

# The Story of the Spirit of Prophecy

Understanding God's Special Gift: 01

## 1B: "The Gift of Prophecy"

In the beginning the angels of God sang together and rejoiced and all the universe were joyful as they saw the work of God in the creation of this earth and the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Communication between the couple on earth and heavenly beings was a fact of their lives. Adam and Eve had the joy of talking face to face with their Maker. The inspired word pictures them strolling together in the cool of the evening through this perfect world, in fond conversation as family members do. The angels enjoyed visiting and sharing information with the holy pair.

Then came the day when all this changed; angels cast down their musical instruments and stopped singing, great sorrow filled the universe as the news came that the newly created pair in Eden had fallen for the lies of the serpent and joined in Lucifer's rebellion against their Heavenly Father.

The Bible in Genesis 3:8 gives a sad scene; here is the Creator walking in the Garden as previously but there is no sign of Adam and Eve. Instead of running joyfully to meet Him, they are hiding. **"Where are you?"** He calls, and finally they come out, **"We heard Your voice and we were afraid."**

Once Adam and Eve chose to rebel and disobey, no longer was it possible for them to be in direct communication with heaven. Sin abruptly ended that privilege.

It would not have been surprising had God taken this planet and pushed it over into some secluded area of the universe, put some kind of a force field around it so nothing could come or go from there and just leave it to go the way the inhabitants, both men and fallen angels, had chosen to go. Eventually they would have all been wiped out by sin and selfishness and that would be the end of it. But God is not like that, God loves and the Creator cares, and that makes all the difference. There was no easy way out of this problem for God, it was going to cost the greatest price that heaven could possibly give, all because of love. Now as the Creator spoke for the last time face to face with Adam and Eve He promised them a Saviour (Genesis 3:15) and a way out from the consequences that they had chosen.

We have seen how the Lord dealt with the communication problem in various ways, including prophets. That it was the Lord's pleasure to manifest His power is shown in the great gospel commission, where the Saviour said, **"And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20.** In Mark's record of the same commission a statement is given of some of the ways the Lord's presence among His servants would be known: **"These signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."** Mark 16:17, 18.

There were some wonderful displays of the Lord's power and manifestations of the gift of prophecy during the Reformation of the sixteenth century, and in the times following. D'Aubigne (Do-bin-Yae) speaks of the prophecies of John Huss. Charles Buck, in his religious anecdotes, tells of the prophesying of George Wishart, in 1546. John Wesley, in his works, tells of the prophecies of Jonathan Pyrah, and their fulfilment. Elder J. B. Finley, in his autobiography, tells of a remarkable vision and healing in his own person, in the summer of 1842. The Christian Advocate (Methodist) published an interesting

account of a remarkable vision and its results, as given to Doctor Bond, of that church, during his ministry. These were tokens, to those humbly seeking the Lord, that He had not changed, and that He still would speak to His people through the prophetic gift.

About 1833, but more especially since 1840, a message has been sounding through the earth proclaiming the coming of Christ near at hand, "even at the doors." In connection with this proclamation the Lord has been pleased to manifest the power of His Spirit in various ways, and in a marked manner. In many instances, not only in America, but in other countries, the Lord has been gracious to His people who have been engaged in heralding the glad tidings of our returning Lord, by speaking to them through the gift of prophecy. Here are some instances of this in America.

The first to be noticed is that of a godly black man, a well-educated and talented minister by the name of William Foy, who resided in Boston, Massachusetts. At two different times during the year 1842, the Lord came so near to him that he was wrapped in holy vision. One of these occasions was on January 18, and the other was on February 4. On one of these occurrences he was many hours in vision, and did not breathe during that time! By invitation he went from city to city to tell of the wonderful things he had seen; and in order to accommodate the vast crowds that assembled to hear him, large halls were secured, where he related to thousands what had been shown him of the heavenly world, the loveliness of the New Jerusalem and the angelic hosts. When dwelling upon the tender, compassionate love of Jesus for poor sinners, he exhorted the unconverted to seek God, and scores responded to his tender entreaties. He published the visions and had them notarized.

Mr. Foy's work continued until the year 1844, near the close of the twenty-three hundred days of Daniel 8:14. Then he was favored with another manifestation of the Holy Spirit, a third vision was given; one which he did not understand. In this was shown him a pathway of the people of God through to the heavenly city. He saw a great platform, on which multitudes of people gathered. Occasionally one would drop through this platform out of sight, and of such a one it was said to him, "Apostatized." Then he saw the people rise to a second platform, and some of these also dropped through the platform out of sight; and finally a third platform appeared, which extended to the gates of the holy city. A great company gathered with those who had advanced to this platform.

As he expected the Lord Jesus to come in a very short time, he failed to recognize the fact that a third message was to follow the first and second messages of Revelation 14. Consequently the vision, to him, was inexplicable. He saw a total of three visions and all the signs of a true prophet were seen in him. He shared faithfully the things he had seen and had them legally attested to in 1843 and published in 1845.

Being a black man in those days though, he was somewhat limited in those he could reach with the messages of those visions. Many teach he died shortly after but this is not true, even though he did not receive any more visions and never left the Baptist church, he remained a faithful minister and Christian until his death in the late 1800s.

After the close of the prophetic period, in the year 1845, he heard Miss E. G. Harmon relate the same vision, with the explanation that "the first and second messages had been given, and that a third was to follow." Here is her account of this experience.

"I had an interview with him. He wanted to see me, and I talked with him a little. They had appointed for me to speak that night, and I did not know at first that he was there. While I was talking I heard a shout. He is a great, tall man, and the roof was rather low, and he jumped right up and down, and Oh,

he praised the Lord, praised the Lord! It was just what he had seen, just what he had seen." Ms 131-1906.

Another instance of the manifestation of the gift of prophecy is found in the case of a young man that resided in Poland, Maine, by the name of Hazen Foss. He was a man of fine appearance, pleasing address, with a good academic education. In the month of September, 1844, about six weeks before the close of the twenty-three hundred days, the Lord gave him a vision, in which he, like Mr. Foy, saw the "three platforms" in the heavenly pathway. Some messages of warning to individuals were also given him, which he was instructed to deliver.

In connection with this he saw the trials and persecutions that would follow if he was faithful in relating what had been shown to him. As he was also expecting the Lord to come "in a few more days" (as they then sang), he did not understand the third step ("platform") in the journey; and, shrinking from the cross, he refused to relate the vision.

The view was repeated to him; and in addition, warning was given that if he still refused to tell what had been shown him, the burden would be taken from him, and given to one of the weakest of the Lord's children, one who would faithfully narrate what God would reveal. Again he refused. A third vision was given him, a very short one, in which he was told that he was released, and saw the person upon whom the Lord had laid the burden, "one of the weakest of the weak, who would do the Lord's bidding."

This startled the young man, who at once appointed a meeting on McGuire Hill, Poland, Maine, for the purpose of relating what had been revealed to him. The people crowded together to see and hear him. He carefully related his experience, how he had refused to relate what the Lord had shown him, and what would result from the refusal. "Now," said he, "I will tell you the vision." But, alas!! it was too late! It had gone from him. Not a word could he recall. He wrung his hands in anguish, saying: "God has fulfilled His word. He has taken the vision from me. I am a lost man."

One morning in late December of 1844, young Ellen Harmon went to the home of a fellow believer in South Portland, Maine. There, together with four Christian ladies, she bowed in prayer that souls would be helped to know Jesus better. Poor little Ellen: so frail, so physically weak. And yet the God of heaven loves His little ones. As they were kneeling together in prayer, Ellen was taken off in vision. It was her first. Here is her account of part of that first vision. It was not an exposé of movie stars or a call to worship devils; it was a description of the deeper Christian experience we all need in order to weather the dark days ahead. And it was also a view of future events:

Years later, she described what happened when she came out of that first vision: "They thought that I was dead, and there they watched and cried and prayed so long, but to me it was heaven. It was life, and then the world was spread out before me and I saw darkness like the pall of death.

"I never thought that I should come to the world again. When my breath came again to my body, I could not hear anything. Everything was dark. The light and glory that my eyes had, rested upon had eclipsed the light and thus it was for many hours. Then gradually I began to recognize the light, and I asked where I was. " 'You are right here in my house,' said the owner of the house.

" 'What, here? I here. Do you not know about it? Then it all came back to me. Is this to be my home? Have I come back here again? Oh, the weight, and the burden which came upon my soul.'" Manuscript 16, 1894.

“Miss Harmon was at that time in a very critical condition of health. For a number of weeks she had scarcely been able to speak above a whisper. One physician had decided that her trouble was dropsical consumption [tuberculosis complicated by edema]. He said her right lung was decayed and the left one considerably diseased, and that her heart was affected. . He said he did not think she could live but a very short time at most, and was liable to drop away at any time. It was with great difficulty that she could breathe when lying down. At night she obtained rest only by being bolstered up in the bed in an almost sitting posture. Frequent spells of coughing and hemorrhages from the lungs had reduced her physical strength”

A week after that first vision, she had a second: “In my second vision, about a week after the first, the Lord gave me a view of the trials through which I must pass, and told me that I must go and relate to others what He had revealed to me . . . After I came out of this vision I was exceedingly troubled, for it pointed out my duty to go out among the people and present the truth. My health was so poor that I was in constant bodily suffering, and to all appearance had but a short time to live. ...

“For several days, and far into the night, I prayed that this burden might be removed from me, and laid upon someone more capable of bearing it. But the light of duty did not change, and the words of the angel sounded continually in my ears, ‘Make known to others what I have revealed to you.’ . . . How could I, a child in years, go forth from place to place, unfolding to the people the holy truths of God? .. My father. . . repeatedly assured me that if God had called me to labor in other places, He would not fail to open the way for me.” Life Sketches, pages 69, 70. It is interesting that when God wants to find someone that He can use for a special work, He may have to select the humblest, simply because the more capable are too proud and self-sufficient to be used.

Ellen had no idea how she was going to answer this call, and travel from town to town in her weakened condition. She had little strength, no money, and no traveling companion. And last but not least, she could not talk above a whisper. She spoke with her father about the situation, and he told her that the Lord would give her strength to do whatever He might ask of her.

“A day or two after this, Ellen’s brother-in-law, from a little town thirty miles to the north drove up in a sleigh. ‘Will you come back with me, Ellen?’ he asked. ‘Mary wants you to visit her.’

“Ellen felt that God was opening the way for her to give His message and that she must go. It was midwinter in northern New England. Every breath of the icy air pained her lungs. But she dressed warmly, and sitting on the floor of the sleigh, she pulled a heavy buffalo robe over her head. When they arrived, her sister said, ‘I’m glad you came; there’s to be a meeting tonight at MacGuire’s Hill. Will you go with us?’

“When Ellen reached the meeting place [in a private home], she found a large room filled with people eager to hear her describe the vision. But when she stood up to speak, her voice was so weak and hoarse that she could scarcely be heard. For five minutes she tried, while her listeners leaned forward to catch her whispered words.

“Then suddenly, to the surprise of all, her voice changed. It rang out clear as a bell. She spoke for two hours, describing the travels of God’s people to the Holy City, the coming of Jesus, and their heavenly home. Many tears were shed, but they were tears of joy. Every heart was cheered. When Ellen sat down and tried to talk with those near her, her voice was as hoarse as before, and she could only whisper.

“Some people have wondered why God chose one so weak to bring His messages to His people. There was a reason. When that company . . . saw Ellen stand up and try in her weakness to make them hear, and then when the power of God came upon her, enabling her to speak clearly, they knew she was not doing it alone, God was helping her.

“That night as the company broke up, there were shouts of joy: ‘We are going home! We are going home!’ Some who watched Ellen’s friends support her as she went back to the sleigh were thinking of the Apostle Paul’s words: ‘God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; . . . that no flesh should glory in His presence.’” Ella M. Robinson, *Stories of My Grandmother*, page 25, 26.

That evening, unknown to Ellen, Hazen Foss stood outside the door and listened to what she said. The next day he went to the house she was visiting in and introduced himself. She had never met or heard of him before. He told her that he had received the same vision of heaven that she had, but that because he refused to relate it, God told him that He had released him from the work and that He would give it to another.

“Ellen.. the Lord gave me a message to bear to His people. And I refused after being told of the consequences. . . I murmured against God and wished myself dead. . . I heard you talk last night. I believe the visions are taken from me, and given to you. Do not refuse to obey God, for it will be at the peril of your soul. I am a lost man. You are chosen of God; be faithful in doing your work.” Letter 37, 1890.

And so it was that a young girl, barely strong enough to walk to a sleigh by herself, was ultimately to receive a startling array of special messages to the people living in these last days of earth’s history. At seventeen this young woman was opposing mesmerists, [hypnotists] rebuking fanatics, and traveling through Maine.

At eighteen and nineteen she was telling others about Christ in Vermont and Massachusetts. By twenty-two she was urging that a major publishing work begin. At twenty-five she was explaining to others twice her age the intricacies of organizational structure of a growing movement. How did this frail girl with only a third-grade education do all this? All this was not the kind of work naturally belonging to a young woman. No committee would ask a girl to undertake such a task. And no call of any committee could qualify a youth for such service. But God had called and men recognized the call.

The gift of prophecy, as manifested through Miss Harmon (now Mrs. E. White, she having been married to Elder James White in August, 1846), has been connected with the third angel’s message for about sixty-five years.[at the time this was written]

The students of Scripture prophecies have ever claimed that "when the time comes for the fulfilment of a prophecy, the genuine fulfilment is there, and not a counterfeit." The Lord’s time came for the third angel’s message, for a people to arise teaching the observance of all the commandments of God, - a message with which should be connected the spirit of prophecy. There is just such a message now being given to the world, and the gift of prophecy is connected with it; not to give a new revelation to take the place of the Scriptures, but simplifying and making clear the truths taught therein, and urging the importance of more earnest study of the sacred Word.

**"The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." 1 Corinthians 14:32.** The same Spirit that actuates one true prophet of God controls and actuates another. So in the true manifestation of the

Holy Spirit there must be a similarity in the visions now given, to those described in the Bible. It may be well, however, briefly to notice some Scriptural accounts of true visions from God, comparing them with the "open visions" visions given before the people, of Mrs. E. White.

It may be well, however, before making the comparisons, to describe the manifestation itself as seen in Mrs. White. As the blessing of the Lord's Spirit would fall upon her in power, she would give three shouts, speaking the word "Glory!" The first shout, as nearly as can be described, sounded as if coming from the upper part of the room, and was accompanied by thrills of the power of the Lord, affecting all present whose hearts were susceptible to the Spirit of God. The second shout sounded still farther off, and the impress of the Spirit on those present was deeper. The third shout resembled that of a voice in the distance, like one just going out of hearing. With this the presence of the Spirit would be felt in a still greater degree, reminding one of the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit **"filled all the house where they were sitting."** Acts 2:2.

After the third shout, for half a minute or more, there was a complete loss of strength. If the power of the Spirit came upon her when standing, she appeared gradually to settle down to the floor, as if being gently let down by unseen hands. When fairly in vision, the action of the heart and pulse was natural, but the closest tests of medical men failed to discover a particle of breath in her body. The color of the countenance was natural, the eyes were open, always looking upward, not with a vacant stare, neither in a stationary position, but turning from side to side in different directions, the only difference from the natural look being like that of one looking intently at some object in the distance. After a moment of weakness, a superhuman power came upon her. While she would sometimes rise to her feet, and walk about the room, gracefully moving her arms to the right or left, yet in whatever position the arm might be placed, it was impossible for strong men to move it an inch.

When we look at the Scripture record of visions given to God's servants, we find many particulars relative to the physical condition of the entranced person. In the case of Paul, as recorded in his letter to the Corinthians, he says, **"I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord."** 2 Corinthians 12:1. That he speaks of himself and his own visions is evident from the seventh verse, where he says, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."

Paul says of his visions: **"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I can not tell; or whether out of the body, I can not tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I can not tell: God knoweth;) how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful ["not possible," margin] for a man to utter."** Verses 2-4.

When the veil was drawn back, and Paul was permitted to look upon heavenly scenes, it appeared to him as if he went up to heaven. The same was true in John's case. Revelation 4:1. Paul was lost to everything around him. While the vision continued, he knew nothing of his surroundings, and so he could only testify of what he saw while in vision.

The closest tests applied to Mrs. White while in vision have led the most skeptical to decide that she was oblivious to all her surroundings. Pricking the hands with needles would not occasion the slightest resistance. A lighted candle brought suddenly so near her eyes as to singe her eyebrows, or even the tip end of the finger touched to the pupil of the eye, failed to produce the least resistance, or to cause her to flinch. Those thus experimenting have exclaimed, "She does not know anything of what is taking

place around her."

The next comparison will be in the case of Daniel's vision as recorded in chapter 10. He said to the angel: **"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 [by reference to Daniel 9:21 we learn that the one who appeared to him before was the man Gabriel], 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." Verses 17-19.**

Here are five points in the description of his vision: loss of strength; sees an angel; the angel puts his hand upon him; he is supernaturally strengthened; and no breath in his body, though he is talking to the angel at the same time.

As before stated, the first thing, as Mrs. White goes into vision, is loss of consciousness of earthly things, and loss of strength. The first thing she sees is a bright, glorious angel, who lays his hand upon her. She is then clothed with strength, sometimes rising to her feet, walking about the room with a great Bible open on her left arm; and while her eyes are turned upward, and away from the book, with her right hand the leaves of the book are turned from page to page, the fingers pointing to texts, which she repeats verbatim, though her eyes are never once turned toward them. While thus talking and quoting Scripture, the closest test of skillful physicians has failed to detect breath in her body. Thus in these five particulars, her visions are precisely like the visions of Daniel.

While she is in vision, physicians have held a lighted candle as close to her lips as possible without burning her; and notwithstanding she was speaking with much force in the voice, not a single flicker was made in the blaze of the candle. Such a test was made by two physicians in Rochester, New York, June 24, 1854. After the experiment, they said: "That settles it! There is not a particle of breath in that woman's body!" On another occasion, in 1853, a physician seeing her recover her breath on coming out of vision, said, "The action is precisely like that of the new-born infant drawing its first breath, and is Positive proof that while in the vision she has not been breathing."

Another feature in connection with visions recorded in the Bible is found in the case of Balaam. We read: **"Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open ["who had his eyes shut, but now opened," margin, Hebrew] hath said: 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." Numbers 24:3,4,16.** As previously said, Mrs. White's eyes are always open during the entire vision. We have now presented seven points in which this manifestation through Mrs. White is in accord with Bible visions.

The question will now naturally arise, How can a person talk without breath? Such a phenomenon is a miracle of God's power. Indeed, it is thrilling to listen to the voice of an angel speaking through the vocal organs of a human being. How did the ancient prophets speak without breath? In Peter's second epistle we read, **"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21.** The Spirit of God did the talking through the prophet.

We will look at another testimony, one in regard to David's prophecies: **"The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and His word was in my tongue." 2 Samuel 23:2.** The Spirit of God did the speaking, using the tongue of David. Another testimony concerning David's prophesying is found in Peter's testimony: **"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the**

**mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus." Acts 1:16.** The Holy Spirit spoke, using David's mouth. So, in the case of Mrs. White, when in holy vision, although there is no breath, the Holy Spirit speaks in an audible voice, using her organs of speech.

A ninth point of comparison is in relation to the writing of what has been previously shown in vision. In the first book of Chronicles we have an account of David preparing for his son Solomon to build the temple at Jerusalem. He speaks of many particulars concerning the building, he says it was "**the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit.**" **1 Chronicles 28:12.** The Lord had shown him, by the Spirit, as He showed to Moses, a pattern of this building that was "a shadow of heavenly things." And everything must be made as exact as the pattern. This must all be written out for Solomon's instruction. David tells us how this was done. "**All this, said David, the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.**" **1 Chronicles 28:19.** The Lord had shown him these things in vision. As he set himself to write them, the Spirit of God brought them clearly before his mind, and thus he wrote them out.

It is in this manner that Mrs. White is enabled to commit to writing the many things previously shown her in vision. She says, "I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind, and have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God."

Again, she says: "Sometimes, when special dangers threaten the cause of God or particular individuals, a communication comes to me from the Lord, either in a dream or a vision of the night, and these cases are brought vividly to my mind. I hear a voice saying to me, 'Arise and write; these souls are in peril.' I obey the movings of the Spirit of God, and my pen traces their true condition." Testimonies for the Church, 5, page 685.

Now in none of the cases we have looked at did some person just decide one day that they were a prophet and start telling people what to do. Neither did they go and study under some other person and have that person declare they were a prophet. They were all chosen of God; in fact with some of the prophets we just looked at their coming was foretold hundreds of years before by certain Time Prophecies.

In our day and age it seems that people tend to disbelieve the idea of God sending a Prophet with a message, and yet on the other hand they will rush to someone who claims to be able to tell their future by tea-leaves in a cup, or how a deck of cards happens to shuffle, and they will believe such utter superstition; but that the Great God of heaven guides His people, oh no, that is crazy and fanatical. The person was just making it up to fool people.

Also today we are faced with people who claim that all the dusty old writings from the past that certain religions have, are on the same level of credibility as the Bible; people who take this attitude sadly are grossly ignorant of the Bible because it alone actually contains within itself proof that its source is above and beyond anything human. No other ancient manuscripts even suggest that!

For one thing, the Bible contains numerous prophecies and many of them are time prophecies. Remember these Bible time prophecies were given many years, even centuries before the events and yet they were fulfilled perfectly.

Suppose I claim I can tell your fortune; I tell you that sometime in the future you or some member of your family will take a long trip. Sounds good, but there is nothing amazing about that because such an

event is to be expected in almost any family. But if I tell you what day you will go, where you will go and what you will do there and what day you will return; that is a different story.

These Bible Prophecies give precise details that no human being could possibly lay out. What about Satan, does he know the future? No, he does not; however he knows many facts and a lot about human nature. He watched what your ancestors did and he knows you may likely follow a similar course. He has a system of getting information from all over the world by his fallen angels reporting to him. He also can actually cause certain things to happen that would fulfil his predictions; if he says a plane will crash, unless God prevents him from doing it, he can crash that plane! Mostly though, God does restrict his attacks.

Did you know that what understanding Satan has about the future, not what he tells people, but what he knows himself, he gets from studying the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Oh yes! In the beginning he heard God's promise to Adam and Eve and he knew something was going to happen to interfere with his plans to rule this earth totally. Then when the sacrificial service was given he studied that and learned that someone was going to come to pay the penalty of man's transgression and give a chance of redemption. When the sanctuary was built and all the special feasts and ceremonies given to the people then he studied that and learned much that way.

He was on the scene when time prophecies were given and as he calculated when they were to be fulfilled he tried extra hard to get the people into such a state of unbelief and sin hoping that he could prevent them from happening on schedule. He did not succeed in this but he was able to get many people to be lost because they fell for his lies and refused to believe the real fulfilment was happening right in front of them.

When Noah preached, Satan influenced unbelief and when Moses came to lead Israel out of Egypt he got many to doubt and reject Moses. When Jesus came on time and began His ministry at the start of the 70th week fulfilling all the hundreds of prophetic markers for the Messiah, he was able to get God's professed people to reject and actually kill their own Messiah! But even that was foretold and only added weight to the evidence that Jesus was what He claimed to be.

We don't have time to go over all the items of time prophecy, but there were some that ended on 1798 and 1844. So when Satan saw these long time-line prophecies being fulfilled he knew that after 1798 there were many changes that were going to take place and God had plans to raise up a remnant people during the years between 1798 and 1844. So as always he set himself to do all in his power to get people not to recognize these happenings and not to want to be part of those the Lord was gathering in.

In the Spirit of Prophecy we learn that Satan called a great planning session among his leading devils to try and interfere with all of God's plans. One of the several things he did was to raise up as many counterfeit prophets and religious movement as he could, right around this time, because he knew that as these great time-prophecies ended God would send a true prophet and he desperately wanted to make sure that most people would reject that prophet. Once Sister Ellen had actually received her first vision it is interesting to note Satan began to raise up several women in the occult realms all claiming special insight as prophetesses. We will learn more as we continue these lessons.

**"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10:**