



The "Spirit
of
Prophecy"

ESN

FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF # 18:

The Scriptures testify that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and we believe it was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G White. Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.



“Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege. By the plan of redemption, however, a way has been opened whereby the inhabitants of the earth may still have connection with heaven.



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 Pet. 1:21."

GC v.



Revelation 12:17 makes clear that God's remnant church in the last days will both keep the commandments of God and also have the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 19:10 clearly connects this testimony of Jesus to the prophetic gift. **"For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy."**

Through prophetic visions and dreams and through other means God has communicated with fallen humanity to impart light and reveal through special revelation both His will and His plan. Through these messages the Holy Spirit connects us to Jesus. The entire Bible came to us through the Spirit of prophecy as well as other non-canonical revelations throughout history. In these last days God has again spoken through the Spirit of prophecy in the ministry and writings of Ellen G. White.

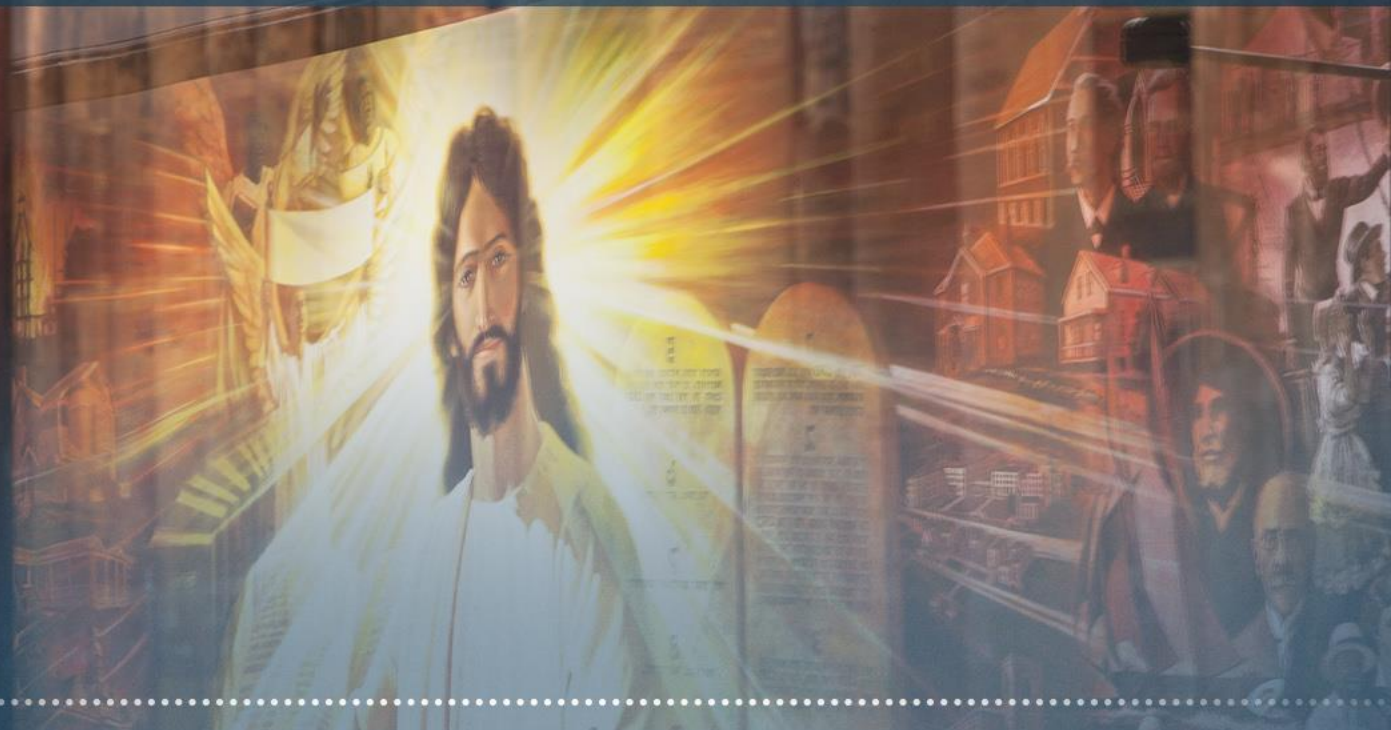


Bible EGW
held in Vision
about March
1845





Ellen White
Circa 1864
Colorized



*ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE GIFT OF
PROPHECY AS MANIFESTED THROUGH THE
WRITINGS OF ELLEN G. WHITE*

1. Ellen White prophetic visions and dreams began in December of 1844 and **brought assurance that God had led** them in their Great Advent anticipation and that He would lead them through to the New Jerusalem. **It confirmed a correct view of Bible prophecy.**

2. Her visions carried a “little flock” or core group of Advent believers through the fires of fanaticism during 1845 and 1846 **so that a movement could be born.**

3. The prophetic gift always connects people to Jesus and personal salvation:

2 Pet. 1:19ff; Rev. 22:16.

2 Peter 1:19

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright **morning star.**”



The Spirit of Prophecy points to Jesus as connecting the entire framework of truth:

“Christ, His character and work, is the center and circumference of all truth. He is the chain upon which the jewels of doctrine are linked. In Him is found the complete system of truth.” Lt 63, 1893 (to Pieter Wessels)

4. As a post-Biblical non-canonical prophetic voice, Ellen White's writings are **always oriented toward the Scriptures** and are based in Bible principles.

"I have a work of great responsibility to do—to impart by pen and voice the instruction given me, not alone to Seventh-day Adventists, but to the world. I have published many books, large and small, and some of these have been translated into several languages. This is my work—to open the Scriptures to others as God has opened them to me."

8T 236

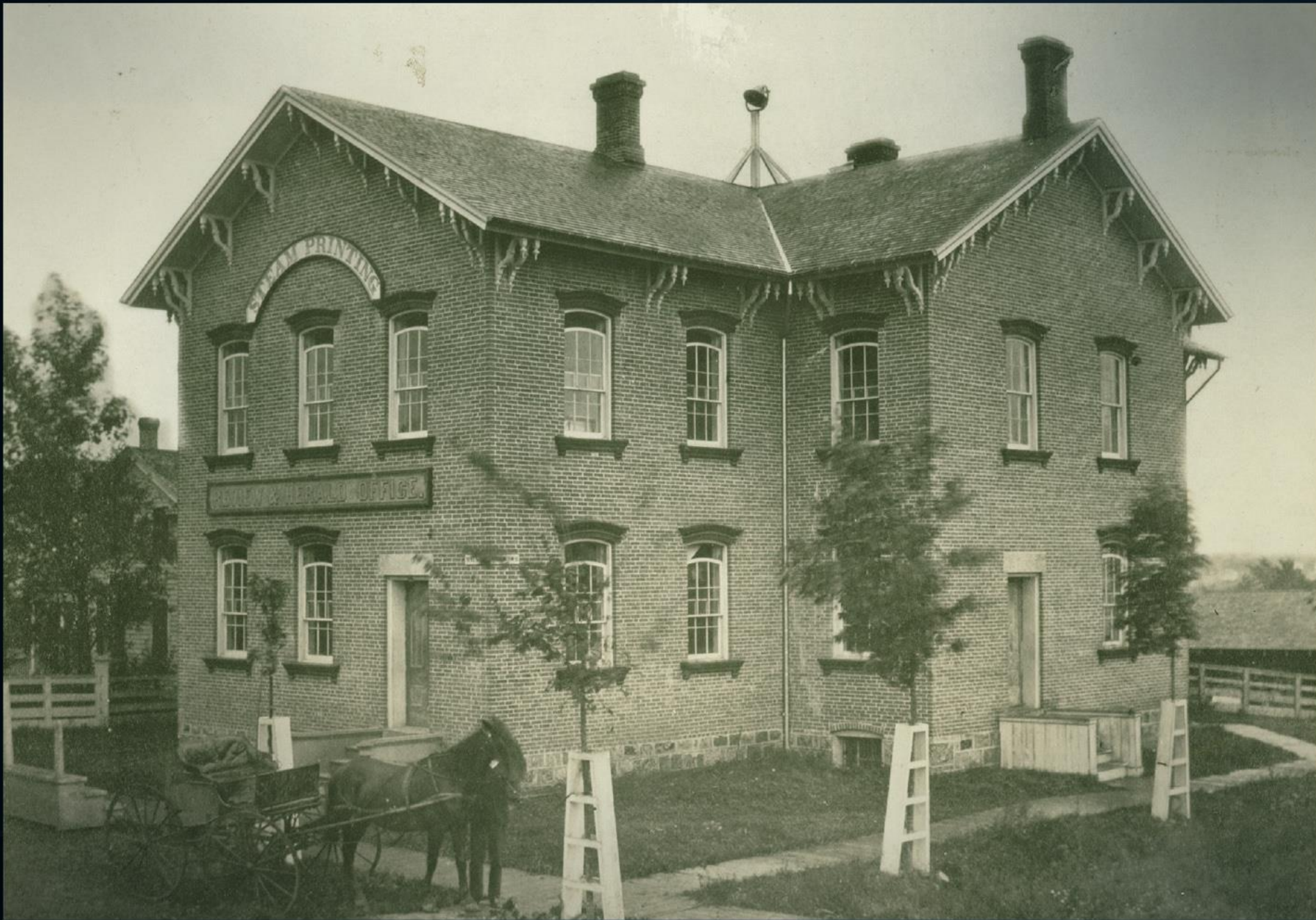


5. Her visions confirmed, corrected, enriched, and applied Bible doctrines but never originated or added to Scripture. Modern prophetic revelation is never a basis for doctrine—that must always be a Biblical process.

"I recommend to you, dear reader, the word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the "last days;" not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of his people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."

EW 78 (*Christian Experience and Views*, 64)

6. The Spirit of prophecy originated and guided in the major ministries of the movement. These include **publishing, personal evangelism, Sabbath School, health ministry, education, helping people in need, and world mission.**



Review and Herald Publishing

Health Reform Institute





Battle
Creek
College

7. It is essential to understand that the writings of the Lord's Messenger have the **same quality of inspiration** as Bible prophets. **The purpose is different.** Whether biblical or post-biblical, canonical or non-canonical, all come from the Holy Spirit.

“Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the Testimonies is an addition to the word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a false light. God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people to His word, to give them a clearer understanding of it.”

4T 245

8. The Spirit of prophecy unmasks the delusion of Satan and shows us how the future will unfold as we prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.

“The Lord has revealed the perils that are around and before us. Through the agency of the Spirit of prophecy, He has unveiled the delusions that will take the world captive, and has spoken to His people, saying, “This is the way; walk ye in it . . .

“The Great Controversy unmask the deceptions of Satan, and we may expect that the enemy of all righteousness will put forth every effort in his power to keep away from the people that which unveils his arts.”

Ms 31, 1890

“We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His Word. He has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy.”

8T 298

9. The Spirit of prophecy provides specific counsels or testimonies to the church, to groups and individuals, that when understood in their context, **must be followed.** They come directly from God through the Holy Spirit. All are based on Bible principles.

“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.”

4T 147-148

“In His providence the Lord has seen fit to teach and warn His people in various ways. By direct command, by the sacred writings, and by the spirit of prophecy has He made known unto them His will.”

4T 12-13



CONCLUSION

We must faithfully heed the precious truth and guidance He has given through the Spirit of prophecy which is the testimony of Jesus.

To the degree we follow God's truth in the Bible, and seek His help through the writings of Ellen White, to that degree we will be blessed and successful in reaching the world with the everlasting gospel.

“My books will testify when my voice shall no longer be heard. The truths committed to me, as the Lord's messenger, stand immortalized, either to convict and to convert souls, or to condemn those who have departed from the faith and have given heed to seducing spirits”

Lt 350, 1906



Ellen White
Circa 1899