

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY



In our last study we dealt with the subject of the true church. We found that the Remnant Church, like the original, would keep the commandments of God. We also read they would carry the three angels message of Revelation 14 to the world. And then we also read in Revelation 12:17 that they would have the "testimony of Jesus."

As we think about prophecy and prophets, it's interesting to note the great interest that has arisen in modern prophets in the last few years. More than 2,000 of the nations leading newspapers carry prophetic columns. Books on prophecy, modern prophets, New Age, and astrology sell by the millions each year.

As with all true gifts, Satan has come up with his counterfeits. The very fact that he has so many counterfeits, ought to tell us there is a genuine gift! Christ warned of false prophets in Matthew 24:24, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." As one of the signs of the last generation, we see false prophets, astrologers, and psychics all around us. The Bible, however, makes it abundantly clear how you can detect the true from the false.



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT PROPHETS

“... Thus saith the Lord; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, to hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;”

Jeremiah 26:4-5

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. What is the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 19:10, Revelation 1:1-2.

This means the Holy Spirit is the agent who gives the Gift of Prophecy to all the Old Testament and the New Testament prophets. Since the "testimony of Jesus" was one of the marks of God's Remnant Church throughout time, we must conclude that the spirit of prophecy will be part of God's true church today.



2. Were there to be more prophets for God's Church through to the last days?
1 Corinthians 12:8-11.

3. What is the purpose of a prophet of God? Jeremiah 26:4-6.

Keep the law and obey the prophets. These two things, law and prophets, always go together. If God's people turned from the law, He sent a warning before He withdrew the gift of prophecy. We can read of this happening in Lamentations 2:9 and judgment followed as a result.

4. Did God give Abraham a message and a time prophecy connected with the message He gave? Genesis 15:13-15.

Abrahams offspring were to become slaves to another nation for 400 years, at which time God would judge this nation and lead out His people. We know that this was a prophecy of Israels captivity in Egypt and a promise of their deliverance.



5. At the end of this time period did God raise up another prophet that spoke the same message, a prophet that led His people through that judgement, and who was he?
Exodus 3:7-11, Hosea 12:13.

As in all time prophecies about a judgment, God gave Abraham a message and a time prophecy connected with the message. (Gen 15:13-15) Was it fulfilled in Abraham's time? (no). Was this a message of judgement? (yes). At the end of this time period did God raise up another prophet that spoke the same message, a prophet that dealt with judgement, a prophet which made that message present truth for his day and age, and lead out a remnant? (yes) So what was his name? (Moses in Exodus 3:7-11.) Was Moses a prophet? (yes) Did Moses come at the end of the time period? (yes) Did this message become present truth? (yes) Is it a message of judgement? (yes) Did Moses lead out from Egypt a remnant? (yes) That remnant was Israel. This formula applies to all judgment time prophecies.

6. What message does God give to Jeremiah? Jeremiah 25:1-12.

7. At the end of these 70 yrs did God raise up another prophet that spoke about the same issue as Jeremiah announcing that the time was due? Daniel 9:1-19.



In exactly the same way as the 400 year prophecy of judgment existed between Abraham and Moses, a 70 year time prophecy exists between Jeremiah and Daniel. We can see that God is using a consistent method regarding time prophecies related to judgement.

8. How long was the prophecy that was given to Daniel in Daniel 9:24-27?

9. So there must be a prophet that comes at the end of this time period to address these issues. Who is he? Mark 1:15

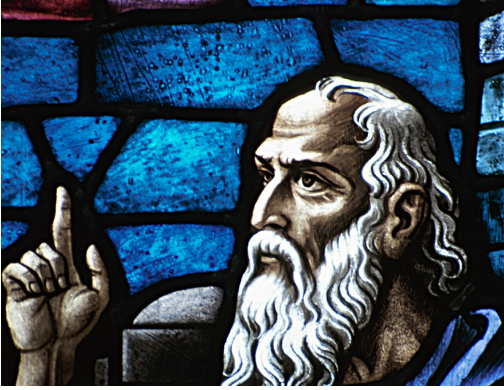
10. What is the prophecy that is especially close to the hearts of Seventh Day Adventists? This is the prophecy that actually gives us reason to exist. Daniel 8:14.

11. Now the question is did God raise up a prophet at the end of the 2300 days to explain its meaning?

In December of 1844 God raised up a 17 yr old woman and gave to her her first vision. She wanted to be able to explain why Jesus never came on October 22, 1844 as the people had expected. At the end of the 2300 days in 1844 there was a tremendous agitation for people to understand the prophecy of the 2300 days and a desire for an answer to their disappointment in not seeing Jesus after the day passed. It was Ellen White's passion to explain the fact that Jesus, instead of coming to the earth in 1844, had gone into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary to begin a work of judgement. Why do you suppose that Ellen White addressed this issue? Simply because Ellen White was fulfilling the same role as all of these other examples we have presented from scripture. She was the second prophet in a time prophecy of judgement. It was necessary for her to make the prophecy present truth, declare the time fulfilled and lead out a remnant. Ellen White is the end time prophet that is making present truth of what Daniel had spoken 2300 years before. By her God's remnant church not only keep the commandments of God but also have the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy.

What is really amazing here is to notice that around 1844 many religious movements arose. Examples include Mormonism (Joseph Smith), Christian Science (Mary Baker Eddy), Jehovah's Witnesses (Charles Russell), Spiritualism (Fox Sisters), Pentecostalism (Margaret McDonald), Evolutionism (Charles Darwin), Marxism (Karl Marx), Futurism (John Nelson Darby), and Seventh day Adventists (Ellen White). Why do you suppose so many movements would arise around the same time? Do you think the devil knew when the 2300 day prophecy would be fulfilled? You bet he did! How do we know that Ellen White was the true end time prophet? For a very simple reason, none of the other movements with their prophets addressed the 2300 day prophecy. This methodology that God uses indicates that any true prophet at the end of this period would have to address the same issue that the first prophet did, none of these prophets addressed this issue except Ellen White. She has written so many books on the scriptures, on Jesus and on directing the Church and it's people through the last days. Wonderful and essential reading bringing countless people to Christ.





"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

Amos 3:7

LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

___ I understand the principles applied to this study.

___ I am clear about there being the necessity for a prophet to be raised up in 1844.

___ I believe that Ellen White and no one else fits all the criteria required by God for his true Church.

___ I am not certain yet how I feel about this topic and would like to know more about Ellen White.

___ Other _____