



THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

*HOW TO DISCERN BETWEEN
TRUE & FALSE PROPHETS*

A SAVED TO SERVE STUDY GUIDE



Try the Spirits

We let the Bible interpret itself, testing every claim by “the law and to the testimony” (Isaiah 8:20). The study runs in one continuous sequence — from Point 1 through Point 26. Read each reference in your Bible and write your answers on the lines provided.

I. **PURPOSE** In this series of doctrinal lessons we will see the warnings Jesus gives about false prophets, and how to be sure that we are not deceived by them — while proving that God pours out the gift of prophecy upon His faithful church in these last days.

In This Study

1	Jesus’ warning against deception	Matthew 24:3-11
2	By their fruits ye shall know them	Matthew 7:15-20
3	“No man knoweth the day or hour”	Matthew 24:36
4	The testimony of Jesus in the remnant	Revelation 12:17; 19:10
5	The gift of prophecy in the church	1 Corinthians 12-14
6	Physical tests of a true prophet	Numbers 24; Daniel 10
7	Marks of a true prophet	1 John 4; Isaiah 8:20
8	Date-setting & the 1844 message	Daniel 8:14

◆ BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:20-21 (KJV)

Keep your Bible open and let each text speak for itself. Measure every teacher, dream, and prediction by the law and the testimony. Answer honestly, compare Scripture with Scripture, and ask the Spirit to make you a wise and watchful Berean — from Point 1 to Point 26.

2. What was the first thing Jesus warned His disciples of when they asked Him about the signs of His coming and the end of the world?— *Read: Matthew 24:3-4*

3. How does Jesus label those who will be deceiving others, and how strong will the delusion be?
— *Read: Matthew 24:11, 24*

4. Many are deceived because false prophets appear sincere and convinced of what they teach. How did Jesus say the false prophets would portray themselves?— *Read: Matthew 7:15*

5. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. Since we cannot read hearts, what should we examine to know if they are sent by God?— *Read: Matthew 7:16-20*

Unexpected Response from Mr. Joshua on the Rapture Failure ↗

After his predicted rapture date passed, Joshua Mhlakela insists the rapture is still happening — a modern case of date-setting to weigh against Scripture.

CURRENT EVENT · YOUTUBE

7. What are we clearly told in Scripture regarding the time of Jesus' return?— *Read: Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32-33*

8. **NOTE** Let us first prove that God will pour out His Spirit of Prophecy upon His church and faithful saints in these last days — and then we will see how to discern a true prophet from a false one.

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

10. What is the spirit of prophecy? (It is also known as the testimony of Jesus.)— *Read: Revelation 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21*

ANSWER It is God revealing to His people, through the Holy Spirit and angels, things which will come to pass (prophecy); and that which is revealed proves God's Word is true and points people to Jesus.

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

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

13. How does prophecy come to us?— *Read: Revelation 1:1-2; Amos 3:7*

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

15. **NOTE** Throughout Bible history God has always had a leading prophet to guide His people — Moses, Samuel, Elijah, John the Baptist. While Moses was the leading prophet, Miriam was also called a prophetess (Exodus 15:20); there were hundreds of prophets in Elijah's day, yet he was the leading prophet who rebuked Ahab and Jezebel. Likewise, in these last days God has a leading prophet whose counsel guides His remnant: Ellen G. White. Others receive the gift of prophecy (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28-29), but there is only one leading prophet.

16. What are we counseled to do in order to determine whether a prophet is sent by God?— *Read: 1 John 4:1*

17. 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).

18. 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

ANSWER Prophets help to settle doctrinal disputes.

19. How can we know whether what a prophet says is their own words and not a word from the Lord?
— *Read: Deuteronomy 18:21-22*

20. The Bible shows that some predictions of false prophets do come to pass; therefore prediction alone cannot be the test. If a false prophet's prediction comes to pass, what helps us discern that they are not of God?— *Read: Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Isaiah 8:20*

21. What effect will continual date-setting for the Second Coming of Jesus have on Christians? (See the statement below.)

“Different times were set for the Lord to come, and were urged upon the brethren. But the Lord showed me that they would pass by, for the time of trouble must take place before the coming of Christ, and that every time that was set, and passed, would weaken the faith of God’s people. For this I was charged with being the evil servant that said, ‘My Lord delayeth His coming.’”

TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, VOL. 1, P. 72 {1T 72.2}

22. **NOTE** Notice how the media connects this false rapture date, predicted by Mr. Joshua, to Seventh-day Adventists. The article traces the 2025 “rapture craze” from Joshua Mhlakela’s dream back through William Miller and the Great Disappointment of 1844 — and names Ellen G. White among the movement’s founders.

The roots of belief in the 2025 Rapture that didn't happen ↗

A news commentary linking the viral 2025 rapture prediction to William Miller, the 1844 disappointment, and the origins of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.

MSNBC OPINION

23. People look at the Millerite disappointment with scorn because Jesus did not return on October 22, 1844. Like those believers, the disciples of Jesus also experienced a great disappointment. What was theirs?— *Read: Luke 24:19-21; John 6:15*

24. As the early Adventist believers kept studying their Bibles after October 22, 1844, what did they understand transpired on that date — proving the Adventist movement is not a false movement? — *Read: Daniel 7:9-10, 13; Daniel 8:14*

ANSWER Jesus went in before His Father in the Most Holy Place to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary and begin the work of the investigative judgment.

25. What two doctrines and prophecies are important to teach and understand if we plan not to be swept away from the platform of truth?— *Read: Daniel 8:14; Daniel 9:24-27*

26. What should we pray for in these last days?

a) James 1:5-8

b) Colossians 2:6-8

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The Remnant Have the Testimony of Jesus

Jesus warned that in the last days many false prophets would arise and deceive many. God has not left us defenceless: He gave His church the gift of prophecy — the testimony of Jesus — and clear tests by which to try every spirit. By their fruits, by their agreement with the law and the testimony, and by the witness of the Holy Spirit, we may discern the true prophet from the false, and stand secure on the platform of present truth.

REVELATION 12:17 (KJV)

“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.”

Will you try the spirits, and hold fast that which is good?

REFERENCES

Sources & Notes

A WORD OF CAUTION

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.”

ELLEN G. WHITE · SELECTED MESSAGES, BK. 1, P. 48 {1SM 48.1}

SCRIPTURE & SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

- 1 Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 72 {1T 72.2}.
- 2 Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 48 {1SM 48.1}.
- 3 The testimony of Jesus / Spirit of Prophecy — Revelation 12:17; 19:10.
- 4 Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV).

MEDIA & NEWS SOURCES

- 5 YouTube — “Unexpected Response from Mr. Joshua on Rapture Failure.” [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) ↗
- 6 MSNBC Opinion — “The roots of belief in the 2025 Rapture that didn’t happen.” [msnbc.com](https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/...) ↗

All Scripture is quoted from the King James Version (KJV). Spirit of Prophecy references are cited for study and comment.