



SAVED TO SERVE

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RYAN DAY & OTHER CRITICS REJECT SDA. IS ELLEN WHITE A FALSE PROPHET?

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the Bible to see if Ellen White is a false prophet and how the gift of prophecy is and will be manifested in God's true church.

2. Current Event from Spectrum Magazine: **Ryan Day Departs 3ABN, Launches 'Re-Think Adventism'**

"A prominent evangelist and staple in conservative Adventist media, Day now says he can no longer support some of the denomination's key doctrines, such as the investigative judgment or the church's claims about the writings of Ellen G. White. Insisting his intent is not to attack Adventism, Day launched his YouTube channel to create space for what he called "honest, respectful, and prayerful investigation" into Adventist teachings. His decision, shaped by over nearly three years of private study and spiritual reflection, has sparked strong reactions within Adventist circles and has drawn concern from institutional leaders."
<https://spectrummagazine.org/news/ryan-day-departs-3abn-launches-re-think-adventism/>

3. Besides keeping the commandments of God, what is another major characteristic of the true church? Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10

4. What is the the spirit of prophecy also known as the testimony of Jesus? Read Revelation 1:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:19-21.
Answer: It is God revealing to His people through the Holy Spirit & angels things which will come to pass (prophecy), and that which is revealed provides evidence that God's Word is true, and it points people to Jesus.

5. Is prophecy included among the spiritual gifts given to the church? How does Paul describe it in 1 Corinthians 14:1? 1 Corinthians 12:28, 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1

6. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts, including the gift of prophecy? Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:6-8

7. How does prophecy comes to us? Revelation 1:1-2; Amos 3:7

8. Do prophets speak of their own will or do they speak on behalf of God? 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Hebrews 1:1, 2

9. **Note:** Throughout Bible history, God has always had a leading prophet to guide His people with their counsel, prayers, and rebuke (i.e. Moses, Samuel, Elijah, John the Baptist). For example, while Moses was the leading prophet who communicated with God and shared God's messages with the Israelites, Miriam was simultaneously called a prophetess (Exodus 15:20). There were hundreds of prophets in Elijah's day, but he was the leading prophet who rebuked Ahab & Jezebel. Likewise, in these last days, God also has a leading prophet whose counsel guides His remnant movement: Ellen G. White. Others will receive the gift of prophecy (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28, 29) but there will only be one leading prophet.

10. Does the Bible warn against false prophets? Matthew 24:11, 24; Matthew 7:15

11. What are we counseled to do in order to determine if a prophet is sent by God or not? 1 John 4:1

12. What are the physical tests of a true prophet?

a) Numbers 12:6 _____

b) Numbers 24:16 _____

- c) Daniel 10:8 _____
- d) Daniel 10:15 _____
- e) Daniel 10:17 _____
- f) Daniel 10:18 _____
- g) 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 _____

Visions happen in the presence of witnesses who bear a first-hand testimony of the event (Daniel 10:7; Acts 9:7, 8).

13. Let us look at the characteristics of a true prophet.

- a) 1 John 4:2, 3 _____
- b) Deuteronomy 18:21, 22; Jeremiah 28:9 _____
- c) Ezekiel 3:17-19 _____
- d) Matthew 7:15-18, 20 _____
- e) Isaiah 8:20 _____
- f) Acts 15:1-2, 27-29 _____

14. The Bible shows us that there will be false prophets whose predictions come to pass. Therefore, this could not be the litmus test of a true prophet. If a false prophet's predictions come to pass, what will help us discern that they are not of God?
Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Isaiah 8:20

15. **Note:** As you prayerfully and sincerely compare the points in this lesson with the ministry of Ellen G. White, you will conclude that she does fulfill the the Biblical requirements of a true prophet and that she is God's leading prophet of these last days. Her writings also fall under the umbrella of "the Spirit of Prophecy" which we defined on question number 4.

16. One charge brought against Ellen White is that she plagiarized and therefore is a false prophet. Let us examine this point. From her own pen, what has she stated about her use of other literary works in the introduction of the book *The Great Controversy*?

"The great events which have marked the progress of reform in past ages are matters of history, well known and universally acknowledged by the Protestant world; they are facts which none can gainsay. This history I have presented briefly, in accordance with the scope of the book, and the brevity which must necessarily be observed, the facts having been condensed into as little space as seemed consistent with a proper understanding of their application. **In some cases where a historian has so grouped together events as to afford, in brief, a comprehensive view of the subject, or has summarized details in a convenient manner, his words have been quoted; but in some instances no specific credit has been given, since the quotations are not given for the purpose of citing that writer as authority, but because his statement affords a ready and forcible presentation of the subject. In narrating the experience and views of those carrying forward the work of reform in our own time, similar use has been made of their published works.**" {GC xi.4}

17. What were the conclusions about Ellen White's writings by Attorney Vincent L. Ramik, a specialist in patent, trademark, and copyright cases in the 1980s? See below.

After researching about 1,000 copyright cases in American legal history, Ramik issued a 27-page legal opinion in which he concluded **"Ellen White was not a plagiarist, and her works did not constitute copyright infringement/piracy."** Ramik points out several factors that critics of Ellen White's writings have failed to take into account when accusing her of literary theft or deceit. **1) Her selections "stayed well within the legal boundaries of 'fair use.'" 2) "Ellen White used the writings of others; but in the way she used them, she made them uniquely her own"--adapting the selections into her own literary framework. 3) Ellen White urged her readers to get copies of some of the very books she made use of--demonstrating that she did not attempt to conceal the fact of her use of literary sources, and that she had no intention to defraud or supersede the works of any other author.**

Ellen White's use of other authors was not limited to historical or geographical material, but included other subject areas as well. Research has found that she enriched her writings with choice expressions from her reading more extensively than had been known, although the amount that has been documented thus far is **a small percentage (less than 2 percent) when measured**

against her total literary output.

<https://whiteestate.org/about/issues1/about-egw/writings/literary-productions/plagiarism-charge/#:~:text=After%20researching%20about%201%2C000%20copyright,White's%20writings%20have%20failed%20to>

<https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/761.2>

18. Which other New Testament writer/prophet quoted from authors outside of the Bible? Which philosopher did he quote from? Acts 17:28; Titus 1:12
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“He quotes the Cretan philosopher Epimenides, considered a semi-mythical 7th or 6th century BC Greek seer and philosopher-poet...“They fashioned a tomb for you, holy and high one, Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies. But you are not dead: you live and abide forever, For **in you we live and move and have our being.**”

<https://larrydixon.wordpress.com/tag/epimenides/>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/god/who-do-we-live-and-move-and-have-our-being.html>

19. Another charge brought against Ellen White is that she added information not found in the Bible and is therefore a false prophet. (For example, when she writes about the events and circumstances leading up to Lucifer’s fall from heaven in *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *The Great Controversy*). We will now prove from scripture that one function of prophets is to share background or behind the scenes information which led up to the particular events of that time.

In the book of Job, we see that Job loses all his possessions, his family, and is suffering physically & mentally. Why was all of this happening? Read Job 1:7-9. Here the writer of the book of Job (many believe to be Moses), gives behind the scenes insight into the counsel between God and Satan over the life of Job. Moses is filling in the gaps of the story that only a prophet of God could do!

20. Here is another example of a Biblical prophet giving behind the scenes information of a particular time period. What did the prophet Jude write in Jude 1:14?
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21. Are these words found anywhere else in Genesis or the New Testament? Research it.
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22. Let’s see an example where a non-canonical prophet gave behind the scenes insight into a particular occurrence of his time. What scene does the prophet Micaiah describe took place while Ahab and Jehoshaphat sought counsel about whether they should go out to battle? 2 Chronicles 18:18-22 **Answer:** Micaiah describes how God held a meeting and permitted false spirits to influence Ahab to go to battle. This is behind the scenes information that neither Ahab nor Jehoshaphat knew took place but God revealed it to Micaiah.

An important point not to miss is that in the previous chapter, 2 Chronicles 17:9, we find that the Jews had the book of the law. Were Micaiah’s words in 2 Chronicles 18 contrary to the book of the law? No! Micaiah doesn’t have a book in the Bible just as Ellen White doesn’t have a book in the Bible but they were doing the same work under the inspiration of God: giving behind the scenes insight of a particular situation or event.

23. To further confirm that Ellen White was a true prophet, answer the following question. Were there other prophets who had books that were relevant for their time but are not a part of the 66 canonical books of the Bible? (P.S. These are called the lost books of the Bible) 1 Chronicles 29:29; Numbers 21:13-14; 2 Chronicles 12:15; 2 Chronicles 9:29; 2 Chronicles 33:19; Joshua 10:13
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- a) Would you reject their ministry and consider them false prophets because their books are not among the 66 books of the Bible?
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24. Why did God give to His remnant movement, Seventh-day Adventism, the testimonies and writings of Ellen White? See below. Matthew 23:33-34, 37
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"I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several Testimonies for the Church, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies. You are not familiar with the Scriptures. **If you had made God's word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the Testimonies. It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.**" {2T 605.1}

"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. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. **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.**" {3SM 31.1}

"The Word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles." {3SM 31.2}

25. Who do we reject when we reject the prophets God sends to guide us? 1 Samuel 8:7; 2 Chronicles 36:16; Luke 7:28-30

"I know your danger. If you lose confidence in the testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? **As you now hold the testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed.** God and Satan never work in copartnership. The testimonies either bear the signet of God or that of Satan. A good tree cannot bring forth corrupt fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. By their fruit ye shall know them. God has spoken. Who has trembled at His word?" {5T 98.2}

26. What will critics and insincere people always find to strengthen their unbelief in God's truth?

"While God has given ample evidence for faith, He will never remove all excuse for unbelief. All who look for hooks to hang their doubts upon will find them. And those who refuse to accept and obey God's word until every objection has been removed, and there is no longer an opportunity for doubt, will never come to the light." {GC 527.2}

27. What promise does God leave those who take heed to His counsels given through His prophets? 2 Chronicles 20:20; 2 Peter 1:19; Proverbs 29:18 **you will prosper and walk in light and not darkness. You will be happy**

A Short List Of Quotations Which Confirm Ellen White To Be A True Prophet

Ellen White lost strength and went into vision.

As he left the house, a burden was rolled upon me, and I fainted. Prayer was offered for me, and I was blessed, and taken off in vision. I saw that the Lord had blessed and strengthened my husband to labor in the field one year before; that he had made a right disposition of the means he there earned; and that he would have a hundredfold in this life, and, if faithful, a rich reward in the kingdom of God; but that the Lord would not now give him strength to labor in the field, for He had another work for him to do, and that if he ventured into the field, he would be cut down by sickness; but that he must write, write, write, and walk out by faith. He immediately began to write, and when he came to some difficult passage, we would unite in prayer to God for an understanding of the true meaning of His word. {CET 128.4}

Ellen White at times, did not breathe while in vision.

From Volney we journeyed toward Port Gibson, sixty miles distant, to meet another appointment August 27 and 28. "On our way," wrote my husband in a letter to Brother Hastings dated August 26, "we stopped at Brother Snow's in Hannibal. In that place are eight or ten precious souls. Brother Bates, Brother and Sister Edson, and Brother Simmons stopped all night with them. In the morning Ellen was taken off in vision, and while she was in vision, all the brethren came in. One of the number was not with us on the Sabbath [truth], but was humble and good. Ellen rose up in vision, took the large Bible, held it up before the Lord, talked from it, then carried it to this humble brother, and put it in his arms. He took it while tears were rolling down his bosom. Then Ellen came and sat down by me. She was in vision one and a half hours, in which time she did not breathe at all. It was an affecting time. All wept much for joy. We left Brother Bates with them, and came to this place with Brother Edson." {CET 120.1}

The testimonies are for rebuke and not are not an addition to God's Word; they are given to make it clearer. They point you back to Jesus Christ & scripture.

"Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the *Testimonies* is an addition to the word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a false light. God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people to His word, to give them a clearer understanding of it." [Testimonies for the Church 4:246 (1876).] 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. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. 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 for the Church 2:455 (1870).] The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles." [Testimonies for the Church 4:323 (1879).] {5T 663.2}

Ellen White's visions helped settle doctrinal disputes and gave scriptural enlightenment.

We are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience. At that time one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures, and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error. {GW 302.2}

As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. **I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays.** {GW 302.3}

Ellen White Predicted The Falling Of The Twin Towers in New York.

On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: "How can we best glorify God?" The Lord was not in their thoughts. {9T 12.1}

I thought: "Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man." {9T 12.2}

As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah. {9T 12.3}

The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines. {9T 13.1}