Revelation's Prophetic Movement at End-Time



My topic tonight is Revelation's Prophetic Movement at **End-Time.**



When you look out over the world tonight, men and women are searching for certainty.

They are looking for assurance.



There is an explosion of interest in psychic phenomena today.

People are seeking for answers outside of themselves. This search has led them down a variety of pathways.



It's because people want answers. They want answers outside of themselves. Their lives have become confused.

They are looking for some way to touch the Divine. They are seeking for someway to experience the supernatural.



Yet here are some ominous words from **Jesus warning us** against the counterfeit.



Matthew 24:24—

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive . . . "

The Bible says there will be false christs and false prophets that will show signs and wonders.

They will claim they can put you in touch with the divine.



They will claim that they can give you supernatural answers.

But the Bible says they are false—what?

False christs and prophets.

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Jesus goes on in His description and He says in-

Matthew 7:15

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."



Jesus says, "Beware of false prophets." But wait a minute.



If there are false prophets, could that be because the true gift of prophecy is part of God's true church today? No one counterfeits something that doesn't have any original.

We have chosen this theme for our meetings for a reason:

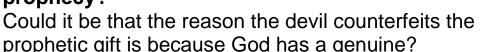


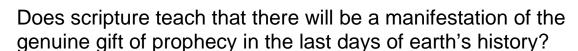
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If it's in the Bible, I believe it. If it disagrees with the Bible, It's not for me.

We do not want to be deceived, and when people put forward ideas that contradict the Bible, we know they are false. But if there are false prophets, then there must be also be true prophets, and how do we know the true? Like we know anything else, by seeing what the Bible says about it.

What does the Bible teach about the genuine gift of prophecy?





Or does scripture teach, as many claim, that the gift of prophecy ceased at the end of Bible times?

Or should the church today expect that spiritual gifts are operative in the church.



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If so, how can we tell the genuine from Satan's counterfeits?

Let's go directly to **Ephesians 4:8**—

"Therefore He says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."



So when Jesus ascended up on high He led captivity captive and gave, what does the scripture say everybody? He gave gifts unto men.

Now, if Jesus gives us gifts, I want those gifts, don't you?

What were these spiritual gifts that only Christ Himself could give?



Whatever gift it is, I indeed want it. Ephesians, Chapter 4 continues in describing these gifts—

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,



So what are the gifts that Jesus gives?

He lists 5 specific **gifts** that He would place in the church: some **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, some **pastors**, and some **teachers**.



Some would be teachers.

Do we need Biblical teachers in the church today?

Some would be pastors. Do we need good pastors today that preach God's word faithfully?

Some would be apostles. That is divine administrators. Do churches today need administrators that believe God's word and are praying men of faith? Do we need them? Indeed!

What about the gift of evangelists?

Those that can preach God's word and see people come to

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Christ and understand His word.

Do we need that gift in the church today? Certainly.

What about this gift of prophecy? Is this a gift that God will restore to His church in the last days?

How long would these gifts remain in the church and what would they be for?

for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

So God would put spiritual gifts in His church. Including the gift of prophecy.

He would bless His church with visions and dreams.

That is what scripture says.



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Jesus gave these gifts to the church to strengthen it to accomplish its mission of proclaiming the gospel to the world.



17

The church needs all these gifts to challenge the enemy head on.

How long would these gifts remain in the church?

Would they be taken away after a short period of time? The Bible tells us—



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Ephesians 4:13, 14

"Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,



19

to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

So spiritual gifts would be in the church to bring that church to spiritual maturity.



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To bring it to a full knowledge of Jesus until the day that Christ would come again. Why?

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine . . ."



21

So as Jesus ascended to Heaven He said to His earthly church,

"I am going to give you gifts, I am going to place My gifts in the church."



22

One of those gifts will be the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 1:7

"So that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."



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The Bible says that the church waiting for the coming of Christ would come behind in no gift.

If you and I are looking for truth, if we're looking for God's true people on earth, if we're looking for the body of Christ on earth—

We need to find a church that is eagerly **anticipating the coming of Christ**.



It must be an Adventist Church – A church that longs to see Jesus come soon.

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It must be a **Bible based** church, a **grace filled** church, that preaches the blood of **Christ** and salvation as only through grace.



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We need to find a church that leads to obedience to the commandments, which is a Sabbath keeping church.

But to that body, to that Bible-believing group of believers, we should expect and anticipate the gift of prophecy being restored.

Because if it doesn't have the gift of prophecy it would come behind in a gift.

And the Bible says that the church waiting for the coming of Jesus should come behind in no gift.

So we should anticipate that Jesus is going to give His last day church the gift of prophecy.



Jesus promised the gift of prophecy would be revived in the last days.

Maybe that's the reason why today in our world we are seeing an explosion of interest in astrology and the occult



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Because there are **two** great **dangers**.

The first danger is to accept the counterfeit.

Millions of people wanting a supernatural experience accept a false supernatural experience.



The **second** danger is to be so skeptical of all these false manifestations that we reject the genuine.

It is possible to be so cautious that you become afraid of any church that claims it has the gift of prophecy.

In fact, there is a question that we need to answer—

How can we tell the difference between the true and the false?



There is a way to detect the counterfeit gift of prophecy. The Bible gives us 6 tests for the genuine gift of prophecy.



And once you understand these Biblical tests, you can spot a counterfeit gift a thousand miles away.

Numbers 12:6

". . . If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream."



God used **two** methods to communicate with these Biblical prophets.



1. An angel brings them a vision or a dream.

While the prophet slept, God might send him or her a dream and they see and hear a message from God. Or the prophet may be awake and receive a vision.



There was a **second way** that God communicated with these Biblical prophets. He **impressed** their **minds** through His Holy Spirit.



The apostle Paul says, in 2 Timothy 3:16

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . . "



2 Peter 1:21

"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."



So there are two ways, a vision or dream.

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Or sometimes God impresses the mind with the Holy Spirit and the prophets begin to write out that impression.

Not all of God's prophets are Bible writers.

For example, Agabus is called a prophet in the book of Acts, but he didn't write a book of the Bible.

John the Baptist was the most famous prophet in the New Testament, but there is no book of the Bible written by him.



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What's the difference between the Bible writers and these other true prophets?

They both were inspired by God.

The prophets whose writings are included in the Bible have a message that is eternal in time and universal in scope.

The true prophets whose writings are not included in the Bible have a message from God for the church at a particular period of time.



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Were there any women prophets? Definitely. In the Old Testament Deborah was a prophetess.

Hulda was a prophetess.

And in the New Testament the seven daughters of Philip were prophetesses.

Now what are the tests of a true prophet?

How can you tell a true from a false prophet? Here are six tests that God gives us in His word.



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1. Prophetic accuracy

When a prophet makes a prediction that is not conditional on the repentance of people, the true prophet is accurate 100% of the time.



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Jeremiah 28:9

"As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass,



the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."



So what does God say? If the prophet's prediction is accurate then you can know they are a true prophet. There are some cases where the prophecies were conditional.

Jonah is a good example of a prophet who made a **conditional** prophecy.



He told Nineveh that the city would be destroyed unless they repented.

They repented so they were spared, but Jonah was still a true prophet. Isn't that only logical?

If a prophet is not 100% accurate, let's say the prophet was only 50% accurate, does that mean God was wrong half the time?

You see, false prophets can guess but only God knows.

God's true prophets are accurate because God does not confuse the message.



God's true prophets are accurate not 60% of the time, not 30% of the time, not 16% of the time but all the time.

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The second test is **Biblical faithfulness**.

A true messenger from God will lead people back to the Bible.

Bible prophets don't rise to tell you what movie star is going to be married for the fifth time, or how to make lots of money. Notice this powerful passage:



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Deuteronomy 13:1-4

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,



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and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'



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-which you have not known—'and let us serve them,'



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you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams . . .



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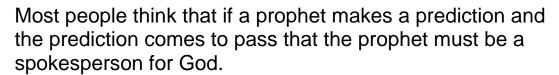
You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice,



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and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him."

This passage is extremely significant.





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This text says, if the so-called prophet is not leading a person to the word of God, to be faithful to scripture, they are blatantly false.



5.4

Run from them, because they'll deceive you.

There is an old saying that says,

"If you play with fire you may be burned."

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3. Exalts Jesus

The genuine gift of prophecy exalts Jesus Christ. Look at this clear passage of scripture.



5

1 John 4:1, 2

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.



God says don't be gullible. God says don't be deceived. God says there are many false prophets that have gone out into the world.

By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God."



But the gift of prophecy leads people to Jesus. You see the genuine gift of prophecy, according to the Bible, is found in **Revelation 19:10**—

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

A genuine prophet of God testifies of Jesus. John the Baptist testified of Jesus. He said, "He must increase and I must decrease."



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A genuine gift of prophecy is "The testimony of Jesus" (Rev. 19:10).

The true prophet bears witness for Jesus and of Jesus.

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4. Commandment keeping

The prophets of the Bible like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, were raised up at times when men and women were breaking God's commandments. They called for obedience.



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They called for faithfulness. They called for a return to keeping God's commandments. Here it is, **Isaiah 8:20**—

"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."



If that so-called prophet is not leading you back to the commandments of God, if they do not lead to obedience, they are false prophets.

Notice the fifth test.

5. Physical tests

This involves physical phenomena associated with the gift of prophecy in the Bible.



Three physical criteria distinguish the genuine gift:

1. Prophets experience visions with their eyes open. Their eyes remain open throughout the vision.



- -Numbers 24:4
- 2. In vision, prophets have no physical strength.
- —Daniel 10:8



- 3. Prophets, in vision, do not breathe.
- —Daniel 10:17



When a prophet goes into a vision, the physical characteristics of the vision are: the eyes are open; the prophet does not have physical strength and does not breathe.

Why doesn't the prophet breathe? Because all scripture is inspired by God.

The word inspired means "God breathed." God is sustaining the life of the Biblical prophet.

The **six**th test is **spiritual fruitage**.

The genuine gift of prophecy is given to God's church.

God doesn't raise up a lone prophet here and another there. God places the gift of prophecy in His church to bear spiritual fruit in the life of believers and in the life of that church.



Matthew 7:20 says,

"Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

If God has a church on earth today, And if God raises up a Christ-centered, cross-preaching, grace-filled, Biblebelieving, Sabbath-observing, Seventh-day Adventist people, if God does that, would He restore to that group prophetic visions and dreams?

Not to take the place of the Bible, but to get His people through the last days.

Prophetic visions and dreams that are accurate. Prophetic visions and dreams that take you back to the Bible.

Prophetic visions and dreams that exalt Jesus Christ. Prophetic visions and dreams that meet the criteria of the physical tests, and have the spiritual fruitage.

Let's look at what God says about His last day church in





Revelations message to His end time people.

Revelation 12:17

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring.



who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This verse is part of a brief history of the church from before Christ's time to the time of the end.



Chapter 12 predicts that the church would be persecuted during a 1260 year period and that it would flourish again at the end of time.



And then verse 17 identifies these two characteristics of God's last-day people:



They keep the commandments of God and they have the **testimony of Jesus.** John tells us very plainly:

Revelaton 19:10

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."



God's last day people, God's last divine movement on earth, God's Bible-believing, Christ-centered,

Sabbath-keeping people, must have the gift of prophecy.

The gift of prophecy is placed in the church!

In fact, look what Corinthians says,

1 Corinthians 12:28

"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets . . . "



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If we believe that we have found God's church it must have the Biblical gift of prophecy.

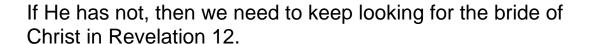


If it did not, it could not possibly be the true church because the Bible predicts the true church will have it.

The Bible teaches that Jesus Himself would bless His last day church with the gift of prophecy.

God does have a Christ-centered, Bible-based, Sabbathkeeping, Adventist Church on earth today. Now here is the question.

Has God blessed the Seventh-day Adventist Church with the gift of prophecy?





The church would come behind in no gift.

Faithful to His word, God Himself, placed the gift of prophecy in His last day, Sabbath-keeping, Adventist church.

God took a young woman, the weakest of the weak, with only a third grade education, and blessed her with prophetic visions and dreams.



This young woman was very sickly but her mind and heart were open to God.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that God gave her the gift of prophecy.

Her name was—

Ellen Gould White



God gave her—

1. More than 2000 prophetic visions and dreams.

Ellan 5 White Received more than 2000 prophetic visions and dreams.

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She-

2. Wrote over 50 books.



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3. Lectured to thousands on 3 continents.

The last years of Ellen White's life were spent in California.

When George Wharton James was writing the history of California, in his book,



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"California: The Romantic and the Beautiful," he commented on this simple, humble, Godly, spiritual woman on p. 319.

George Wharton James was a historian, certainly not a Seventh-day Adventist, and he said...

"This remarkable woman, though almost entirely selfeducated, has written and published



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more books in more languages which circulate to the greater extent than any other woman in history."

Quite remarkable for a woman who was sick in her early years. Quite amazing for a woman who had only a third grade education.

There are many people who have questions about the gift of prophecy.

Does the prophetic gift replace the Bible?



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For example, do Seventh-day Adventists accept the writings of Ellen White on a par with the Bible?

Seventh-day Adventists believe in the Bible and in the Bible only as the source of every Bible doctrine. Every teaching of the Adventist Church comes directly out of the Bible.



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Seventh-day Adventists also believe in the entire Bible. We do not drop the portion of the Bible that says God will restore prophetic gifts to the church.

Even when that prophetic message might rebuke us for some cherished sin.

The only thing an honest-hearted man or woman can do before dismissing someone who claims to have the gift of prophecy, is to examine the individuals' claims.

Apply these prophetic tests to Ellen White:

If this person meets the Biblical tests of a messenger from the Lord, we should accept them as a genuine voice from God. If they do not, we ought to rule them out.



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How does Ellen White line up to those six Biblical tests? Let's look at them.

What about prophetic accuracy?

What areas did Ellen White write in and were those areas accurate?



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One of the subjects she often wrote on was health.

Back in the 1800s when she lived and wrote people had no idea that sugar and fat contributed to coronary heart disease.



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And Ellen White wrote about a diet of whole grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

The very diet that the American Heart Association has now recommended.



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This diet is also an anti-cancer diet.

Scientific researchers have concluded a diet rich in fruits, nuts, grains, and vegetables helps to prevent cancer.

Clive McKay of Cornell University said, "This woman is 100 years ahead of her time in the area of diet."

Back in the 1800s, Ellen White wrote in *Ministry of Healing*,

"Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison." —The Ministry of Healing p. 327

When she wrote this, Doctors were recommending cigars to their patients!

They also believed inhaling tobacco smoke would cleanse the lungs.

That was in the 1800s.

But Ellen White wrote that tobacco was a malignant poison long before any scientific evidence said otherwise.

Today we know that smoking causes cancer and a host of other diseases. No researcher today would argue with Mrs. White on this point.

What about **Biblical faithfulness?** What did Ellen White herself say?

If you want to evaluate somebody's writings you go to their writings.

You don't go to what some said, they said. You don't go to some web page by their critics who have prejudged them without examining all the evidence.

I certainly would not want someone criticizing me based on



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what someone else said.

She wrote in the book *The Great Controversy*—

"In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need



of a return to the great Protestant principle—the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty."

Can you agree with that statement today? That we need to return to the Bible.

The true gift of prophecy leads people back to the Bible.

Seventh-day Adventists do not believe that Ellen White's writings in any way take the place of the Bible. They do not believe that her writings are another Bible.

They do believe that God graciously gave the church the gift of the Holy Spirit in visions and dreams to guide in these last days.

The true gift of prophecy **exalts Jesus** Christ. What about Ellen White, did she exalt Jesus Christ?

Let's see what she says herself about Jesus in <u>Gospel</u> <u>Workers</u>, p. 160, one of Ellen White's books to Christian workers. She says—

"Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people, lift Him up in sermon, in song, in prayer.



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93

Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to 'the Lamb of God.'"



94

Ellen White's writings are filled with an emphasis on Jesus. She points out again and again that we are saved by grace through Christ.



95

She wrote <u>Desire of Ages</u>, on the life of Christ; <u>Christ's Object Lessons</u>, on the parables of Christ; <u>Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing</u>, on the teachings of Christ on the mount, and <u>Steps to Christ</u>, on how to know Jesus for yourself.

Somebody said the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Rather than read the critics, get the book <u>Desire of Ages</u>, prayerfully read it and see if the Spirit speaks to your heart. Ellen White fulfills this Biblical test.



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Her writings exalt Jesus as Lord and Savior.

This leads us to the fourth test of a true prophet.

At a time of rebellion the Biblical prophets led people back to **commandment keeping**.



The prophets did not manufacture something that was not in the Bible.

They did not contradict the prophets who had gone before them.

Ellen White leads us back to obedience to God.

She exalts the law of God and points out the significance of the seventh-day Sabbath.

She urges people to study the Bible.

And as Jesus did, she says that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.

The modern gift of prophecy meets the test of accuracy.

It meets the test of Biblical faithfulness.

It exalts Jesus.

It leads back to commandment keeping.



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What about the **physical tests**?

One of the physical tests is that prophets don't breath in vision.



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Dr. Drummond was a skeptic.

He said, "I cannot accept visions and dreams from any woman, I reject them." "I know," he continued, "based on Daniel the tenth chapter you are not supposed to breathe in vision.



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I will examine her in vision."

You can read the medical account of Dr. Drummond when he examined Ellen White in vision. He said, "She does not breathe. This is an unusual phenomenon."



101

And Drummond himself became a believer in God's work through visions and dreams.

During her visions she didn't breath and her eyes were opened.

What about spiritual fruitage?

What is the spiritual fruitage? Why would the church need the gift of prophecy today?



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Ellen White wrote a book called <u>Education</u>, and in it she said, that Seventh-day Adventists, Bible-believing Christians, should establish schools around the world, so Adventist young people could be educated to bring the gospel to the world.



103

What is the **spiritual fruitage**?

The largest Protestant educational system in the world! Over a million students attend its thousands of schools around the world.



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Over 13 million outpatients visit the 785 hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, dispensaries, children's facilities, airplane and medical launches operated by the church each year.



105

What is the fruitage of the writings of this gift of prophecy? Hospitals around the world.



Ellen White's writings do not deal with bizarre events and wild-eyed fanaticism.

They have changed the world for the better.

These are visions and dreams to guide God's people so that church can move forward around the world. Seventh-day Adventists today have a modern mission movement that spans the globe.

Many years ago there was a young man in Africa by the name of Sekuba. (This is a well documented story.)



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He went to bed one night; he said—
"O big God of the stars, O big God, I feel empty in my heart.
O big God, take me to a place where I can learn your truth."

That night in 1953, an angel descended from heaven and visited the hut and said, "Follow me."

Sekuba began to walk.

He traveled through the African grasslands and desert. The angel told Sekuba he would guide him to the people of the book.

Sekuba responded, "I cannot read a book."

The angel replied, "You will be taught how to read.

You will know they are the people of the book because they will have a black book.

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But they will also have 4 books that are really 9."

Sekuba continued walking. He walked at night for two weeks. He came to the edge of the jungles and found a Christian mission.

They had the black book, but not the 4 that were really 9. The angel told him to find "Pastor Moyo and the Sabbath keeping people."

Sekuba continued to walk.

He walked through the fields, through the jungle.

He came to a little Seventh-day Adventist mission.

And he said, "Is Pastor Moyo here?" Pastor Moyo came out.

And Sekuba said, "I've been guided by God to you. My whole tribe does not know anything about the big papa God of heaven, nothing about Him.

"I've been led to you. Do you have the Book?"

Pastor Moyo went and got his well worn black Bible and Sekuba said,

"That is the book I saw in vision, do you believe this book?"

Pastor Moyo said we believe in the Christ of this book, and the commandments of this book and the Sabbath of this book.

Sekuba said, "Where are the 4 books that are really 9?" Pastor Moyo said, "I have those books too."

You see, Ellen White wrote 9 volumes to the church of God's power to change lives.

These were Testimonies of counsel on Christian living and godliness.

They were bound in 4 volumes. Pastor Moyo asked, "Are these the books you are looking for?"

And Sekuba responded, "Yes, they are. I have found God's people."

After weeks and months of instruction, Sekuba returned to his own people a changed man bringing the gospel to that remote village.

Accepted as part of God's family, Sekuba was baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

He went back as a missionary to his tribe and almost the whole tribe accepted Jesus and the Bible truths like you have been hearing in this lecture series.

Ladies and gentlemen, when men and women are honesthearted God leads them. The Bible says that in these last days, God will have a special people.



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He promises to give His people a special gift from Jesus called the gift of prophecy.

Not to take the place of the Bible - never! Not to have the authority of the Bible - never! Not to take the place of Jesus Christ - never!

But as a special gift given by God to guide and direct His people to know Jesus better, to understand the word of God better.

Tonight thousands of honest-hearted people are saying, "Lord, thank you for leading me to understand and know God's truth. Because God still leads."

In your heart tonight can you say, "Praise God that He still leads." Thank you Jesus for your guidance.

Thank you for leading me to your people. Thank you for guiding my life. Shall we stand together?

If you too, believe He has led you, would you like to raise your hand and thank Him as we pray?

[After the prayer:]

Now a number of you have been baptized or you are planning on being baptized. Would you come forward so we can take a picture together? Also, if you are thinking about being baptized, would you come forward as well for the picture? Yes, just come forward and we will get a picture together.

[Be sure someone gets the name of each one and explains when and where the baptism will be.]