

**EQUIPPING THE SAINTS**  
**20/20 Vision in 2020**  
**LESSON STUDY: *Simplicity of the Gospel***  
**November 7, 2020**

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**GOD'S EYES FOR THE CHURCH**  
**The Gospel Simplified: Jesus In, Satan Out**  
**SCRIPTURE: 1 COR. 1:4,7,8**

"<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;<sup>7</sup> So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup>Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Prophets are human, they made mistakes, but they were used by God. Some prophets never wrote books included in the bible.**

**1. Abraham:**

- Gen. 20:2,3,5,7,17,18: "<sup>2</sup>And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. <sup>3</sup>But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. <sup>5</sup>Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. <sup>7</sup>Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a **prophet**, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine. <sup>17</sup>So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. <sup>18</sup>For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife."

**2. Elijah:**

- 1 Kings 17:1: "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."
- James 5:17,18: "<sup>17</sup>Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. <sup>18</sup>And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."
- 1 Kings 18:23,36-38,40,19: "<sup>23</sup>Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: <sup>36</sup>And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the **prophet** came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. <sup>37</sup>Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. <sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>40</sup>And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there. <sup>19</sup>Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."
- 1 Kings 19:1-3: "<sup>1</sup>And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this

time. <sup>3</sup> And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.”

- 2 Kings 2:1,9,10,11: “<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. <sup>9</sup>And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. <sup>10</sup>And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. <sup>11</sup>And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

### 3. John the Baptist:

- Luke 7:26,28: “<sup>26</sup>But what went ye out for to see? A **prophet**? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a **prophet**.<sup>28</sup> For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater **prophet** than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**Again, we are reminded God uses women as well as men in the prophetic role.**

- A. **Mariam:** Ex 15:20: “And Miriam the **prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.”
- B. **Deborah:** Judges 4:4: “And Deborah, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.”
- C. **Anna:** Luke 2:36,38: “<sup>36</sup>And there was one Anna, a **prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; <sup>38</sup>And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”

### THE FIRST TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**What is the first test of a true prophet? Accuracy**

- 4. Jer. 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.”

### THE SECOND TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**Faithfulness to God’s word and condemn those prophets who say, “Let us go after other gods.”**

- 5. Deut. 13:1-4: “<sup>1</sup>If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; <sup>3</sup>Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup>Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.”

A true prophet’s writings always agree with the bible.

### THE THIRD TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**A true prophet always exalts the word of God. He or she always calls people to obedience.**

6. Isa. 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."
7. 1 John 2:3-6: "<sup>3</sup> And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup> He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup> But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. <sup>6</sup> He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."
8. John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

### THE FOURTH TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**Does God have a last day prophet?**

9. Acts 2:17,18: "<sup>17</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit** upon all flesh: and your sons and your **daughters shall prophesy**, ... <sup>18</sup> And on my servants and on my **handmaidens** I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:"

Ellen White is God's Messenger to God's Last Day Remnant Church. She lived from 1827 to 1915. Her first vision occurred at a prayer meeting in 1844. Throughout Ellen White's Ministry, she magnified the name of Christ.

**The true prophet's central focus should be Jesus.**

10. John 12:32: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

Ellen White's books such as The Desire of Ages, Christ Object Lessons, Steps to Christ, and Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings all testify to her fulfillment of this test. She says nothing of herself, but constantly lifts up the name of Jesus. Ellen White accepted God's call. She served God's Church for 70 years. Her aim and work were to point the church and its members to the bible and Jesus' free gift of righteousness.

### THE FIFTH TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET

**What are the physical evidences of a true prophet in vision?**

11. May lose physical strength. Dan 10:8 "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."

**God touched Daniel's lips so he could speak although no breath remained in his body.**

12. Dan. 10:14,16,17: "<sup>14</sup> Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. <sup>16</sup> And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. <sup>17</sup> 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."

### **May later receive supernatural strength.**

13. Dan. 10:18,19: “<sup>18</sup>Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, <sup>19</sup>And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.”

### **Eyes may be open.**

14. Numbers 24:2,4: “<sup>2</sup>And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. <sup>4</sup>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:”

Ellen White experience all of these supernatural phenomena throughout her ministry.

## **THE SIXTH TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET**

### **By their fruits you will know them. A true prophet's ministry will be selfless.**

15. Matt. 7:17,18,20: “<sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.... <sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

### **A prophet's primary work is to serve the church.**

16. 1 Cor. 14:22 “Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”

17. 1 Thes. 5:19-21: “<sup>19</sup>Quench not the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Despise not prophesyings. <sup>21</sup>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

Seventh-day Adventist believe that the genuine Gift of Prophecy was manifested in the church through the writings of Ellen G. White. Her writings do not in any way take the place of the bible. Her writings point us back to the bible and the bible only. Satan is upset, because God has given his remnant Church a prophet to guide us in these last days.

### **What is the most important test of a true prophet?**

18. Isa. 8:20: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

19. Rev. 12:17: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

20. Rev. 19:10: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”