

As delegates to the world session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, we reaffirm our belief and full confidence in this prophetic gift, as manifested through Ellen G White. And because God provided that His instruction through the gift of prophecy should be published in books and made available to all, the blessings of the gift live on. We believe that

these writings are God’s inspired counsel to the church. We believe, furthermore, that in the crisis years immediately ahead, the prosperity and progress of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are vitally related to the continued loyalty of leaders and laity to the instruction given through the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, which outline so clearly the plan of salvation from the time Eden was lost until Eden shall be restored in the earth made new. – Resolution adopted at the 48th Session of the General Conference of SDA, June 24, 1958, and reported in the Review and Herald of June 25, 1958.

Are Seventh-day Adventists right in thus believing? Over 17 million(2009) loyal members who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” believe that they are right in identifying the Advent Movement with the prophecies of Revelation 12:17 and 14:6-13. Many more believe that it is so, but have not openly acknowledged that God means this truth for them. What will they do with this light? We humbly pray that they will yet open their hearts fully to Christ, and let Him lead them into and with the movement that is marching on to the golden city of God.

treasured gift) (of questioned benefit),and has contributed (much) (little) to the spiritual and physical welfare of the church.

- 2. The (testimony of Christ) (gift of tongues) was to be confirmed in the church “waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:6, 7.

THINK ON THESE THINGS (No written answer)

Is the Spirit of Prophecy as greatly needed today in the Adventist church as it was in the days of Paul?

Was Mrs. E.G. White God’s instrument for the expression of the prophetic gift in the last days?

Is the Advent Movement fulfilling the prophecy of Revelation 12:17?

These lessons are being supplied to you without charge by The Voice of Prophecy. Your help is solicited in continuing the circulation of this course.



PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

GUIDING TEXT: And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ... The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. – Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

What are the Bible signs? Does the Advent Movement meet the specifications?

1. Christ’s prayer for His Disciples

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. – John 17:21.

In the purpose of God the Christian church was to be a united body made up of believers who were one in faith and practice. The Bible was to be the textbook of the Christian faith. The Holy Spirit was to be the indwelling Presence to direct and support the believers. The whole world was to be their field of evangelism. But history reveals that the church has been broken into many divisions. Why?

When men departed from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3), sin and apostasy brought division into the Christian communion, frustrating God’s original plan for the church. This made it necessary for the Lord to intervene and to introduce supplementary means to bring His people back into the unity of Bible truth. Revelation 12 delineates the experiences through which the Christian church would pass during the centuries – it is church history written in advance. Here is shown the outworking of God’s providence through the struggles of His Bible-loving people against apostasy and the forces of evil. Here, too, are pictured the last church in action and the marks by which it may be identified. Turn now and read the seventeen verses of Revelation 12. It would be well to memorize verse 17.

2. Prophetic Symbols of the Church, Saviour, and Great Antagonist

A woman, clothed with the sun – Revelation 12:1. Symbol of the true church – Jeremiah 6:2; Ephesians 5:25.

A man child, who will rule with a rod of iron – Revelation 12:5. Symbol of Jesus Christ – Psalm 2:7-9.

A great red dragon – Revelation 12:3. Represents Satan primarily; secondarily, pagan Rome – Revelation 12:9; Great Controversy, p. 438.

Remnant – Revelation 12:17. Symbol of God’s final faithful church.

Now let us look at the historical characters represented by the symbols. At the birth of the man-child in Bethlehem, the long-expected Messiah arrived on earth to become man’s Saviour. Soon after Jesus’ birth, Herod, representative of pagan Rome and agent of Satan tried to kill Him (Matthew 2:13-18); but Joseph and Mary escaped into Egypt with the precious Child. When, after a life of constant danger and threat, Jesus was crucified, it appeared that Satan the murderer had triumphed. On the contrary, by His death on the cross and His subsequent resurrection and ascension, Jesus ratified God’s plan of redemption, and guaranteed its success.

Thus defeated and frustrated, the dragon later vented his wrath upon the woman, the church. Revelation 12:13. Bitter persecution broke out in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1; 9:1,2), then spread over much of the pagan Roman empire, and still later throughout western Europe. Prophecy declared the 1260 “days” or years – 538 AD to 1798AD – to the period when the church would be the special object of vicious attack. See Revelation 12:5. One of the striking ways by which God cut short those years was the opening up of the New World as a place of refuge for the persecuted Christians, and later the tide of persecution ebbed. Thus “the earth helped the woman” – the church. Revelation 12:13-16. Now the time was ripe for the last part of the great symbolic drama, the struggles of God’s remnant people.

3. Satan’s Wrath Against the “Remnant” Church

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time... And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. – Revelation 12:12, 17.

PROPHETIC GUIDANCE IN THE ADVENT MOVEMENT

DISTINCTIVE MARKS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

Test Questions – Lesson 12

1. As Christ prayed for His followers, what intense desire did He express?
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2. Draw lines connecting the related words in the columns below:

Remnant	Satan
Man child	Jesus Christ
Dragon	Last true church

3. Fill in the missing words to complete three important marks of the true church:

1. They “keep the of God, and the of Jesus.”

2. They “have the of Jesus Christ.”

4. Answer these questions:

1. In what two special ways does the Seventh-day Adventist movement meet the specification of the remnant church? a.
.....b.....
.....

6. Underline the words in parentheses that makes the following statements correct:

1. Leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and members assembled in General Conference Sessions – in early years and most recently – have clearly declared that the Spirit of Prophecy is (a much

2. Will an individual be saved who persistently refuses to “walk in the light?”
.....
.....

3. What does the Bible say regarding one who keeps most of the commandments but rejects one?
.....
.....

5. Bible commentator Matthew Henry used the term spirits of prophecy in referring to a number of Bible characters.

Name four of these:
1.
2.
3.
4.

Sensing that Christ’s second advent was near and that his work of deception must soon end forever, Satan redoubled his efforts to destroy mankind. But the “remnant” church was – and is – the special object of his “wrath”. Why should this be so? Note these words from the pen of Ellen White:

Those who love and keep the commandments of God are most obnoxious to the synagogue of Satan, and the powers of evil will manifest their hatred toward them to the fullest extent possible. John foresaw the conflict between the remnant church and the power of evil, and said, “The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” – Review and Herald, April 14, 1896. Reprinted in S D A Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 974.

Here are three specific marks of Christ’s remnant church:

They “keep the commandments of God.” – Revelation 12:17.

They “have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” – Ibid.

They “keep ... the faith of Jesus.” – Revelation 14:12.

It is a significant fact that this remnant church is proclaiming its special message to all the world in missionary witness – the everlasting gospel and the final three-fold warning to mankind. Read Revelation 14:6-13; Isaiah 58:12-14. Matthew 24:14.

4. World-wide Church Identified as the “Remnant”

God has ever counted as His own those who served Him from the heart and who lived up to all the Light granted them, as it came to their knowledge. James 4:17; Hebrews 10:26; John 9:41. In every age there have been, and now in our own age there are in every church, faithful followers of the Lord Jesus. Note this statement from the SDA Bible Commentary, vol.7, p. 815:

From the very first, Seventh-day Adventists have boldly proclaimed the three messages of [Revelation] ch 14:6-12 as God’s last appeal to sinners to accept Christ, and have humbly believed their movement to be the one here designated as the “remnant.” No other religious body is proclaiming this composite message, and none other meets the specifications laid down in ch 12:17. Hence none other has a valid, scriptural basis for claiming to be “the remnant” of v. 17.

However, Adventists repudiate emphatically and unequivocally any thought that they alone are children of God... They believe that all who worship God in full sincerity, that is, in terms of all the revealed will of God that they understand, are presently potential members of that final “remnant” company mentioned in ch 12:17.

We give here reasons why we believe the specifications of the prophecy refer to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The remnant church is a commandment-keeping church. – Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Many of the truths we believe and teach have been neglected or forgotten by most other communions. But Adventists have recovered these gems of truth and restored them to their rightful setting, and now they sparkle like diamonds. Examples: the doctrine of immortality through Christ, as opposed to the false doctrine of natural immortality; and the precious Sabbath truth, as opposed to the papal Sunday.

Said David:

It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold... The entrance of thy words giveth light. – Psalm 119:126, 127, 130.

EG White wrote:

God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory. The prayer of Christ that His church may be one as He was one with His Father will finally be answered. The rich dowry of the Holy Spirit will be given, and through its constant supply to the people of God unto salvation. – Testimonies to Ministers, p. 50.

Particularly is the Sabbath commandment to be restored to its rightful place in the ten-commandment Law of God. Isaiah declared that God’s remnant people would repair “the breach” made in God’s law when the papacy tore the fourth commandment out of the heart of the Decalogue. Isaiah 58:12; Exodus 20:8-11; Daniel 7:25.

All who keep the seventh day, signify by this act that they are worshipers of Jehovah. Thus the Sabbath is the sign of man’s allegiance to God as long as there are any upon the earth to serve Him. – Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 307.

To respect nine of the commandments and neglect or reject one is to be guilty of violating them all. Read James 2:10. In all the world the Seventh-day Adventist Church is distinctive because its members honour all ten of the commandments, including the fourth or Sabbath commandment. And with this love for the law of God which represents His character, they hold precious “the faith of Jesus” and “the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

The remnant church is to “have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” – Revelation 12:17.

The Weymouth translation reads, “and hold fast to the testimony of Jesus.” A Biblical definition of this term is given in Revelation 19:10:

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy.

“... The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy” – the message of Jesus to His church through a prophet. The original Greek shows that it is not the testimony borne concerning Jesus, but Jesus’ testimony. And how does Jesus give His testimony or message to His church? We have already learned that it is through His prophets. Read Revelation 1:1, and review Lesson 3 of this series.

The remnant church will “keep ... the faith of Jesus.” – Revelation 14:12.

The true Christian enjoys an experience in living faith. He exercises faith in Jesus – “whosoever believeth in Him.” John 3:16. He believes “on the Son” (John 3:36); that is, he leans on – depends on – his Lord. He has the very faith of Jesus. In receiving Christ as an indwelling Saviour he actually partakes of Jesus’ faith as Paul wrote:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20.

“I live by the faith of the Son of God.” That is the faith every Christian may enjoy and by which he may live. It is the only faith that will see him through the last testing days. This faith is a distinguishing token of God’s true believers in the last days.

The remnant church is also to stand for, and “earnestly contend for the faith [the body of true doctrines] once delivered unto the saints.” – Jude 3.

5. What Biblical Scholars Say About “Testimony of Jesus”

Apparently the expression “Spirit of Prophecy” was in common usage when the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation; and then as now the expression referred to the prophetic agency. Note carefully how Biblical scholars employ the words:

David, in his last days, like Jacob and Moses, received the Spirit of Prophecy. – The Pulpit Commentary on 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

Commenting on 2 Kings 22:14, Joseph Priestly remarks concerning Huldah:

It pleased God to distinguish several women with the Spirit of Prophecy, as well as other great attainments, to shew that, in his sight, and especially in things of a spiritual nature, there is no essential pre-eminence in the male sex. – Notes on All the Books of Scripture, vol 2, p. 40.

J C Lambert, in an article on “Prophet,” states that “the Spirit of Prophecy, as it meets us under the Old Dispensation, runs on into the New.” – In Hastings’ Dictionary of the Bible, p. 764.

In the Abingdon Bible Commentary reference is made to “the bestowal of the Spirit of Prophecy on the seventy elders.” – Page 302. Quoted in The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church, pp. 110,111,

The well recognized Biblical scholar, Matthew Henry in his commentary used the term “Spirit of Prophecy” in relation to the following persons:

<i>Deborah</i>	<i>vol. 1, p. 517</i>	<i>Simeon</i>	<i>vol. 3, p. 254</i>
<i>Hannah</i>	<i>vol. 1, p. 584</i>	<i>Elisabeth</i>	<i>vol. 3, p. 247</i>
<i>Huldah</i>	<i>vol. 1, p. 835</i>	<i>Agabus</i>	<i>vol. 3, p. 633</i>
<i>Anna</i>	<i>vol. 3, p. 254</i>	<i>Gentiles</i>	<i>vol. 2, p.1040</i>

We have already noted that in the Bible the testimony of Jesus is clearly associated with the ministry of prophets. We quote further from W E Read, a well-known Adventist writer:

The apostle John not only gives us the definition of the term “testimony of Jesus” but also reveals in another passage in the Apocalypse something that keys the expression “testimony of Jesus” to the prophetic gift. We might compare certain expressions in Revelation 19 and 22. In both passages we read that John fell at the feet of the angel to worship him. In both places we read the counsel of the angel:” See thou do it not:... worship God.” In both instances the angel says, “ I am thy fellow servant. ” But notice how the next expression is rendered. In Revelation 19 it is in one form and in Revelation 22 in another. In Revelation 19:10 we read “of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus”; and in Revelation 22:9, “of thy brethren the prophets.”

In this comparison we have further evidence concerning the “testimony of Jesus” being connected definitely with the prophetic gift. The angel is referring to those whom he calls John’s brethren. But who are they? In one place he says that they are the prophets. In the other they are those who have the “testimony of Jesus.” So we affirm that in the apostle John’s thinking the expression “testimony of Jesus” is intimately associated with, and an integral part of, the prophetic gift. – The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church, p. 112.

John did not coin the expression “Spirit of Prophecy” for, as we have seen, it was a term in current use in his day.

6. Significance of Spirit of Prophecy to Remnant Church

The remnant church is to possess this gift of prophecy as a distinguishing mark of the true church in the last days. This gift has appeared in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Let none be dismayed or disheartened by the fact that this church numbers as its members but a fraction of mankind. Wrote Ellen White:

In comparison with the millions of the world, God’s people will be, as they have ever been, a little flock; but if they stand for the truth as revealed in His word, God will be their refuge. They stand under the broad shield of Omnipotence. God is always a majority. – Acts of the Apostles, p. 590.

Following are testimonies of four Adventist writers on the appearance of the prophetic gift in the Advent Movement:

R F Cottrell, an early minister, wrote in 1858:

The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthian church, and what was the result? They came behind in no gift. Are we not justified, then, in the conclusion that when the remnant are fully confirmed in the testimony of Jesus, they will come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? – Introduction to Early Writings, p. 143.

Since a special work of the Spirit was necessary to prepare a people for the first advent of Christ, how much more so for the second; especially since the last days were to be perilous beyond all precedent, and false prophets were to have power to show great signs and wonders, insomuch that if it were possible, they should deceive the very elect. – Ibid, p. 134.

George I Butler, then president of the General Conference, wrote in 1874:

It is a fact for nearly thirty years, Mrs Ellen G White, the wife of Eld. James White, both of them pioneers in this movement, has had visions which are generally regarded by those in sympathy with this church as being from the Lord; and it is freely admitted that they have a large influence in making Seventh-day Adventism what it now is...

Seventh-day Adventists are prepared to give the best of proof that this gift has been in their midst from the very first of their existence. – Review and Herald, June 2, 1874, p. 193.

WE Read, for many years a Seventh-day Adventist leader, wrote in 1947:

Seventh-day Adventists have believed through the years that the gift of prophecy has been manifested in their midst. For seven decades Mrs E G White, the messenger of the Lord to the Advent people, gave messages of counsel and warning, which we believe were just as verily from God as were the messages of the prophets in days of old... We can rejoice that the church has had the counsel of the prophetic gift for guidance and direction. – The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church, p. 113.

RR Fighur, a president of the General Conference, wrote in 1959, for this course:

The gift of prophecy has meant more to this people than words can express. It has guided, counseled, warned and inspired. The secret of our efficient organization and the extension of our work around the world, as well as our clear position on great fundamental principles, can all be traced to this divinely inspired counsel. Thank the Lord for clear guidance in these confused times. I deeply appreciate this gift for what it means to the church as a whole and to me as an Adventist waiting and preparing to meet the Lord.

Repeatedly through the years Seventh-day Adventists in General Conference Sessions have officially recorded their convictions concerning the place and value of the gift of prophecy in the church. We give two typical excerpts:

Two outstanding characteristics of Seventh-day Adventists are the teachings regarding the perpetuity of the Law of God, including the Sabbath commandment, and the manifestation of the Spirit of Prophecy in the church. Bible prophecy especially mentions these features as reasons for the wrath of the dragon against the remnant church. (Rev 12:17; 19:10; 14:12) A hundred years having passed since the beginning of this movement, we appreciate more and more the great blessing of Sabbath keeping as a memorial of God’s power in creation and redemption, and as a test of faith and loyalty. And we increasingly recognize the great value of the Spirit of Prophecy which has been given to the church for counsel, reproof, admonition, encouragement, and guidance. – Resolution adopted at the 45th Session of the General Conference of SDA, June 13, 1946, and reported in the Review and Herald of June 14, 1946.