

1. Jehoshaphat, King of Judah was distressed. Why? 2 Chronicles 20:1-2

2. Upon hearing this news what did King Jehoshaphat do? 2 Chronicles 20:3-4

3. What was the Lord's response? 2 Chronicles 20:14

4. What was Jahaziel's message? 2 Chronicles 20:17

5. The next day Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem went out to meet the enemy. What were the encouraging words Jehoshaphat spoke to the people? 2 Chronicles 20:20

6. What happened? 2 Chronicles 20:22-24

7. Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be _____; believe His prophets, and you shall _____." 2 Chronicles 20:20

Prophets:

8. Why does God send prophets to us? Amos 3:7

9. God knows what will take place in the future; what does He do with this information? Isaiah 42:9

10. In lesson #2 we studied the message given to Daniel. In lesson #13 we found that prophets are spiritual gifts given by God. Therefore both the Old and New Testaments have prophets. The last book of the Bible was written by the last biblical prophet, John the Revelator. Does the Bible teach that there will be more prophets, messengers of God? Joel 2:28 Yes No
11. What words did Jesus issue so that we can know for sure that in the end time prophets will arise? Matthew 24:24-25

12. If false prophets will rise in the end times then we can expect that there will be true prophets. How can we know the true from the false? 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21



Dr. Gerhard Pfandl, an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute gives five ways we can test a prophet:



- a. 1) **Dreams and Visions:** How will God communicate with His prophets? Numbers 12:6

- b. 2) **Agreement With the Bible:** Will the true prophet's message agree with the Bible? Isaiah 8:20 Yes No

Note: The message of any prophet must be in harmony with God's Holy Word. God does not contradict Himself in His messages .

- c. 3) **Fulfilled Prophecy:** Will the true prophet's predictions come true? Deuteronomy 18:21-22 Yes No

Note: The accuracy of the prophetic message must be demonstrated. Predictions comprise only a small part of the prophet's work. Some predictions are conditional upon the responses of the people.

- d. 4) **The Witness to Jesus:** Is Christ's incarnation recognized by the true prophet? 1 John 4:2-3 Yes No

Note: The true prophet must confess the biblical teaching on Christ's incarnation—must believe in His deity and preexistence, His virgin birth, true humanity, sinless life, atoning sacrifice, resurrection, ascension, intercessory ministry, and Second Advent.

- e. 5) **The Orchard Test:** Does the true prophet bear good or bad "fruit"? Matthew 7:18-20 Good Bad

Note: This counsel is crucial in evaluating a prophet's claim. First the prophet's life should be characterized by the fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:19-25). Second, this principle pertains to the influence of the prophet on others. What results accrue in the lives of those who accept the messages? Do their messages equip God's people for mission and unify them in their faith (Ephesians 4:11-16)? The orchard test takes time.

Biblical Predictions of an End Time Prophet:

13. Revelation 12:13-17 predicts the time when God will send end time messages to His people. (Remember that Joel 2:28-29 records God's promise that the Holy Spirit will give visions and dreams to His people.)
- Revelation 12:13 records that Satan persecuted God's church following Jesus' ascension (Revelation 12:5) to heaven. What is God's church called? Revelation 12:13 _____
 - As a way to protect His church God sent His people into the wilderness for how long? Revelation 12:14 _____
 - What happened to God's church while they were in the wilderness? Revelation 12:15-16 _____
 - Read Revelation 12:17 and answer the questions describing what the dragon (Satan) did and the three identities of God's last day church.
 - Identity #1: _____
 - Identity #2: _____
 - Identity #3: _____
14. What is the "testimony of Jesus Christ?" Revelation 19:10 _____

15. Conclusion: We should look for a group of believers to arise after the Dark Ages, that ended in 1798, who keep the _____ of God and have the _____ of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of Prophecy in the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

Our denomination's founders came out of the 1844 disappointment when Jesus did not return.



James White: A former teacher who learned the Millerite message from his mother and began to preach the Advent message. He met Ellen Harmon prior to the disappointment but their association did not begin until 1845. They were married in 1846. A college, a medical institution, publishing work, and church organization--all were begun by James White, in response to visions given to his wife. Together, they gave strong leadership to the church for 35 years. He died at age 60 in 1881, leaving Ellen White to continue her work alone for another 34 years.



Joseph Bates: Beginning in 1820 Bates served as captain of his own ship. Bates retired from the sea in 1827 with \$11,000, a small fortune for the time. After his retirement at age 35 Bates became associated with several reforms, including temperance and antislavery. Bates experienced the 1844 disappointment without losing his faith. In 1846 Bates wrote a tract about the Bible Sabbath. This tract came to the attention of James and Ellen White and they accepted the seventh-day Sabbath from studying the Bible evidence for it. Joseph Bates often chaired the "Sabbath conferences" of 1848-1850. He became more closely associated with the Whites at that time. He died at the age of 80. In his last year of ministry he preached at least 100 times.



Ellen Harmon White: During her lifetime she wrote more than 5,000 periodical articles and 40 books; but today, including compilations from her 50,000 pages of manuscript, more than 100 titles are available in English. She is the most translated woman writer in the entire history of literature, and the most translated American author of either gender. Following the keenness of the Great Disappointment she, with others, studied the Bible and prayed earnestly for light and guidance. Heaven seemed near to the praying group, and as the power of God rested on Ellen she witnessed in vision the

travels of the Advent people to the city of God. (*Early Writings*, pp. 13-20.) As the 17-year-old girl reluctantly and tremblingly related this vision to the Adventist group in Portland.

The life of Ellen White ended July 16, 1915, at the age of 87 years. She was laid to rest at the side of her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan. Ellen White lived to see the Advent movement grow from a handful of believers to a world-wide membership of 136,879 that, by 2009, had exceeded 16 million.

- The gift of prophecy was active in the ministry of Ellen White. She has given instructions to God's people living during the time of the end. Her prophetic call placed her under close scrutiny. Passing the biblical tests, she went on to minister through her spiritual gift for seventy years.
- Ellen White never assumed the title of prophetess, but she did not object when others called her by that title. She explained, "Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord's messenger... Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?—Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes much more than the word 'prophet' signifies.... To claim to be a prophetess is something that I have never done. If others call me by

that name, I have no controversy with them. But my work has covered so many lines that I can not call myself other than a messenger.”

- The material that she wrote fills more than eighty books, 200 tracts and pamphlets, and 4,600 periodical articles. Sermons, diaries, special testimonies, and letters comprise another 60,000 pages of manuscript materials.

16. The Bible is the supreme standard: Ellen White herself believed and taught that the Bible was the ultimate norm for the church.

- In her first book (*Early Writings*, p. 78) she wrote, “I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God, as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged.”
- Many years later she wrote, “In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. vii)
- She saw her work as that of leading people back to the Bible. “Little heed is given to the Bible,” she said, therefore “the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men to the greater light.” (“An Open Letter,” *Review and Herald*, Jan. 20, 1903, p. 15)
- “The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it... Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow.” (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 663)
- In 1909, during her last address to a general session of the church, she opened the Bible, held it up before the congregation, and said, “Brethren and sisters, I commend to you this Book.” (William A. Spicer, *The Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement* [Washington D.C.: Review and Herald, 1937], p. 30)



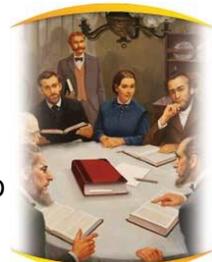
17. The Seventh-day Adventist Denomination has published a book titled, Seventh-day Adventists Believe. This book is not a creed but is a summary of our Bible based beliefs. On page 11, this book (Quotes from #16 above appear in this book.) contains the following statement: “The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.”

18. This raises a question: How did we develop our doctrines? → 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

19. From the late 1840’s through the 1850’s and beyond the formers of the then called Sabbatarian Adventists searched for the foundations of our faith. The following is taken from Ellen White’s book, *Selected Messages*, pp. 206-207

“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, [OLDER BROTHERS AMONG THE PIONEERS ARE HERE THUS REMINISCENTLY REFERRED TO. "FATHER PIERCE" WAS STEPHEN PIERCE, WHO SERVED IN MINISTERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IN THE EARLY DAYS. "FATHER ANDREWS" WAS EDWARD ANDREWS, THE FATHER OF J. N. ANDREWS.--COMPILERS.] Elder {Hiram} Edson,



and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me." {1SM 206.4}

20. Notice what Ellen White claims: "and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me." What influence did she have on the development of these doctrines?



"During this whole time I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God. The brethren knew that when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given." (1Selected Messages, p. 207)

21. James White wrote this in 1856: "the revival of any, or of all the Gifts, will never supersede the necessity of searching the Word {Bible} to learn the truth." (Review and Herald, Feb. 28, 1856)

22. George Knight, university professor, historian, and author wrote the following regarding our understanding of the hours of the seventh-day Sabbath.



On yet another occasion James White made his understanding of the priority of the Bible over his wife's gift explicitly clear. In November 1855 the leading Sabbatharians, after a thorough study of the Bible, came to a consensus on a theological issue (the time to begin the Sabbath) that had divided them for years. Yet Bates and Ellen White were still out of harmony with the body of believers. At that point Mrs. White received a vision confirming the conclusion arrived at through a thorough study of Scripture. It was enough to bring Bates, Mrs. White, and others into harmony with the majority.

But the question then arose as to why God hadn't settled the issue by a vision in the first place. James White's reply is enlightening. "It does not appear," he said, "to be the desire of the Lord to teach his people by the gifts of the Spirit on the bible questions until his servants have diligently searched his word. . . . Let the gifts have their proper place in the church. God has never set them in the very front, and commanded us to look to them to lead us in the path of truth, and the way Heaven. His word he has magnified. The scriptures of the Old and New Testament are man's lamp to light up his path to the kingdom. Follow that." (George Knight, Meeting Ellen White, p. 31)

Conclusion:

Large ocean ships are able to navigate entire oceans. The ship's captain and crew are well trained to care for the normal and extraordinary challenges of the sea. However when they come into port the port's authority sends a pilot boat that carries a person trained take control of these large ships and safely navigate it into the harbor. This is similar to what God has seen fit to do. At the end of time our Bible tells us that He will send more messengers with particular information to safely guide His people through the problems of the end time. "Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." (2 Chronicles 20:20)

Books to read:Seventh-day Adventists Believe

Chapter 1 → "The Word of God"

Chapter 18 → "The Gift of Prophecy"

Meeting Ellen White, George R. Knight

Ellen White Under Fire, Jud Lake

The Desire of Ages, Ellen White

Steps to Christ, Ellen White

Christ's Object Lessons, Ellen White

Website:

www.whiteestate.org

Don't Miss the Important Issue:

Early in 1845, while in vision at her parent's home, 17 year old Ellen Harmon (later White) picked up her parent's 18 ½ pound family Bible and held it on her outstretched left arm for 20 to 30 minutes. The story was documented by J. N. Loughborough who interviewed those who witnessed the vision. Many early Adventist held such experiences and other remarkable physical phenomena as evidence of divine inspiration. These should not be considered proof of divine inspiration. A prophet must meet the tests set forth in the Scriptures.

So where does our church place Ellen White in comparison with the canonical Bible authors?

*There are two different types of prophets we read about in the Bible: Those who wrote Scripture—canonical prophets, like Paul and Isaiah—and prophets who led movements but didn't write Scripture, like John the Baptist and Elijah.

Since the Bible is complete with its 66 books, there is no such thing anymore as a canonical prophet. But the New Testament informs us of a continuing role for prophets, until the end of time, to help the church grow into maturity. Such leadership prophets are inspired by God through their example and teaching to help the church fulfill its purpose and rebuke God's people when we fall short of obedience

to the Bible. Adventists believe that Ellen White fits into this latter category of a prophetic messenger-- but we emphatically do NOT regard her as a canonical prophet with doctrinal authority.

* Taken from the web site www.sdaforme.com also www.sda4me.com.