

3. was converted and baptized.....



Complete the following statements:

- 1. Of the Children borne to James and Ellen White, died in infancy and youth.
- 2. The basis health-reform vision was given Mrs. White in summer of, soon after the.....was organized.
- 3. Mrs. White visited Europe in the 1880’s, and spentyears assisting in building up the work there.
- 4. In Australia (1891-1900) Mrs. White urged and helped establish awhich became a pattern for others throughout the world.
- 5. Mrs. White’s last home was called.....

6. Answer the following questions:

- 1. What were Ellen Hannon's feelings when God chose her as His special messenger?

.....
.....
.....

- 2. When she begged to be excused, what answer did she receive?

.....
.....
.....

- 3. How did God promise to keep her from exaltation through pride?

.....
.....
.....

7. Complete the following statements:

- 1. Ellen Harmon was not the
..... to whom God gave the vision of the Advent people’s experiences.
- 2. Before the 1844 disappointment, the same vision had been shown to.....
- 3. When he refused to serve, God said He would lay the burden upon "the..... of the"

8. Fill in the words missing from this text:

God hath chosen the of the world
to..... the things which are
.....

THINK OF THESE THINGS (No written answer)

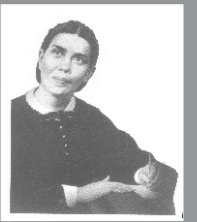
Recall humble men and women of Bible or Reformation times, whom God called to do important work.

Does God not also employ wealthy and well-educated persons in His service?

What qualities of life does God especially honor in those who a serve him?

Obedient to the heavenly Vision

3



PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

GUIDING TEXT: “Whereupon... I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.” – Act 26:19

HELPFUL PREVIEW OF THIS LESSON - read *Life Sketches*, page 17-53 and 69-73.

In this lesson we shall tell the story of Ellen Harmon White’s call to the prophetic office, and observe the guiding hand of an all-wise and all-powerful God, who employed the most unusual providences to prepare this dedicated young woman for her life work.

Circumstances of Ellen Harmon’s First Vision

The first vision was given to Ellen Harmon in December of 1844, shortly after the great disappointment. It was the hour of the morning worship in the Haines home in South Portland, Maine, and five earnest women were seeking God for light. As the women prayed, heaven seemed near, and one of their number, the youthful Ellen Harmon (after her marriage to be known as Ellen Gould White), was lost to all that was transpiring about her. She was in vision. She had ceased to breathe, and the others were deeply concerned. They were all aware of Ellen’s physical frailty, and they wept in distress as they feared that her life’s forces were ebbing away.

But not so to Ellen Harmon, writing of it later she exclaimed: “To me it was heaven, it was life.” – *Manuscript 16*, 1894, quoted in *Messenger to the Remnant*, p. 6. In a vivid portrayal she viewed the Advent people traveling a path high above the world, as they made their journey to the Holy City. She seemed to be with them as they entered the gates of the heavenly city to enjoy the reward of the faithful. Of the experience she wrote:

I never thought I should come to the world again. When my breath came again to my body, I could not hear anything. Everything was dark. The light and glory that my eyes had rested upon had eclipsed the light and thus is was for many hours. Then gradually I began to recognize the light, and I asked where I was.

“You are right here in my house,” said the owner of the house. “What, here? I here? Do you not know about it?” Then it all came back to me. “Is this to be my home? Have I come here again? Oh, the weight and the burden which came upon my soul! “– *Ibid*.

“I wept when I found myself here, and felt homesick. I had seen a better world, and it had spoiled this for me.” – *Life Sketches*, pp.67, 68.

In 1845 Ellen wrote of this vision:

While I was praying at the family alter, the Holy Ghost fell upon 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 father end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told January 24, 1846. The printing of this message – sent as personal correspondence to the editor, E. Jacobs – brought comfort to many. It attested to the certainty of the fulfillment on October 22, 1844 of the Daniel 8:14 prophecy, and thus confirmed the believers’ confidence in the experience of the Advent Movement.

Through succeeding years it was reprinted in “broad-sides,” periodical articles, and pamphlets; and in Mrs. White’s first book, *A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen White*, which appeared in 1851. Then in 1882 this little book became the first part of *Early Writings*, and it is now permanently in that well-known volume.

Preparation for her Important Work

Your test for this lesson will call for basic information from the *Treasure Chest* the basic textbook for this course.

Even as a young woman not yet out of her teens, Ellen Harmon had passed through many unique and trying experiences that taught her to trust in God. The words of the Lord to Isaiah had personal meaning for her:

I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. – Isaiah 42:16.

Of certain outstanding experiences in her childhood and youth, Mrs. White wrote:

Early Life in Gorham, Maine

I was born at Gorham, Maine , November 26, 1827. My parents, Robert and Eunice Harmon, were for many years residents of this State. In early life they become earnest and devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In that church they held prominent connection, and labored for the conversion of sinners, and to buildup the cause of God, for a period of forty years. During this time they had the joy of seeing their children, eight in number, all converted and gathered into the fold of Christ. – *Life Sketches*, p. 17.

Accident in Portland, Maine

When Ellen was still a child the family moved to Portland, Maine. Here, at the age of nine, she suffered an accident which affected her whole life.

In company with my twin sister and one of our schoolmates, I was crossing a common in the city of Portland, when a girl about thirteen years of age, becoming angry at some trifle, threw a stone that hit me on the nose. I was stunned by the blow and fell senseless to the ground...

My twin sister and my schoolmate carried me home...

My mother said that I ... lay in a stupor for three weeks. No one but herself thought it possible for me to recover, but for some reason she felt that I would live. – *Ibid.*,pp. 17, 18.

Ellen’s health seemed “hopelessly impaired,” and she was not able to attend school.

My teachers advised me to leave school, and not to pursue my studies further till my health should improve. It was the hardest struggle of my young life to yield to my feebleness, and decide that I must leave my studies, and give up the hope of gaining an education. – *Ibid.*, p. 19.

Ellen’s schooling was limited to about three years. In the light of this, it can readily be seen by those acquainted with the remarkable literary work of her later years, that she must have been specially blessed in writing her many books.

WILLIAM MILLER COMES TO PORTLAND

Early in 1840 William Miller visited Portland, Maine, and his lecturers on the second coming of Christ stirred the city. The Harmon family attended these meetings, Ellen, now twelve years of age, among them.

When sinners were invited forward, hundreds responded to the call; and I, among the rest, pressed through the crowd and took my place with the seekers. But there was in my heart a feeling that I could never become worthy to be called a child of God. *Ibid.*, p. 21.

The next summer the Harmon family attended a Methodist camp meeting at Buxton, Maine. Ellen determined to seek and find the Lord there. God’s Spirit was working to reveal to her the vital importance of faith.

I was much encouraged while listening to a discourse from the words, “I will go in unto the king,... and if I perish, I perish.” Esther 4:16.... All that was required of the sinner, trembling in the presence of his Lord, was to put forth the hand of faith and touch the scepter of His grace. That touch insured pardon and peace... These words comforted me, and gave me a view of what I must do to be saved....

One of the mothers of Israel came to me and said, “ Dear child, have you found Jesus?” I was about to answer, “Yes,” when she exclaimed, “Indeed you have; His peace is with you, I see it in your face!”

Again and again I said to myself: “Can this be religion? Am I not mistaken?” It seemed too much for me to claim, too exalted a privilege.... The rays of the Sun of Righteousness had penetrated the clouds and darkness of my mind, and dispelled its gloom. – *Ibid.*, pp. 22-24.

HER BAPTISM AND WORK FOR THE LORD

Soon after this, Ellen, still only twelve, was baptized by immersion in the bay of Portland, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in that city. Three years later she and her family were disfellowshipped from this church because of their Advent views.

In her girlhood Ellen Harmon became a winner of souls-to which service she devoted the rest of her long life of eighty-seven years. When invited by Elder Brown, of the Christian church on Casco Street, to bear her testimony, she did so with happiness and freedom of expression. Following this “sinners were invited to arise for prayers, and many responded to the call.” – *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 33.

But this was only the beginning. Ellen arranged meetings with her young friends and a few married persons. And her faith and efforts were rewarded. “Every one was converted to God.” – *Ibid.*, p. 34.

Ellen’s Response to the Call of God

Ellen’s experience was much like that of the prophet Jeremiah, who received the divine call at approximately the same age:

Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord. – Jeremiah 1:6-8.

Carefully note the following points:

She was filled with overwhelming surprise and awe.

An unspeakable awe filled me, that I, so young and feeble, should be chosen as the instrument by which God would give light to His people. – *Life Sketches*, p. 68.

She was exceedingly troubled and perplexed.

About one week after this [first vision] the Lord gave me another view, and showed me the trials I must pass through, and that I must go and relate to others what He had revealed to me, and that I should meet with great opposition, and suffer anguish of spirit by going. But said the angel, “The grace of God is sufficient for you; He will hold you up.”

After I came out of this vision I was exceedingly troubled. My health was very poor, and I was but seventeen years old. – *Early Writings*, p. 20.

Prophetic Call Previously Extended, and Rejected

Near the time of the expected advent, in the fall of 1844, Hazen Foss, a young Adventist of talent, was given a revelation of the experience of the Advent people, the trials through which they must pass, and their ultimate triumph. He was also shown the trial that would come to him as he delivered God’s messages to the people. But he shrank from the responsibility, fearing ridicule, and did not do as he was bidden. The vision was repeated, and he was told that if he refused to relate what had been shown to him, the burden would be removed from him, and would be placed upon the weakest of the weak.

Following the disappointment the burden still pressed upon him, but after severe mental conflict, he “decided he would not relate the visions.” Then, “very strange feelings came to him, and a voice said, ‘ You have grieved away the Spirit of the Lord.’” – E. G. White *Letter 37*, 1890, quoted in *Messenger*, p. 30. “Horried at his stubbornness and rebellion, [he] told the Lord that he would relate the vision,” but when he attempted to do so before a company of believers, he could not recall the scenes as they had been shown to him. In deep despair he exclaimed, “It is gone from me; I can say nothing, and the Spirit of the Lord has left me.” Eyewitnesses described it as “the most terrible meeting they were ever in.” – *Ibid.*

Early in 1845 Foss overheard Ellen Harmon relate her first vision to the company of believers at Poland, Maine. He recognized her description of what had been shown to him. Upon meeting her the next morning, he recounted his experience, of which she had not known before, and said: “I believe the visions are taken from me and given to you. Do not refuse to obey God, for it will be at the peril of your soul. I am a lost man. You are chosen of God; be faithful in doing your work, and the crown I might have had, you will receive.” – *Ibid.* on comparing dates, they discovered that it was after he had been told that the visions were taken from him, that Ellen Harmon was given her first revelation. Hazen Foss never again manifested interest in religious matters.

WHY DID GOD SELECT THE “WEAKEST OF THE WEAK”

God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are : that no flesh should glory in his presence. – Corinthians 1:27-29.

Ellen Harmon was humble, teachable, and a sincere Christian. She was intelligent, a lover of God’s Word, and a foe of fanaticism. So God could use her, and He summoned her to a most distinctive career of service in the Remnant church. But, by the very nature of her experience, none could ever point to the human agent and say: “See what that talented person has accomplished.” This choice of humble, willing servants has ever characterized God’s dealings with the Advent people.

Lesson 4 will answer these questions:

What was the physical state of Ellen White when in vision? Are physical phenomena positive signs of prophetic inspiration?

PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

OBEDIENT TO THE HEAVENLY VISION

Test Questions - Lesson 3

1. Answer the questions concerning Ellen Harmon’s first vision:

1. Where was Ellen and what was the occasions?

.....

.....

2. How old was Ellen at this time?

.....

.....

3. As shown in the vision, to what place were the Advent people traveling?

.....

.....
2. Check the correct response to this statement:

The first vision gave assurance that, despite disappointment, God had led and was still leading the Advent people. True..... False.....
3. Answer the following questions:

1. How many were in the meeting when Ellen Harmon recounted her first vision?
4. Circle letter preceding words or figures which correctly complete each statement

1. Ellen Harmon’s first vision was first published in (a) The Great Controversy. (b) The Day-Star (c) The Review and Herald.

2. The year in which it was first published was (a) 1884 (b) 1846. (c) 1848.

3. This vision was later included in the first part of (a) Early Writings. (b) Steps to Christ. (c) Volume I of Testimonies for the Church.
5. Give the age of Ellen Harmon when she –

1. was injured by a stone thrown at her.....

2. first heard William Miller preach.....