

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

Bible prophecies prove the Bible to be true

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| 1  | II Peter 1:21       | "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."  |
| 2  | Luke 1:67-71        | The father of John the Baptist prophesied  |
| 3  | * Ephesians 4:11-15 | "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, ..."  |
| 4  | * Matthew 24:24     | "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets,..."  |
| 5  | * I Thess. 5:20-21  | "Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."   |
| 6  | * Matthew 7:15-16   | BIBLE TEST "Ye shall know them by their fruits."   |
| 7  | * Deut. 18:20-22    | BIBLE TEST "If the thing follow not,..." it isn't of God.  |
| 8  | * Deut. 13:1-4      | BIBLE TEST If it comes to pass, and he says, "Let's go serve other Gods..."  |
| 9  | * Isaiah 8:20       | BIBLE TEST "To the Law and to the Testimony: if they speak not according to this word..."<br>False prophets in these modern days   |
| 10 | * Rev. 12:17        | The remnant keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus  |
| 11 | * Rev. 19:10        | "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophesy."  |
| 12 | * Joel 2:28-32      | "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."   |
| 13 | Acts 2:16-18        | At pentecost, Peter said that "those days" have come   |
| 14 | Exodus 15:19-21     | Miriam, the sister of Moses, was a prophetess  |
| 15 | Judges 4:4-5        | Deborah was a prophetess and a judge of Israel   |
| 16 | Luke 2:36-38        | Anna was a prophetess who served God in Jerusalem's temple   |
| 17 | * Acts 21:8-9       | Phillip the evangelist had four daughters which did prophesy   |
| 18 | John 10:39-42       | John the baptist did no miracle, but he spoke the truth  |
| 19 | Matthew 11:8-10     | John the baptist was a prophet and more than a prophet   |
| 20 | Acts 15:32          | There were prophets who didn't write scripture, but God used them  |
| 21 | * I Cor. 1:4-9      | "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord<br>So many supernatural occurrences took place in Ellen White's visions that one can only say she was either a prophetess of God, or else a witch --nothing between |
| 22 | * II Chron. 20:20   | "Believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."   |

**Lamentations 2:9: “The law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the Lord.”**

**In studying this subject of the Spirit of Prophecy, let us keep this in mind. It tells us that when people make void His law, He no longer speaks to them through a present-day prophet. If a man refuses to hear and obey God’s law, God no longer regards that man’s insincere prayers.**

**Proverbs 28:9: “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” A man may cry to God; he may pray day and night; he may have a form of godliness, but unless he walks in the light given to him from God’s word in obedience to God’s commandments, all his prayers and his worship are an abomination to God.**

**Isaiah 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.” Here then is the test which should be applied to any teaching. It must agree with the written testimony of the Bible and it must not in any way teach men to break God’s law.**

**In Revelation 12:17 we find that the remnant church in the last days will possess these characteristics: “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.” And we are told in Revelation 19:10 what the term “testimony of Jesus” means. “The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.” This is the only time the Bible ever uses the term, “Spirit of prophecy”, but in many Jewish writings which paraphrase passages in Scripture, we find what is meant by this term. Here are two examples: “And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find a man like this, in whom is the spirit of prophecy from the Lord?’” (paraphrase of Genesis 41:38). “And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take to thee Joshua, son of Nun, a man upon whom abideth the spirit of prophecy from before the Lord.’” (paraphrase of Numbers 27:18).**

**All writers who were contemporary with Bible writers are agreed that by “the spirit of prophecy” they meant the gift of inspiration from God.**

**During the first century the early church kept God’s commandments and had not compromised with paganism, and God gave to that church the spirit of prophecy. Let us notice that during this time there were prophets in the church.**

**Acts 15:32: “And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.”**

**This spirit of prophecy was not confined to men alone in the New Testament church: Acts 21:8-10: “And the next day we that were of Paul’s company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Phillip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.”**

**In God's sight there is neither male nor female according to Galatians 3:28. And in Joel 2:28-29, it is prophesied that the spirit would be poured out in the last days upon both men and women.**

**“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”**

**Joel 2:31: “The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.”**

**The prophecies regarding the Dark day were strikingly fulfilled on May 19, 1780. These signs in the heavens, plus the falling of the stars on November 13, 1833 (Matthew 24:29) were to precede the outpouring of God's spirit in a special way in the last days. All these signs led thousands of people in many denominations to begin to proclaim that the coming of the Lord was near at hand. This gave rise to a mighty revival which swept the country, and out of that great revival, God called His remnant church. Notice the next verse in Joel.**

**Joel 2:32: “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, AND IN THE REMNANT whom the Lord shall call.”**

**This is the remnant of whom the Lord says in Revelation, they keep the commandments of God and have the spirit of prophecy.**

**Just before 1844 when many churches thought Jesus was coming, God tried to lay the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy on a man by the name of William Foy. In 1842, Foy, a Baptist, was living in Boston, Massachusetts. The Lord gave him two visions in 1842, one on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, the other on February 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**These visions related to the advent of Christ, the travels of the people of God to the heavenly city, and the glories of the redeemed in the New Earth. By invitation he went from city to city to tell the wonderful things he had seen and he created a sensation wherever he went. His work continued until the year 1844, when he received a third vision which he did not understand. In this he was shown the pathway of the people of God through to the heavenly city. He was shown three steps or messages yet to go to the world before Jesus would come. Thinking Jesus was coming in a few weeks, he could not fully understand his vision and ceased speaking in public. Later he heard another relate and explain this same vision, and soon after he became ill and died.**

**Soon after Foy's visions, the same vision of the three steps into heaven was given to a man by the name of Hazen Foss. He too could not understand that God was trying to spare His people the bitter disappointment when Jesus should fail to come as they expected in 1844. The vision was given to him the second time and he was warned that, unless he was willing to carry the burden the Lord was trying to lay upon him, the gift would be taken from him and laid upon one of the “weakest of the weak of God's children”.**

Still he refused to carry the burden. Then a third vision was given and he was told that the gift was removed from him. Later he heard a young girl repeat the vision which had been given to him. This young girl could well fit the description of “the weakest of the weak”. Her name was Ellen Harmon White.

At the time of her first vision she was in very critical condition. For a number of weeks she had scarcely been able to speak above a whisper. It was difficult for her to breathe while lying down. At night she had to be bolstered up in bed to almost a sitting position, and even then had frequent spells of coughing and hemorrhages.

Her first vision was given at the home of a Mrs. Haines. It was at the time of their morning worship. The others had prayed and Miss Harmon began to pray in a whisper when suddenly the power of God fell upon her in a most wonderful manner.

The following is a brief synopsis of her first vision in her words:

“While praying, the power of God came upon me as I had never felt it before. I was surrounded with light, and was 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 first end of the path, which an angel told me was ‘the midnight cry’. This shone all along their path, and gave light for their feet, that they might not stumble. And 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; they 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 bright light, which waved over the advent people, and they shouted, Hallelujah! Others rashly denied the light behind them, and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind these went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and got their eyes off the mark, and lost sight of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below.” The entire vision may be found in her book entitled EARLY WRITINGS.

Next I want to examine the Bible record concerning a prophet in vision and then give some testimonials of the condition of Mrs. White in vision. With this, I shall then ask you to believe that Mrs. White was either under the direct influence of the Spirit of God or else the spirit of Satan, for surely you must agree that a supernatural power was manifested in her visions.

The first testimonial from J.N. Loughborough who saw her in public vision for as long as an hour at a time:

“In passing into vision she gives three enrapturing shouts of ‘glory!’ which echo and re-echo, the second and especially the third, fainter, but more thrilling than the first, the voice resembling that of one quite a distance from you, and just going out of hearing. For about four or five seconds she seems to drop down like a person in a swoon, or one having lost his strength; she then seems to be instantly filled with superhuman strength, sometimes rising at

once to her feet and walking about the room. There are frequent movements of the hands and arms, pointing to the right or left as her head turns. All these movements are made in a most graceful manner. In whatever position the hand or arm may be placed, it is impossible for anyone to move it. Her eyes are always open, but she does not wink; her head is raised, and she is looking upward, not with a vacant stare, but with a pleasant expression, only differing from the normal in that she appears to be looking intently at some distant object. She does not breathe, yet her pulse beats regularly. Her countenance is pleasant, and the color of her face is as florid as in her natural state.”

Notice these characteristics: 1. Eyes open; 2. No breath; 3. Loss of strength; 4. Strengthened by supernatural power. Now let us see if this is scriptural:

Numbers 24:15-16: “And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, the man whose EYES ARE OPEN hath said: 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”.

Daniel 10:8, 17-19: “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.... 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. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 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.’”

We could present many testimonials that Mrs. White did not breathe in vision. Many times she was examined by doctors who testified that no breath was in her body.

In one vision she held a family Bible weighing 18 ½ pounds in one hand, and that hand held in a position above her head that would not permit the Bible to stay there except it was held by some other power. Held above her head where she could not see the text she would place the finger of her free hand on a text and read it as God brought to light some new and precious truth. I have personally held this Bible in my hand and could hold it only a few minutes, yet this frail girl held it in this vision for 30 minutes. No athlete who has ever attempted this feat has been able to equal it.

At one time Elder James White and Mrs. White were riding in a wagon with Elder Bates and Israel Damon on the back seat. Elder White was driving a partly broken colt which was very nervous and hard to handle. While they talked, Sister White went into vision. The moment she gave that first shout of “glory”, the colt suddenly stopped perfectly still and dropped his head. Mrs. White climbed out of the wagon, placing her hand on the colt as she did so. She walked up and down beside the road describing the glories of the New Earth. Then she came back to the wagon, placed her hand again on the colt, and climbed into the wagon. As soon as she was seated, the colt lifted his head and started on.

Some try to explain Mrs. White's visions by saying they were only the product of her physical condition. If that be true then, pray tell me what was wrong with the colt in this instance. Would her physical condition affect the horse? The Bible says, "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good." Some of us do the despising, but not the proving.

In the early days of the formation of this great movement, God used this gift to prevent discord and dissention within our ranks. One illustration will help you to better understand what I mean. While Mrs. White was in Australia, a certain brother began to teach a doctrine which was sure to bring a division in one of our California churches. A meeting was called to discuss this brother and his teaching, and that very morning this brother received a letter from Mrs. White pointing out his error. This letter was written in Australia weeks before the trouble arose and arrived just in time to save a very serious division. Over and over again the gift of the spirit of prophecy guided the young movement in its formative years.

She wrote 37 complete books and thousands of pages of unpublished manuscripts. For many decades her enemies have combed those voluminous writings in a vain effort to prove that she was anything but a prophet of God, and yet her work stands today as a monument to what God does through His chosen instruments.

She had only four years of education in school and yet wrote a book called **THE MINISTRY OF HEALING** that has made doctors exclaim, "The author of this book was inspired".

She wrote **THE DESIRE OF AGES** which is rated by many unbiased critics as the best work on the life of Christ ever written.

No, Seventh-day Adventists are not ashamed to admit that God has spoken through this human instrument. We need make no haste to defend the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy for they are our defense. At every great period of crisis in the great controversy between Christ and Satan, God has spoken through a prophet. The servant of God has laid down her heavy burden and is at rest. Like Moses of old, she was permitted to see the better land, but not permitted to enter without passing through the tomb.

She sleeps today but what a wealth of instruction, learning, reproof, correction, and blessed promises have been left in her writings.

Have you ever read her writings, friend? Will you please read **STEPS TO CHRIST** or **THE DESIRE OF AGES** and then ask yourself, "Could one inspired by Satan have written these?"

**II Chronicles 20:20:** "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."