

# The Story of the Spirit of Prophecy

Understanding God's Special Gift: 02

## 2. The Testimony of Jesus

God has communicated with men by His Spirit, and divine light has been imparted to the world by revelations to His chosen servants. **"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).**

"During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation, Those who had been taught of God, communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written Word began in the time of Moses, Inspired revelations were then embodied in an inspired book. This work continued during the long period of sixteen hundred years - from Moses, the historian of creation and the law, to John, the recorder of the most sublime truths of the gospel.

"Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony,

"As presented through different individuals, the truth is brought out in its varied aspects, One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; another seizes upon a different phase; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind-a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life.

"God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to earthen vessels, yet it is, nonetheless, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the imperfect expression of human language, yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth," *Great Controversy*. 5-7

Understanding Time Prophets: The test of God's people down through the ages has always been to accept the Spirit of Prophecy as it was being demonstrated in the Prophetic Message current for that day. There are different categories of prophets, some were raised up to meet a crisis of the hour and we hear no more of them. Others had the job of teaching the people, Elisha was one of these. One thing all prophets have in common is that they speak, not their own concepts and ideas, but a message from God. God chooses to communicate His will through chosen instruments we know as prophets.

God has promised that He makes no interventions into history that he does not first reveal through His prophets. **“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth his secret unto His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.**

There is a chain of communication that heaven uses in communicating with mankind; The Father gives the message through Jesus Christ, and it is passed to the human agent by angels, and from the human agent to the people the message is meant for. The Holy Spirit assists the Prophet and empowers the message to have impact with the people. To refuse the message of one of God’s prophets is to refuse the entire Godhead, and can result in the sin against the Holy Spirit.

“It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time.” Desire of Ages 799.

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue. But will they profit by His teachings? will they receive His reproofs and heed His warnings? God will accept of no partial obedience; He will sanction no compromise with self.” 5 Testimonies 661

History tells us a sad fact; the majority of the people to whom a prophetic message is presented, always reject it! Over and over again in the Bible we see God gathering out only a remnant that accept the message, and carrying them forward into the next epoch of sacred history. So a prophet’s message always brings about a sifting and dividing into two groups, those who receive the message and go forward in obedience to it, and those, always the majority, who reject and fall away. **“For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return:” Isaiah 10:22.**

There are many types of prophets in the Bible, there are prophets who wrote parts of the Bible and those who did not; there are men prophets and women prophets; and there are prophets that are connected to time prophecies which have a relationship to God’s people. The 2300 days, the time that Israel spent in Egypt and the time they were in Babylon, are time prophecies that were directly connected with God’s people.

The 2300 day-year time prophecy of Daniel 8:14 was seen to end on October 22, 1844. William Miller and others believed that the event that was to occur at that time was the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore those who accepted the message based on clear Bible evidence truly expected that day would bring the end of earthly things and therefore when the day came all were quietly awaiting the event. Some gathered in small groups and others waited in their homes.

While the hours ticked away the believers waited but when finally midnight came and the event they had so confidently expected did not occur, they experienced a great disappointment! One man in telling of his experience said that he wept like a child. Needless to say, many who had joined the believers turned their back on the whole experience and left the movement forever. But there were quite a few that could not dismiss their experience as false; the Bible evidence was just too clear and strong that something had happened on that date.

Some got together and looked into the Bible passages carefully seeking to locate any error that might have caused them to get the wrong date, but they found none. Then they realized that they were right on the date, but the event was not the coming of Christ to the earth but rather an event that was to take place before the Second Coming.

It was a time of earnest prayer and seeking for light by the believers, and by the grace of God, understanding began to come. Then on a day in December of that year, young Ellen Harmon, a frail girl of 17, was praying with a few ladies at the home of a friend, when something wonderful took place. We will quote some of her own words to describe her first vision.

“While praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell on me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. 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 light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so 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, and 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 glorious light which waved over the Advent band, 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 them 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 in the dark and wicked world below. It was just as impossible for them to get on the path again and go to the City, as all the wicked world which God had rejected. They fell all the way along the path one after another, until we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming.”

The entire vision can be read in books such as “Early Writings” and described the Second Coming, the Holy City, and the New Earth. Now long after she received and second vision. She was told that her work was to travel and relate to the scattered believers what had been shown to her.

The work of Miss E. G. Harmon, under the guidance of the prophetic gift, from December, 1844, to the spring of 1846, was with the "believers" in Christ's near coming, with whom she had previously associated. After the close of the twenty-three hundred days (October 22, 1844), until the cause of their disappointment and the nature of the event that then occurred should be understood, there would be danger of the believers' drifting into erroneous views, or giving up entirely their past experience. Her message to such was: "The past movement was of God. Hold fast your faith. The Lord has still a work for His people. Study the Bible. Search the Word, and you will find the light."

While Miss Harmon was busily engaged in one part of New England, Elder Joseph Bates, who was consecrated to God, and was a man of great faith (not acquainted with Miss Harmon), was working in another part, bringing forth from the Scriptures the light of the Sabbath truth and the third angel's message. His work was to raise up believers in these truths. In fact, it was from him that, in 1846, both Miss Harmon and Elder James White received the Sabbath truth. She never had a vision on the Sabbath question until after the Bible evidences for the Sabbath had been given her by Elder Bates.

In the fall of 1846 (after Miss Harmon's marriage to Elder James White), as believers in the third angel's message and the Sabbath were raised up, the Lord's time came for the gift of prophecy to be connected with the third angel's message. Elder Bates became fully convinced that the manifestations of Mrs. White were from heaven. From that time on this prophetic gift has acted its part for

"believers," "for the work of the ministry," and for the "edifying [building up] of the body [church] of Christ."

It is an interesting fact that Bible Prophets often had names that had meanings to do with their ministry. Ellen White is the prophet to Laodecia. In the message to Laodecia, we are counseled to get three things, gold tried in the fire; white raiment; and eyesalve. **"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."**  
**Revelation 3:18**

Eyesalve: means spiritual discernment which is the Word of God. We need the Holy Spirit to correctly understand the Word of God but it is by the Word that the spirits must be tried.

**"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105.**

It is not an accident that the name Ellen means 'a bright and shining light', or in some translations; 'Bright Eyes'. Gould is the old English word for Gold; and it is obvious what the meaning of White is. Ellen White is clearly the prophet to Laodicea. To reject the ministry of the Spirit of Prophecy is to reject the remedy for Laodicea.

The 'Eyesalve' that we need is a 'Bright and Shining Light' or 'Bright Eyes' that is Ellen. The 'Faith that works by love and purifies the soul' symbolized by Gold, that is Gould. The 'righteousness of Christ' which is symbolized by 'White Raiment' that is White.

Before Sister White was Ellen Gould White she was Ellen Gould Harmon. Harmon means 'a Soldier of Peace.' That was the characteristic of Philadelphia which was the time she was in before she was married to James White. The Philadelphians were soldiers for the Lord, taking the message to the world, acting on faith, symbolized by the gold and they were following the Word of God, the bright and shining light. Ellen Gould Harmon White was the prophet to both the Philadelphians and the Laodiceans.

Also the 2520 years of Scattering ended also in 1844 and in her earliest writings you will find Sister Ellen talking about the Scattering and Gathering times.

So, not only does the Bible indicate that the 'Spirit of Prophecy' would be an identifying mark of God's true people in the last days and there would be the prophetic message among them, but there had to be a Gathering Prophet raised up at the end of these two Greatest of the Time Prophecies to announce the fulfillment of the time and gather the 'remnant' that would believe and accept the message of God for the hour. These prophecies ended in 1844 and in that year Ellen Gould Harmon, later White, received her first vision.

Satan is a student of Prophecy; we are told he knows he has but a short time, how does he know it? He studies the prophecies. Satan knew that a special prophet would have to be raised up by God right around the ending of the longest time prophecies in 1844. So we see him raising up several false prophets, both male and female, right on target, as well as some before and shortly after. Here are just a few for examples.

Joseph Smith arrived on the scene before that time and was actually imprisoned and shot in 1844 by an angry mob.

The Bahai religion of the Bab, started in 1844, and is a direct opposite to God's people in that it calls all

religions to join into one, while God seeks to call His people OUT of the corrupt religions. It is interesting that they have a huge temple now on Mount Carmel! Satan does not forget.

Mary Baker Eddy; Christian Science (Which is neither Christian nor science) 1821-1908. Her work paralleled Ellen White, she raised up her new religion in 1879 and the emphasis was on healing. She wrote extensively. This was the very time that the Health Message was developing in Adventism.

The Fox Sisters; phenomenon of rapping in 1848; which formed the foundation for modern Spiritualism.

Rudolf Steiner; Anthroposophy. (1861-1925)

Madame Helena Blavatsky, (1831-1891) Theosophy. She wrote extensively, a series of volumes—'Isis Unveiled'. Occult to the extreme and still widely read.

Plymouth Brethren: Darbyism; a religious sect which first appeared at Plymouth, England, about 1830. Darby (1800-1882) developed the idea of the Secret Rapture around 1838. This teaching does away with the idea of the true Second Coming.

Then too, Marxism, Darwinism, Mesmerism, and countless societies for the investigation of the paranormal all rose up around the same time like toadstools. Yes, Satan knew the time had come for God to do a mighty work to gather His people; it is just too bad that so many of us fail to see what he saw!

Now for a few stories of some of the amazing events in connection with the work of Sister Ellen White.

The first Sabbath in October, 1852, in Rochester, New York, she saw in vision a man who, so she told us, was traveling away from home on business. He had much to say about the law of God and the Sabbath, but was at the same time breaking one of the ten commandments. She said he was a person whom she had never met, yet she believed she would see him sometime, as his case had been unfolded to her.

One of the Rochester company, whom Mrs. White had never seen, was at that time in Michigan. About six weeks after this vision, he returned to Rochester. As soon as Mrs. White saw him, she said to one of the sisters, "That is the man I saw in vision of whom I told you." The vision was told to this man in the presence of his wife and other persons, Mrs. White said to him, as Nathan said to David, "Thou art the man." The brother at once dropped upon his face before his wife, and said, "God is with you of a truth." Then, still upon his knees, he made a full confession of his course while in Michigan, in violating the seventh commandment, as revealed to Mrs. White, who was over five hundred miles away at the time. He frankly told how he had been trapped into sin, and said it was the first transgression of the kind in his life, and should be the last.

In the vision of Daniel, recorded in chapter 10 of his prophecy, we read: **"I Daniel alone saw the vision; for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."** Verse 7. These men in company with Daniel were Chaldeans, and worshipers of idols. When the power of God came upon Daniel, they were as anxious to get away from it as was Adam, after his transgression, to hide from God's presence.

A similar circumstance occurred in Parkville, Michigan, January 12, 1861. It was the day of the dedication of the new Parkville meeting-house, and a large audience had assembled. Elder White and his wife, Elder J. H. Waggoner, and the Elder Loughborough were present. At the close of the service,

Mrs. White gave an exhortation, and the blessing of God rested upon her in a remarkable degree. After sitting down, she was taken off in vision, and remained seated.

There was present a Doctor Brown, a strong man physically, who was a Spiritualist medium. He had said that Mrs. White's visions were the same as spirit mediumship, and that if she had one where he was, he could bring her out of it in one minute. Elder White gave an invitation for all who desired to do so to come forward and by examination satisfy themselves as to her condition while in vision. Someone said, "Doctor, go ahead, and do as you said you would."

Elder White then asked: "Is there a doctor in the house? We always like to have physicians examine Mrs. White in vision." The doctor started quite bravely; but before he got half way to Mrs. White, he turned deathly pale and shook like a leaf. He was urged to go on and make the examination. As soon as this was completed, he made his way rapidly to the door, and seized hold of the knob to go out. Those standing by prevented him, saying: "Go back, and do what you said you would do. Bring that woman out of the vision."

Elder White, seeing the doctor trying to get out of the door said, "Will the doctor please report to the audience?" He replied, "Her heart and pulse are regular, but there is not a particle of breath in her body." Then, in great agitation, he again grasped the knob of the door. The people near him said, "Doctor, what is it?" He replied, "God only knows, let me out of this house." And out he went. It was evident that the spirit that influenced him as a medium was no more at rest in the presence of the power that controlled Mrs. White in vision than were the demoniacs who inquired of the Saviour, "Art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?" And like the Chaldeans mentioned above, he fled to "hide" himself.

In the Bible we have numerous accounts of the power and influence of angels. Ferocious animals have been tamed by their presence, as in the case of the hungry lions when Daniel was thrown into their midst. Those lions were calmed by the presence of an angel, and became as peaceable as domestic animals.

By way of comparison, we refer to an instance where the influence of the angel who was ever present when Mrs. White was in vision, calmed the temper of an unruly, vicious horse. In the fall of 1846 Elder and Mrs. White wished to go from Topsham to Poland, Maine, a distance of about thirty miles. Elder White obtained the use of a partly-broken colt, and a two-seated market-wagon, which was constructed without a dashboard. There was a step across the front of the wagon, and an iron step from the shafts.

It was necessary that extreme care be taken in driving the colt; for if the lines or anything touched his flanks, he would instantly kick furiously; and he had to be held in continually with a tight rein to keep him from running. The owner of this colt lived in Poland. As Elder White had been used to managing unbroken colts, he thought he would have no serious trouble with this one. Had he known, however, that during its frantic demonstrations it had previously killed two men, one by crushing him against the rocks by the roadside, he might have been less confident.

On this occasion there were four persons in the wagon, Elder White and his wife on the front seat, and Elder Bates and Mr. Israel Damon on the back seat. While Elder White was giving his utmost care to keep the horse under control, Mrs. White was conversing about the truth, when suddenly the power of God came down upon the company, and she was taken off in vision while seated in the wagon.

The moment she shouted, "Glory!" as she went into vision, the colt stopped perfectly still, and dropped his head, looking like a sleepy old horse. At the same time, Mrs. White arose, and, with her eyes turned upward, stepped over the front of the wagon, down onto the shafts, with her hand on the colt's haunches. Elder Bates called out to Elder White, "The colt will kick that woman to death." Elder White replied, "The Lord has the colt in charge now; I do not wish to interfere." The colt stood as quietly as an old horse.

By the roadside was a bank about six feet high, and beyond, next the fence, was a grassy place. Elder Bates said that the bank was steeper than the roof of a house, and that they could not ascend it. Mrs. White, with her eyes still upward, not once looking down, went up the bank as readily as if she was going up a flight of stairs. She walked back and forth on the grass-plot for a few minutes, describing the beauties of the new earth. Then, with her eyes in the same posture, she came down the bank and walking up to the wagon, stepped upon the step of the shafts, again laying her hand on the colt. She then stepped on the shafts, and into the wagon. The moment she sat down upon the seat, she came out of the vision; and that instant the horse, without any indication from the driver, started up, ready to go on his way, but completely tamed.

While Mrs. White was out of the wagon, Elder White thought he would test the horse, and see if he were really tame. At first he just touched him with the whip; at other times the horse would have responded with a kick, but he did not move. Elder White then struck him quite a blow. The colt paid no attention whatever to the blows, but seemed as harmless as the lions whose mouths the angel shut the night Daniel spent in their den. "It was a solemn place," said Elder Bates, "and it was evident that the same Power that produced the vision, for the time being subdued the wild nature of the colt." They had no more trouble with the colt in completing the journey.

An interesting event was connected with Mrs. White's first visit to Massachusetts, in the spring of 1845. She first met with the company in Dorchester in the spacious rooms of the home of Mr. Otis Nichols. A company of Adventist believers was in Boston, about seven miles from Dorchester, and a larger company was at Randolph, eight or nine miles in the opposite direction. Mr. Nichols was anxious that Miss Harmon should have an opportunity to speak to each company. He met two of the leaders of the Boston company, Sargent and Robbins, who professed a great desire to hear Miss Harmon. Arrangements were made, and they promised to have the whole company together in Boston the next week to hear her speak.

At family worship Saturday night Miss Harmon was shown in vision that there would be no meeting in Boston the next day; that the men who had expressed so strong a desire to hear her had made no appointment for her, but were going with their whole company to Randolph, and that she must go to that place, and meet both companies at the same time. It was also revealed to her that the Lord would manifest His power in their midst, and all present would have an opportunity to learn that the visions were of the Lord. So she went early Sunday morning to Randolph, arriving just as the opening hymn was being sung. Great was the astonishment of that company when Mr. and Mrs. Nichols and Miss Harmon entered the room.

In the season of prayer, at the opening of the meeting, Miss Harmon was taken off in vision. Sargent and Robbins arose and declared her vision to be false, and from Satan, and said that if an open Bible were laid on her breast, it would at once bring her out of the vision. Mr. Thayer, the owner of the house, placed a large, ten-pound Bible open upon her chest. Immediately after the Bible was laid upon her, she arose upon her feet, and walked into the middle of the room, with the Bible open upon her

left hand, and lifted as high as she could reach, with her eyes steadily looking upward, and not upon the Bible. She continued for a long time to turn over the leaves with her other hand, and place her finger upon certain passages, and correctly utter their words with a solemn voice. Many present looked at the passages where her finger pointed, to see if she spoke them correctly; for her eyes at the same time were looking upward and not toward the book. She continued thus in vision all the afternoon until almost sunset, over six hours, the longest vision she was ever been known to have.

Strong men have tried to hold that heavy Bible the way she held it upon her hand and could only do it for a few minutes, and yet this frail girl held it for hours!

Here is a remarkable testimony from Sister White regarding her work:

“There are two spirits in our world, a spirit of belief and a spirit of unbelief. In the latter days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We expect that those who will not harmonize with Christ will develop into a warring element; but we should not think that this will do us harm. We must remember that they that are for us are more than they that can be against us. This is my hope and strength and power with the people. I believe in God. I know in whom I believe. I believe the testimonies that God has given us. From childhood I have had many, many experiences that have strengthened my faith in the work that God has given me to do.

“Early in my public labors, I was bidden by the Lord, “Write, write the things that are revealed to you.” At the time this message came to me, I could not hold my hand steady. My physical condition made it impossible for me to write. But again came the word, “Write the things that are revealed to you.” I obeyed; and as the result, I wrote page after page, page after page with comparative ease. Who told me what to write? Who steadied that right hand and made it possible for me to use a pen?—Why, it was the Lord. When we come into right relation with the Lord, and give ourselves wholly to Him, we shall see the miracle-working power of God in our words and in our deeds.

“In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we studied diligently to understand the meaning of many Scriptures. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; but when our brethren who had assembled to study together came to a point where they could go no further, and had recourse to earnest prayer, the Spirit of God would rest upon me, and I would be taken off in vision and instructed in regard to the relation of Scripture to Scripture.

“These experiences were repeated over and over and over again. Thus the truths of the third angel’s message were revealed, point by point. Think you that my faith in this message will ever waver? Think you that I can remain silent, when I see an effort being made to sweep away the foundation pillars of our faith? I am as thoroughly established in those truths as it is possible for a person to be. I can never forget the experience I have passed through. God has confirmed my belief by many evidences of His power. The light that I have received I have written out, and much of it is now shining through my printed books—*Great Controversy, Patriarchs and Prophets, Desire of Ages*, and many other works. . .

“I have been unable to attend school since an early age, and the teachings in these books originate from a source higher than that of man. For thirty-six years my husband and myself labored side by side. Time and again we had to meet all phases of error and apostasy, and at such times special light would shine forth with beauty and clearness from the Word of God; and thus light has come. I can no more question the work that God has given me to do than I can question the fact that I am living today.” Ms 49-1906.