

## Testing the Prophets

Resource: <http://www.whiteestate.org/> -- “Issues and answers”

### 1. Fundamental Belief No. 18

*One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.)*

2.

Lesson	How the Prophetic Gift Works
5	The Inspiration of the Prophets
<b>6</b>	<b>Testing Prophets</b>
7	The Work of Prophets
8	The Authority of Prophets
9	The Integrity of the Prophetic Gift
10	The Message of the Prophets
11	Interpreting the Prophetic Messages

3. **The issue of false prophets.** There are many false prophets mentioned in the Bible. How do we know they are “false?”
- Deut 13:1-3
  - Jer. 23:16, 21,22, 33-40
  - Jer. 28:1, 7, 15-17
  - Ezekiel 13:3
  - Ezekiel 22:28
  - Zechariah 10:2; 13: 1-3
  - Micah 3: 5-7
  - Mark 13:22

Ellen White—“Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?--*Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes much more than the word ‘prophet’ signifies. . . .*

### 4. The issue of dreams and visions

- Daniel 1:7 “And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.”
- Job 33:12-16

- c. Numbers 12:6
- d. Joel 2:28

## 5. The issue of physical manifestations

### What were Ellen White's visions like? Are there any eye-witness accounts?

The work of anyone who claims to bear God's message must meet the sure tests of the Word of God, such as, "by their fruits ye shall know them," "to the law and to the testimony," the fulfillment of predictions, etc. While the physical phenomena that sometimes accompanied the visions do not rightfully form a test, they did supply, in the minds of most eyewitnesses, confirmatory evidence of the working of divine power. Those who personally witnessed Ellen White in vision observed very carefully what took place. From the eyewitness accounts available, we can build the following summary:

- Immediately preceding a vision, both Mrs. White and others in the room experienced a deep sense of the presence of God .
- As the vision began, Ellen White would exclaim "Glory!" or "Glory to God!", at times repeated.
- She experienced a loss of physical strength.
- Subsequently, she often manifested supernatural strength.
- She did not breathe, but her heartbeat continued normally, and the color in her cheeks was natural.
- Occasionally she gave exclamations indicative of the scene being presented to her.
- Her eyes were open, not with vacant stare, but as if she were intently watching something.
- Her position might vary. At times she was seated; at times reclining; at times she walked about the room and made graceful gestures as she spoke of matters presented.
- She was absolutely unconscious of what was occurring about her. She neither saw, heard, felt, nor perceived in any way her immediate surroundings or happenings.
- The close of the vision was indicated by a deep inhalation, followed in about a minute by another, and very soon her natural breathing resumed.
- Immediately after the vision all seemed very dark to her.
- Within a short time she regained her natural strength and abilities.

## **6. The biblical tests of a prophet**

- Ellen White called herself a “messenger.” “As the Lord's messenger . . .”
- Test 1: Isa. 8:20 – Agreement with the Bible
- Test 2: Jer. 28:9 – Fulfilled prophecy
- Test 3: 1 John 4:2 – Confession of Jesus
- Test 4: Matt. 7:20 – Personal life

## **7. The issue of conditional prophecy**

*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*: “God’s word is sure (Isa. 40:8; 55:11; Rom. 11:29), and His plan for the salvation of man will ultimately prevail (Isa. 46:10). With Him there is “no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). His word “endureth for ever” (1 Peter 1:25). Eventually God’s purposes will prevail and the plan of salvation will succeed, irrespective of the failure of any person or group (PK 705, 706). The plan itself never changes because God never changes. But the manner in which it is carried out may change because man may change. The fickle, human will is the weak, unstable factor in conditional prophecy. . . . God’s promises are made conditional upon man’s cooperation and obedience.