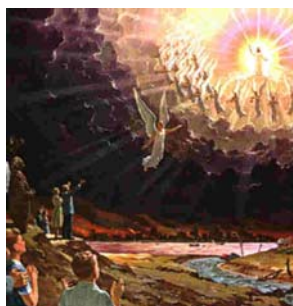


Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise." Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead

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came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted "Alleluia!" as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.



We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white mantle from their shoulders to their feet. Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, "You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth; enter in." We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.

Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with silver.

We all went under the tree, and sat down to look at the glory of the place, when Brethren Fitch and Stockman, who had preached the gospel of the kingdom, and whom God had laid in the grave to save them, came up to us and asked us what we had passed through while they were sleeping. We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us, that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, "Alleluia! heaven is cheap enough!" and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven's arches ring.



After I came out of vision, everything seemed changed; a gloom was spread over all that I beheld. Oh, how dark this world looked to me! I wept when I found myself here, and felt homesick. I had seen a better world, and it had spoiled this for me.



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I related this vision to the believers in Portland, who had full confidence that it was from God. They all believed that God had chosen this way, after the great disappointment in October, to comfort and strengthen His people. The Spirit of the Lord attended the testimony, and the solemnity of eternity rested upon us. An unspeakable awe filled me, that I, so young and feeble, should be chosen as the instrument by which God would give light to His people. While under the power of the Lord, I was filled with joy, seeming to be surrounded by holy angels in the glorious courts of heaven, where all is peace and gladness; and it was a sad and bitter change to wake up to the realities of mortal life."





Lesson Eight: Exploring Websites

The Seventh-day Adventist Church considers Mrs. White to be a messenger from God, whose work was to direct us closer to Jesus our Savior and to encourage us to delve deeply into the Bible. Many of her books can be purchased for only a few dollars.



When she died many years ago, her will provided for the continuation of her work. This is done by the "White Estate". Through the years, they have continued to make use of the latest in technology in order to make her writings available.

Today, they have two websites: one for adults, and one for teachers and children. Both are easy to use. Here you can find the texts of books, answers to questions, audio files, search engines, and even pictures. The children's site has wonderful E-zines on various topics.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/> (The adult site.)

<http://www.whiteestate.org/search/search.asp>
(The search portion of the site. Look here to research various topics)

<http://www.connectingwithjesus.org/> (another search source, distribution project)

<http://www.whiteestate.org/godsmessenger.html>

God's Messenger: Meeting Kids' Needs is a fairly new web site created especially for teachers wanting to enhance their students' spiritual walk with Jesus. There are 38 fully-developed lessons on 10 important topics that Adventist school students face in their daily lives. Each faith-building lesson integrates heart-warming Adventist pioneer stories along with Scripture and Ellen White's writings. We pray these resources will enrich the lives of your students, develop their faith in God, help them grow in Christian character, and build their sense of identity with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Here are two modified pages from one of the e-zines available on the children's website. The whole magazines are available in pdf form to download and print out. Many of the pages would make great posters for your bulletin boards, or wonderful handouts for church services. **Please look at it in its original form on the site. It's a lot better there!**



Prayer Treasures

Prayer of Praise "Forgetting our own difficulties and troubles, let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of His name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven." —The Ministry of Healing, p. 253.

Prayer of Revival "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer." —Selected Messages, Bk. 1, p.121.

Pray in Reverence "In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe." —Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p.106.

Prayer of Thanksgiving "We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer. Pray, pray earnestly and without ceasing, but do not forget to praise." —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 317.

Intercessory Prayer "There are souls who have lost their courage; speak to them, pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the Word of God. . . . Pray for these [persons], and bring them to Jesus Christ." —Welfare Ministry, p. 71.

Prayer of Obedience "Those who bring their petitions to God, claiming His promise while they do not comply with the conditions, insult Jehovah. They bring the name of Christ as their authority for the fulfillment of the promise, but they do not those things that would show faith in Christ and love for Him." — Prayer, pg. 67



Prayer for Guidance

"There is no time or place in which it is inappropriate to offer up a petition to God. There is nothing that can prevent us from lifting up our hearts in the spirit of earnest prayer. In the crowds of the street, in the midst of a business engagement, we may send up a petition to God, and plead for divine guidance."

—My Life Today, p. 16.

Many years ago Ellen White said there should be a school for American black students. Black persons were badly discriminated against in the United States during much of the 19th century. They had few educational opportunities. Ellen White advised the search committee that the property for the new school should be located in the country near Nashville, Tennessee, or in northern Alabama. However, a search of properties in Tennessee brought nothing that seemed suitable.

Anna Knight, our first African-American missionary to India, remembers the committee members gathering for prayer before they set out for northern Alabama to look for property. This was no "ordinary" prayer session! The group knelt together in the living room of Mr. and Mrs. Chambers' home, and with tears pleaded with God to help them find the place He had chosen for the school.

After prayer, the committee members went to the railway station, took the train to Huntsville, and were directed out to a farm that was for sale. As they entered the grounds, the committee members were certain they at last had found the place the Lord had chosen for the new school.

After careful investigation, the committee members put down a deposit to hold the farm until they could report their findings to the General Conference officers. A special offering was planned to raise a fund to establish the new school for African Americans. Everyone was asked to give a dollar. But in order to have a dollar to give, many persons chose to sacrifice one meal a day. They were happy to do without food in order to have money for that special offering.





Ultimately the money was raised and the purchase of the Huntsville property was made.

Several years after the school had been in operation, Ellen White visited the campus. At an assembly, she said, "This is the place that was shown to me by God."



Oakwood Industrial School, 1896

Anna Knight was convinced that Oakwood College, as the school came to be called, was God's school. She saw God answer the prayers of those committee members! Thousands of students have graduated from Oakwood College and have worked for God all over the world.

Maybe God is waiting for more of His people to earnestly pray for guidance and miracles! Did you pray today?

Assignment: Language Arts

Interview a Christian adult and ask them to tell you a story about when they prayed for guidance and how God answered. Prepare by praying that God leads you to the right adult. Write down some questions you will ask and have that list when you interview. If possible, record the story for sharing.

Assignment: Technology

Visit each of the websites below.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/>

<http://www.whiteestate.org/godsmessenger.html>

Listen to one story from the Pioneer Stories tab. Write two paragraphs of what it was about.

Read one issue of the E-zine. Print out a page or two for a poster for your room.

TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: There are wonderful lessons complete with audio available on the EGW website. Click the lesson tab, and choose a grade level. You won't regret the time you spend searching this site!

<http://www.whiteestate.org/godsmessenger.html>



Lesson Nine: Taste and See— The Fall of Satan



"O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Ps 34:8 - The value of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY writings is best learned by reading them!

Read or listen to this passage written by Ellen White. Try to envision yourself there as you hear the words.

A Passage by Ellen White

Story: The Great Controversy: The Fall of Satan
From: Spiritual Gifts, Volume I, Chapter I

Introduction: The best way to judge a "prophet's" writings is by reading them your self. In the next few lessons you will have a chance to read some of Mrs. White's words.

Before you begin, find a meaning for the word "controversy."

This passage has been abridged. This means that words, sentences, or paragraphs have not been copied so that the reading is shorter. Ellipses (...) have been put in where this was done. If something is not clear, please go back to the original book and see what I left out! Even though I left some things out, I did not intend at any time to change the meaning.



"The Lord has shown me that Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Jesus Christ. His countenance was mild, expressive of happiness like the other angels. His forehead was high and broad, and showed great intelligence. His form was perfect. He had a noble, majestic bearing. And I saw that when God said to his Son, Let us make man in our image, Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man. He was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred. He wished to be the highest in heaven, next to God, and receive the highest honors. Until this time all heaven was in order, harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God.

It was the highest sin to rebel against the order and will of God . . . All the angels were astir. Satan was insinuating against the government of God, ambitious



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to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus. Some of the angels sympathized with Satan in his rebellion . . . They rebelled against the authority of the Son of God, and all the angels were summoned to appear before the Father, to have their cases decided.



And it was decided that Satan should be expelled from heaven, and that the angels, all who joined with Satan in the rebellion, should be turned out with him. Then there was war in heaven. Angels were engaged in the battle . . . But the good and true angels prevailed, and Satan, with his followers, was driven from heaven.

. . . When Satan became fully conscious that there was no possibility of his being brought again into favor with God, then his malice and hatred began to be manifest. He consulted with his angels, and a plan was laid to still work against God's government. When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, Satan was laying plans to destroy them . . . In no way could this happy be deprived of their happiness if they obeyed God . . .

It was decided that Satan should assume another form, and manifest an interest for man. He must insinuate against God's truthfulness, create doubt whether God did mean as He said, next, excite their curiosity, and lead them to pry into the unsearchable plans of God . . . and reason as to the cause of His restrictions in regard to the tree of knowledge."

Assignment: Bible

Don't just take Mrs. White's word for this story! Is there scripture to back up what she wrote? Does it make sense? Look scriptures from Ezekiel & Revelation that mention the Lucifer.

Assignment: Art

Choose one of the scenes described in the passage and illustrate it. (You may make a diorama instead.)

Assignment: Art

There are many beautiful, stylized representations of the tree of life. Use Google Images and enter "tree of life". Then design your own tree of life in a circle.





Notice the steps that Satan took as he tried to get man on his side:

- (1) He assumed another form.
- (2) He manifested an interest in humans.
- (3) He insinuated against God's truthfulness.
- (4) He created doubt about whether God did mean as He said.
- (5) He excited their curiosity.
- (6) He led them to question the cause of God's restrictions.

Read the following story, then do the assignment at the end:

Annie and Jilly

Annie had heard all of her life that God wanted her to lead a healthy life style. She had been warned against tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, and drugs. She had no trouble with this when she was ten. After all, life was great! She lived in a happy family in a neighborhood filled with good friends.

But now Annie is 15. Mom left the family several years ago. Annie lives with her father. She knows he loves her, and he has been a good father. He was forced to move from the old neighborhood. Annie knows that it was necessary, but she still misses her old friends and school. It isn't as easy to make friends when you are 15 instead of 5.



Annie finally got to know some new people. One girl, Jilly, seemed really friendly to Annie. She invited her home, walked to school with her, and ate lunch at the same table. Eventually the girls began to compare life styles.

Almost everything Annie believed about the harm that tobacco and alcohol can cause, Jilly agreed with. Jilly's aunt died of lung cancer, and her father gets very mean when he drinks too much. Both the girls agreed that they want nothing to do with smoking or drinking alcohol.

But Jilly told Annie that she has found a great new little pill, a super-caffeine pill, that can make Annie very peppy and happy. And it is cheap. Plus, it isn't illegal! It can be bought in any drugstore.

Annie thought back to some of her father's teachings. She knew he only wants to see her healthy. He has told her that God wants her as healthy as possible on this earth, and that God has given certain guidelines to help us maintain that health. He has urged her to choose fruit juices and water when she is thirsty rather than Cokes and Mountain Dews. He has explained that these drinks are lacking any kind of nutrients, and that the caffeine in them will give her a temporary rush. But in the long run, she will "crash." Eventually, she can become addicted, so that she will crave these drinks, and when she is deprived of them she will be irritable and have headaches.





"I know grape juice is healthy for you," said Jilly. "But maybe there is something else in Coke that causes the problem. We know they use artificial coloring in them, and there is a lot of sugar. By using these pills, we can feel happy without the risks of the sugar and dyes."

"I'm not so sure. Dad has never steered me wrong," Annie said slowly.



"Did he ever tell you not to take these pills? What could be wrong with wanting to feel happy and peppy? After all, you're a lot older now. He probably didn't let you cook when you were younger, but you know more now. You even get his supper a few days a week! You're almost old enough to drive! You know parents; they want to keep you "their baby" forever. He probably just hasn't noticed that you are older and more responsible now, or he would have loosened a few more restrictions.

"Come on! You even have a later curfew than you did when you were 10. You could try a few of these, and prove to him that you are growing up." Jilly sounded like a loving and concerned friend.

Annie thought. A lot of what Jilly had said was true. Jilly had been kind and friendly to her. Something didn't seem right, though. How would Jilly react if Annie said no? Would she lose her new friend?



Assignment: Language Arts

This story does not mean to imply that Jilly is Satan. In fact, Jilly has made some good choices. But in this story it does appear that Satan is using Jilly to get Annie to do something that she would not have thought about on her own.

Look at the steps Satan used to tempt Eve. Identify where Jilly has made use of some of the same techniques. Then, write an ending to the story. Does Annie take the pills, or not? What are the consequences of her decision, one way or the other?



Lesson Ten: Taste and See— The Fall of Man

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Ps 34:8 - The value of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY writings is best learned by reading them!



Read or listen to this passage written by Ellen White. Try to envision yourself there as you hear the words.

A Passage by Ellen White

From: Spiritual Gifts, Volume I, Chapter II, *The Fall of Man*



"I saw that the holy angels often visited the garden, and gave instruction to Adam and Eve concerning their employment, and also taught them concerning the rebellion of Satan and his fall. The angels warned them of Satan, and cautioned them not to separate from each other in their employment, for they might be brought in contact with this fallen foe . . . if they were obedient, this fallen foe could have no power over them

[Eve] first erred in wandering from her husband, next, in lingering around the forbidden tree, and next in listening to the voice of the tempter, and even daring to doubt what God had said—In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. She thought, Perhaps it does not mean just as the Lord said. She ventured to disobey. She put forth her hand, took of the fruit, and ate. It was pleasing to the eye, and pleasant to the taste. She was jealous that God had withheld from them what was really for their good.

She offered the fruit to her husband, thereby tempting him. She related to Adam all that the serpent had said, and expressed her astonishment that he had the power of speech.



I saw a sadness come over Adam's countenance. He appeared afraid and astonished. A struggle appeared to be going on in his mind. He felt sure that this was the foe which they had been warned against, and that his wife must die. They must be separated.

His love for Eve was strong. And in utter discouragement he resolved to share her fate. He seized the fruit, and quickly ate it. Then Satan exulted. He had rebelled in heaven, and had sympathizers who loved him, and followed him in his rebellion And he had now tempted the woman to distrust God, to inquire into His wisdom, and to seek to



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penetrate His all-wise plans. Satan knew the woman would not fall alone. Adam, through his love for Eve, disobeyed the command of God, and fell with her.

The news of man's fall spread through heaven. Every harp was hushed. The angels cast their crowns from their heads in sorrow. All heaven was in agitation. A counsel was held to decide what must be done with the guilty pair. The angels feared that they would put forth the hand, and eat of the tree of life, and be immortal sinners.

But God said that he would drive the transgressors from the garden. Angels were commissioned immediately to guard the way of the tree of life. It had been Satan's plan . . . that Adam and Eve . . . then be led on to partake of the tree of life, that they might live forever in sin and disobedience, and thus sin be immortalized.

But holy angels were sent to drive them out of the garden, while another company of angels were commissioned to guard the way to the tree. Each of these mighty angels appeared to have something in their right hand, which looked like a glittering sword.



Assignment: Language Arts

Write a short story imagining what you think it was like for Adam and Eve that first week after they left the garden. What did they see? How far did they go? How did they provide for their needs? Which animals remained their friends?



Lesson Eleven: Taste and See— The Plan of Salvation

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Ps 34:8 - The value of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY writings is best learned by reading them!



Read or listen to this passage written by Ellen White. Try to envision yourself there as you hear the words.

A passage by Ellen White

From: Spiritual Gifts, Volume I, Chapter III., The Plan of Salvation



Sorrow filled heaven, as it was realized that man was lost, and the world that God created was to be filled with mortals doomed to misery, sickness, and death, and there was no way of escape for the offender. The whole family of Adam must die. I saw the lovely Jesus, and beheld an expression of sympathy and sorrow upon his countenance. Soon I saw Him approach the exceeding bright light which enshrouded the Father Three times He was shut in by the glorious light about the Father He then made known to the angels that a way of escape had been made for lost man [He] had

offered to give His life a ransom, and take the sentence of death upon himself, that through Him man might find pardon

At first the angels could not rejoice, for their commander concealed nothing from them, but opened before them the plan of salvation. Jesus told them that he would stand between the wrath of His Father and guilty man, that he would bear iniquity and scorn, and but few would receive Him as the Son of God. . . . He would leave all His glory in heaven, appear upon earth as a man and endure almost every cruelty and suffering that Satan and his angels could inspire wicked men to inflict

The weight of the sins of the whole world would be upon Him. He told them He would die and rise again the third day, and should ascend to His Father to intercede for wayward, guilty man.

The angels prostrated themselves before Him. They offered their lives. Jesus said to them that he should by his death save many; that the life of an angel could not pay the debt. His life alone could be accepted of his Father as a ransom for man Satan and sinners should be destroyed, never more to disturb heaven, or the purified, new earth. Jesus bid the heavenly host....rejoice that fallen man could be exalted again through his death, to obtain favor with God and enjoy heaven.



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Then joy, inexpressible joy, filled heaven. And the heavenly host sung a song of praise and adoration Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? No, no. It was even a struggle with the God of Heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or give His beloved Son to die for them.



. . . .But the work of the angels was assigned them, to ascend and descend with strengthening balm from glory to soothe the Son of God in his sufferings, and administer unto Him. Also, their work would be to guard and keep the subjects of grace from the evil angels, and the darkness constantly thrown around them by Satan. I saw that it was impossible for God to alter or change His law to save lost, perishing man; therefore He suffered His beloved Son to die for man's transgressions.

Satan again rejoiced with his angels that he could, by causing man's fall, pull down the Son of God from His exalted position. He told his angels that when Jesus should take fallen man's nature, he could overpower Him, and hinder the accomplishment of the plan of salvation.

. . . . I was then shown Satan as he was, a happy, exalted angel. Then I was shown him as he now is. He still bears a kingly form But the expression of his countenance is full of anxiety, care, unhappiness, malice, hate, mischief, deceit, and every evil.His eyes were cunning, sly, and showed great penetration. . . .As I beheld him, his chin was resting upon his left hand. He appeared to be in deep thought. A smile was upon his countenance, which made me tremble, it was so full of evil, and Satanic slyness. This smile is the one he wears just before he makes sure of his victim, and as he fastens the victim in his snare, this smile grows horrible.

Assignment: Language Arts

Pick one or two paragraphs and write your reaction to it. How does it affect you? Does it make you want to change something in your life? For instance, how does it make you feel as Mrs. White tells how Satan smiles when he fastens his victim in his snare?



Lesson Twelve: The End of Time

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Ps 34:8 - The value of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY writings is best learned by reading them!



A passage by Ellen White

From: Spiritual Gifts, Volume I, Chapter XXXII

". . . I saw some with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, which expressed their internal struggle. There were firmness and great earnestness expressed in their countenances, while large drops of perspiration rose upon their foreheads, and fell. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbations, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look settled upon them.

Evil angels crowded around them, pressing their darkness upon them, to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and they distrust God, and next murmur against him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels were having the charge over the people of God, and as the poisonous atmosphere from these evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones, the angels, which had the charge over them, were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness that surrounded them

Said the angel, Look ye! My attention was then turned to the company I had seen before, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping, and praying with agony of spirit. I saw that the company of guardian angels around them had doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, firm like a company of soldiers. . . .



Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, shone now with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.

. . . . Still the evil angels pressed around them, but they could have no power over them All fear of their relatives was gone. The truth alone was exalted to them. It was dearer and more precious than life. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth. I asked what had made this great change. As the angel answered, It is the latter rain; the refreshing from the presence of the Lord; the loud cry of the third angel

Great power was with these chosen ones. Said the angel, "Look ye!" My attention was turned to the wicked, or unbelievers. They were all astir. The zeal and power with the people of God had aroused and enraged them. Confusion, confusion, was

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on every side. I saw measures taken against the company who had the light and power of God. Darkness thickened around them; yet they stood firm, approved of God, and trusting in Him. I saw them perplexed; next I heard them crying unto God earnestly. Day and night their cry ceased not: "Thy will, O God, be done! If it can glorify Thy name, make a way of escape for Thy people! Deliver us from the heathen around about us. They have appointed us unto death; but Thine arm can bring salvation." These are all the words which I can bring to mind. All seemed to have a deep sense of their unworthiness and manifested entire submission to the will of God; yet, like Jacob, every one, without an exception, was earnestly pleading and wrestling for deliverance.

Soon after they had commenced their earnest cry, the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said, "The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism."



Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. Buildings were shaken down on every side. I then heard a triumphant shout of victory, loud, musical, and clear. I looked upon the company, who, a short time before, were in such distress and bondage. Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them.

How beautiful they then looked! All marks of care and weariness were gone, and health and beauty were seen in every countenance. Their enemies, the heathen around them, fell like dead men; they could not endure the light that shone upon the delivered, holy ones.

This light and glory remained upon them, until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened, and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, "Victory over death and the grave"; and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air, while rich, musical shouts of glory and victory were upon every immortal tongue. . .

As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them. But the swords that were raised to kill God's people broke and fell as powerless as a straw. Angels of God shielded the saints. As they cried day and night for deliverance, their cry came up before the Lord.

Deliverance of the Saints

It was at midnight that God chose to deliver His people. As the wicked were mocking around them, suddenly the sun appeared, shining in his strength, and the moon stood still. The wicked looked upon the scene with amazement, while the saints beheld with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Signs and wonders followed in quick succession. Everything seemed turned out of its natural course.





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The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.

The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Hallelujah!" Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look upon them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image.....



Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man. When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer. A retinue of holy angels, with bright, glittering crowns upon their heads, escorted Him on His way. No language can describe the glory of the scene. The living cloud of majesty and unsurpassed glory came still nearer, and we could clearly behold the lovely person of Jesus. He did not wear a crown of thorns, but a crown of glory rested upon His holy brow. Upon His vesture and thigh was a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords. His countenance was as bright as the noonday sun, His eyes were as a flame of fire, and His feet had the appearance of fine brass. His voice sounded like many musical instruments.

The earth trembled before Him, the heavens departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Those who a short time before would have destroyed God's faithful children from the earth, now witnessed the glory of God which rested upon them. And amid



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all their terror they heard the voices of the saints in joyful strains, saying, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us."



The earth mightily shook as the voice of the Son of God called forth the sleeping saints. They responded to the call and came forth clothed with glorious immortality, crying, "Victory, victory, over death and the grave! O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Then the living saints and the risen ones raised their voices in a long, transporting shout of victory. Those bodies that had gone down into the grave bearing the marks of disease and death came up in immortal health and vigor. The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air. Oh, what a glorious meeting! Friends whom death had separated were united, never more to part



The Saints' Reward

Then I saw a very great number of angels bring from the city glorious crowns--a crown for every saint, with his name written thereon. As Jesus called for the crowns, angels presented them to Him, and with His own right hand, the lovely Jesus placed the crowns on the heads of the saints

Then I saw Jesus lead the redeemed company to the gate of the city. He laid hold of the gate and swung it back on its glittering hinges and bade the nations that had kept the truth enter in. Within the city there was everything to feast the eye. Rich glory they beheld everywhere. Then Jesus looked upon His redeemed saints; their countenances were radiant with glory; and as He fixed His loving eyes upon them, He said, with His rich, musical voice, "I behold the travail of My soul, and am satisfied. This rich glory is yours to enjoy eternally. Your sorrows are ended. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." I saw the redeemed host bow and cast their glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus, and then, as His lovely hand raised them up, they touched their golden harps and filled all heaven with their rich music and songs to the Lamb.

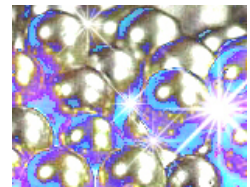


The three stars on Orion's Belt



I then saw Jesus leading His people to the tree of life, and again we heard His lovely voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying, "The leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations. Eat ye all of it." Upon the tree of life was most beautiful fruit, of which the saints could partake freely. In the city was a most glorious throne, from which proceeded a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal. On each side of this river was the tree of life, and on the banks of the river were other beautiful trees bearing fruit which was good for food.

Language is altogether too feeble to attempt a description of heaven. As the scene rises before me, I am lost in amazement. Carried away with the surpassing splendor and excellent glory, I lay down the pen, and exclaim, "Oh, what love! what wondrous love!" The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour's love."

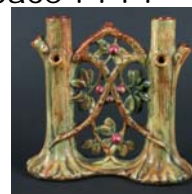


Assignment: Creative Arts

Mrs. White found the end of this planet, the return of Jesus, and our new home in heaven impossible to describe fully with words. As I (Becky Fraker) looked for illustrations, I found very few of the tree of life, the river of life, Heaven, and so on.

Illustrate one part of the selection above by **writing a poem, composing a song, sketching or painting a picture.**

Some suggestions: The tree of life straddling the river, a heavenly orchard, mansions along the streets of gold, Jesus leading His people for a picnic, throwing down the crowns at Jesus' feet, the trip through space



Assignment: Clay sculpture

Use a oven-baking clay such as Sculpey to create a small reminder of one of the things mentioned in Heaven: a crown, a tree of life, a harp, the gates of the city. Bake it for permanency.



Lesson Thirteen: Your Own Study

"O taste and see that the LORD is good:" Ps 34:8 - The value of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY writings is best learned by reading them!



Ellen White wrote on a variety of topics. Some of her writings were on doctrines such as the Sabbath. Other writings were to people who were having trouble or needed to be disciplined.

Near the end of her life, she put together things she had written to make a set of books called the "Conflict of the Ages" series, which tells of the battle between God and Satan that began before the earth was created. These books take the story through until Jesus returns and Satan is destroyed.

But Mrs. White also wrote about education, discipline of children, modest and healthful dressing, recreation, temperance, smoking, drinking, and a healthy diet. She taught that God has given us directions that will help us live the happiest, healthiest, and longest lives we can, even though Satan has done much to destroy us and our planet.



Use one of the search engines on the following internet site to research a topic. These places will then find what Mrs. White wrote on a topic. Cut and paste five to ten selections to a Word document.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/search/search.asp>

(The search portion of the site. Look here to research various topics)

<http://www.connectingwithjesus.org/> (another search source, distribution project)

There are also a print and CD versions of indexes to Mrs. White's writings.

Then study the passages. Try to understand them in context. For instance, Mrs. White wrote that all women should learn to harness a horse. Does that mean we should all learn to do that? No! Mrs. White is recommending that people should learn to do things so that they don't have to be dependent on others. I think she means that today, people who drive cars should learn to change a tire, check the oil, and pump gas.

After you have studied your selections for a while, write a few paragraphs summarizing what you think Mrs. White is advising for us today. Share these conclusions with the class.



Lesson Fourteen:

The Testimony of Jesus

1. **What does the Bible say that the “testimony of Jesus” is?** Revelation 19:10. The testimony of Jesus is the _____
2. **Is the spirit of prophecy and prophets the same thing? Compare Revelation 19:10; and 22:8, 9.**

I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus... 19:10

I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the _____ 22:9

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

The Bible says that in the last days before the coming of the Lord, God will raise up a church called the remnant that will keep all the commandments of God. In order to qualify as the remnant church, the church must also have the gift of prophecy. It is one of the special marks of identification of the last-day 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?

The claims of Ellen G. White and the Seventh-day Adventists.



In December of 1844, a 17-year-old girl named Ellen Harmon, in frail health, possessing only a third-grade education, received a vision while kneeling in prayer with a group of young women in Portland, Maine. She did not want to be a prophet, yet she wished to be obedient to her heavenly vision, and so she began to tell others what God had shown her. For 69 years she continued to receive visions and dreams from the Lord. Ellen (Harmon) White became one of the most prolific female writers in history. Many of her books are still in publication today. Was this false or genuine? Was it a fulfillment of the Biblical promise that the prophetic gift would be restored to the church at the end time?

1. Were there any physical signs along with the visions?

Ellen White's experience was very similar to that of the prophet Daniel. She did not breathe during many visions. Sometimes her visions lasted for as long as four hours. Physicians who examined her in vision marveled that she did not breathe, yet still lived.

A Unit on the Spirit of Prophecy



At times, like Daniel, her normally frail strength would be 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.

The physical phenomena accompanying the prophets 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 examine the Biblical tests of a prophet to determine whether the prophet is from God or Satan.

2. You are invited to take any book written by Ellen White and examine what she says with what the Bible says. You will find that she agrees with the Bible.

3. True prophets will attest to the humanity and divinity of Jesus. They will elevate and exalt Jesus Christ. To test Ellen in this area, one has only to read her books such as Steps to Christ, Desire of Ages, Christ's Object Lessons or Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing and one very quickly sees that she abundantly fulfills this test of a prophet.

4. The general tendency of the prophet's life must be in harmony with the Word of God. No prophet lives a perfect life. Moses lost his temper, Abraham lied, David fell to the sin of adultery. But overall, these were people who, after stumbling, rose up and clung to God.

When Mrs. White died, a secular newspaper wrote the following: *"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", (newspaper) St. Helena, California, July 23, 1915.

5. What are the fruits of the ministry of this person?



Mrs. White, along with many others, established the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through her ministry, encouragement, and writings, this



small group grew to millions. In addition, the church established publishing houses, schools and colleges, hospitals, and a health ministry.

A Unit on the Spirit of Prophecy



6. What is the relationship of Ellen to the Bible?

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



Here are a few quotes from some of White's books:

The Bible Is a Versatile Book.--In its wide range of style and subjects, the Bible has something to interest every mind and appeal to every heart. In its pages are found history the most ancient; biography the truest to life; principles of government for the control of the state, for the regulation of the household--principles that human wisdom has never equaled. It contains philosophy the most profound; poetry the sweetest and the most sublime, the most impassioned and the most pathetic. Immeasurably superior in value to the productions of any human author are the Bible writings, even when thus considered; but of infinitely wider scope, of infinitely greater value, are they when viewed in their relation to the grand central thought. Viewed in the light of this thought, every topic has a new significance. In the most simply stated truths are involved principles that are as high as heaven and that compass eternity. {Child Guidance, 505.1}

Study Diligently, Systematically.--Observe system in the study of the Scriptures in your families. Neglect anything of a temporal nature, . . . but be sure that the soul is fed with the bread of life. It is impossible to estimate the good results of one hour or even half an hour each day devoted in a cheerful, social manner to the Word of God. Make the Bible its own expositor, bringing together all that is said concerning a given subject at different times and under varied circumstances. Do not break up your home class for callers or visitors. If they come in during the exercise, invite them to take part in it. Let it be seen that you consider it more important to obtain a knowledge of God's Word than to secure the gains or pleasures of the world. {Child Guidance 511.1}

The apostle Paul says that God "hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." Colossians 1:13. And everyone who has passed from death unto life is able to "set to his seal that God is true." John 3:33. He can testify, "I needed help, and I found it in Jesus. Every want was supplied, the hunger of my soul was satisfied; and now the Bible is to me the revelation of Jesus Christ. Do you ask why I believe in Jesus? Because He is to me a divine Saviour. Why do I believe the Bible? Because I have found it to be the voice of God to my soul." We may have the witness in ourselves that the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God. We know that we are not following cunningly devised fables. {Steps to Christ 112.1}

Brethren, cling to your Bible, as it reads, and stop your criticisms in regard to its validity, and obey the Word, and not one of you will be lost. The ingenuity of men has been exercised for ages to measure the Word of God by their finite minds and limited comprehension. If the Lord, the Author of the living oracles, would throw back the curtain and reveal His wisdom and His glory before them, they would shrink into nothingness and exclaim as did Isaiah, "I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5). {1 Selected Messages 18.1}

As you study the question of whether Ellen White is a prophet of God, you will encounter many questions and accusations. Satan wants to confuse us with false prophets and cast doubts upon real prophets and the Bible writings. As you prayerfully consider what to believe, here is another website to help you:

<http://www.ellenwhitedefend.com/>

Above all else, read your Bible often, pray regularly, and read for yourself!





Ellen G. White Related Materials

for Children / Youth – Young Adults / Adults

**List compiled by EGW Estate: Available at Adventist Book Centers

Children

Michael Asks Why, Ellen G. White's Classic

The Great Controversy adapted for children.
Author: Sally Pierson
Age: Early Readers

Camp Meeting Angel/The Little Girl Who Giggled

Author: Paul B. Ricchiuti
Age: 6 – 9 Years

Ellen's Miracle Horse

Author: Paul B. Ricchiuti
Age: 6 – 9 Years

Ellen: The Girl With the Two Angels

Author: Mabel Miller
Age: 7 – 9 Years

Grandma Ellen and Me

Author: Mabel Miller
Age: 7 – 9 Years

Charlie Horse/Mrs. White's Secret Sock

Author: Paul B. Ricchiuti
Age: 6 – 9 Years

Where's Moo Cow?

Author: Paul B. Ricchiuti
Age: 6 – 9 Years

God Spoke to a Girl

Author: Dorothy Nelson
Age: 3 – 9 Years

God's Adventurers

Author: Roxy Hoehn
Age: 6 – Years

Youth – Young Adults

A Call to Stand Apart

Author: E. G. White paraphrase
Age: High School – Adult
(Great for Seekers & New Believers!)

Messiah

Author: Jerry Thomas (A paraphrase of the *Desire of Ages*)
Age: 10 – Adult

Stories of My Grandmother

Author: Ella M. Robinson
Age: 9 – Adult

Victory of the Warrior King

Author: Sally Pierson Dillon
Age: Jr. High

Ellen White: Friend of Angels

Author: Paul B. Ricchiuti
Age: High School – Adult

Heal the World

Author: Adaptation of *Ministry of Healing*
Age: Teens

His Messenger

Author: Ruth Wheeler
Age: Juniors – Adults

Ellen

Author: Paul Ricchiuti
Age: Early Teens – Adult
Adults

Gift of Light

Author: Roger Coon
Age: Adult



A Unit on Prophecy

Messenger of the Lord

Author: Herb Douglass

Age: Adult

Woman of Vision

Author: (Condensed from Arthur White's
6 volume biography)

Age: Adult

Life Sketches

Author: Ellen White

Age: Adult

Series on Ellen G. White

Author: George Knight

Age: Adult

Keepers of the Flame – (video series)• ***Meet Ellen White***

e•Dream – (video)

Promoting Ellen White; hosted by college
students

Pathways of the Pioneers – (CD series)

Producers: Lake Union Conference – 1998
Adventist pioneer stories for children in living
sound.

The Great Visions of Ellen White

Author: Roger Coon

Age: Adult

Videos / DVDs / CDs

Newest Releases:

Adventist Pioneer Series: includes John
Harvey Kellogg, Joseph Bates, W.W.
Prescott, and James White.

Heartwarming Stories of the Pioneers, Book 1 & 2

Author: Norma J. Collins

They Were There

Author: Herbert Douglass

Dramatic Prophecies of Ellen White

Author: Herbert Douglass





Websites for Further Research

<http://www.Bibleuniverse.com/> (Bible topics, lessons, and so on)

<http://www.whiteestate.org/> (The adult site.)

A wealth of information in many forms, including ebooks and downloadable books. This is the official site of the Ellen White Estate.

<http://www.whiteestate.org/search/search.asp>

(The search portion of the site. Look here to research various topics)

<http://www.connectingwithjesus.org/> (another search source, distribution project)

<http://www.whiteestate.org/godsmessenger.html>

God's Messenger: Meeting Kids' Needs is a fairly new web site created especially for teachers wanting to enhance their students' spiritual walk with Jesus. There are 38 fully-developed lessons on 10 important topics that Adventist school students face in their daily lives. Each faith-building lesson integrates heart-warming Adventist pioneer stories along with Scripture and Ellen White's writings. We pray these resources will enrich the lives of your students, develop their faith in God, help them grow in Christian character, and build their sense of identity with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

<http://life-equals-jesus.org/>

This is a marvelous site that has a HUGE collection of resources. It includes links to Sabbath School material as well as children's resources. There are also links to ebooks.

<http://www.truthfortheendtime.com/>

A nice place to download the text and mp3s of White's books.

<http://www.ellenwhitedefend.com/>

A place to go for answers to commonly made accusations about EGW

The Teacher Bulletin has units on church history ("Lest We Forget") in back issues.

Also check CIRCLE <http://circle.adventist.org/> for more resources.

