

God Still Speaks Through His Prophets.



In different parts of the world, scientists using powerful radio telescopes are listening for sounds from outer space.

They hope that maybe someday, they will hear a message from intelligent beings on some other planet.



It may come as a surprise to many, but there is plenty of evidence that a message from the farthest reaches of the universe has in fact been beaming to Earth for thousands of years now—but few are listening to it.



It's a message from the Creator of this planet—a message of love from a God trying to win back His rebellious children.



(Video: 8 sec) Not always was there this alienation—this separation-between God the Creator and the human beings He had created.

Everything began beautifully on Planet Earth—a perfect world for two perfect people, created in the image of God!



And there in their Garden home, God came and walked and talked with them face to face.

Just imagine them strolling along together in the cool of the evening!

This is the way God planned it—a beautiful relationship of

togetherness!

There was nothing to keep them apart.

Those must have been delightful visits together.



But sad to say, this relationship of love and togetherness lasted only for two chapters in the Bible.

Genesis, chapter 3 tells the whole tragic story.



Adam and Eve sinned, they rebelled against God's rule of perfect love-and sin separates.



Sin and God are incompatible. No longer could Adam and Eve have direct communication and fellowship with God.



Adam and Eve listened to the serpent Lucifer and obeyed him instead of God-and that's sin.
Exodus 20:3.



(Text: Genesis 3:8) The Bible says, "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day:



and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God



amongst the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8.



Adam and Eve were hiding! They didn't want to face God. They just wanted to get lost. That's what sin does.



It separates and shatters love relationships between God and man, and between man and others.

The prophet



(Text: Isaiah 59:2) Isaiah wrote: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God;



and your sins have hidden His face from you..." Isaiah 59:2.



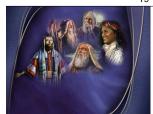
Yes, sin separated us from God, but it didn't separate us from His love.

God found a way of keeping in touch with sinful man. Love always finds a way of keeping in touch!

He established another way of communicating with His children on Planet Earth-a way of guiding and instructing, and revealing His plans.



He chose men and women He could trust to be His mouthpiece, to communicate His love and plans to mankind.



Among those He chose were Moses, Miriam, Samuel, Elijah, Huldah, Deborah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many more. Prophets and prophetesses- spokespeople for God!



This was God's way of saying, "I love you, I care about you, and I have a plan to help you."



The Bible records many conversations between the Lord and different Bible characters, but it wasn't the same as the conversations and fellowship that Adam and Eve had enjoyed in the Garden of Eden.

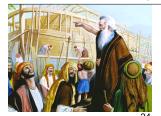
Sometimes God spoke through the Holy Spirit, sometimes by

the holy angels, and at other times through people whom He chose to be His messengers.



During the first 2,500 years of human history, there was no written revelation from God so far as we have been able to discover.

Those who were taught of God must have communicated by word of mouth what He had told them.



However, the most frequently chosen channel God used to communicate with His people ever since the Flood has been the channel of prophets and prophetesses-men and women who spoke for God at the moving of the Holy Spirit.



(Video: 10 sec) This shouldn't be too surprising, for the Bible clearly states: "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.



(Video: 8 sec) Let's notice how these prophets received their messages: "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21.



(Text: Jude 14) God had prophets, of course, even before the great Flood of Noah's day.

Enoch proclaimed Christ's second coming: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying,



'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints'." Jude 14.

Enoch is the first person mentioned in the Bible who had the gift of prophecy.



(Text: Acts 3:21) But there were others!

The Bible says, "...God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21.

Noah, another prophet, foretold the destruction of the world by the flood 120 years before it came to pass.



After the Flood, we find many prophets and prophetessesincluding Anna, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and others. They were teachers of righteousness-moral and spiritual guides.

All spoke for God.



Sometimes God revealed His will to prophets and prophetesses by visions, sometimes by dreams, and sometimes through the Word of God. But always through the Holy Spirit.



(Text: Numbers 12:6) The Lord said: "...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." Numbers 12:6. Sometimes God's messengers were instructed to speak for God; sometimes they were to write or record a message from Him.



In fact, the Bible is the product of the ministry of prophets. Every author was a part of God's plan. All spoke or wrote for Him-"moved by His Spirit."



You see, the Bible is God's love letter to His children on earth. It's His way of saying, "I love you, and I want to keep in touch with you." And especially He wants us to know that He longs for the time when we can fellowship together face-to-face!



All of the authors of the New Testament-Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude-were a part of that plan.

All had the gift of prophecy.

Of course, there were others during that time who were speaking for God: Simon, Agabus, Barnabus,



(Text: Acts 21:9) and Phillip's four daughters "...which did prophesy." All were instruments God used to reveal His will and to encourage the early Christian church.



Then Jesus came, chosen by God to demonstrate by words and actions what God is really like.

Never has the world witnessed a more eloquent Communicator of God's love and concern.



Nineteen centuries have passed since Calvary, yet men and women and boys and girls still kneel at the foot of the cross and pledge undying allegiance and devotion to the Saviour of the world.



(Text: Ephesians 4:8) When Jesus returned to heaven, the Bible says He gave gifts unto men-gifts which would strengthen and encourage His followers: "Wherefore He saith, when He ascended upon high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Ephesians 4:8.

What were these gifts?



(Text: Ephesians 4:11) The Bible says, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers." Ephesians 4:11. Why did Jesus choose to give gifts to the church?



(Text: Ephesians 4:12) Verse 12 says, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

How long were these gifts to remain in the church?



(Text: Ephesians 4:13) "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God.



Unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Verse 13.

The Bible says that these gifts would give stability to the church and strengthen the people.



(Text: Ephesians 4:14) "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,



by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Verse 14.



(Text: 1 Corinthians 12:28) Notice where the gift of prophecy stands in the list of "spiritual gifts," as Paul calls them. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets..." 1 Corinthians 12:28.



The gift of prophecy ranked second only to that of apostleship, but it was to be a very important and necessary gift to help the church function properly.



Paul likened the gifts of the Spirit to the various parts of the human body.

He showed that the eyes, head, mouth, and other body parts are all necessary for the body to function harmoniously and efficiently.

Just so with the church. Without vision, for example, the church is blind!



(Text: Proverbs 29:18) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18.



But, you say, "What happened to the gift of prophecy after Christ returned to heaven and all His disciples died?"



Well, sad to say, not many generations passed until the church became careless, compromising, and unfaithful to God and His law.



(Text: Lamentations 2:9) Jeremiah records what happened when Israel apostatized for a period of time: "...The law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the Lord." Lamentations 2:9.



As the early church adopted pagan rites and practices and discarded fundamental truths of the Bible, one by one the spiritual gifts were withheld.



During the time of the church's apostasy, or the Dark Ages, Bibles were chained to monastery pulpits. In general they were written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The common people were forbidden to own or read the Scriptures.

Only priests were allowed to read and interpret the Bible.



Of course, a few Christians tenaciously held to the Bible and its truths.

Despite persecution, they carried on missionary work and shared portions of the Scriptures they possessed.

They planted the seeds of the Reformation long before Wycliffe, Luther, and Huss.



(Video: 10 sec) When Wycliffe, Luther, and others translated the Bible into the common tongue of the people and secretly distributed them, the persecution that followed only served to whet the appetite for God's Word.



And as people began to diligently search the Scriptures, old truths obscured for centuries surfaced.

These truths were brought to the attention of the people, and a great religious awakening illumined the world.



Great spiritual power was manifest in many of the churches. And by the mid-1800s, a long-absent gift-the gift of prophecy-was restored to God's people.

About this time there came into being a new religious movement-a group of dedicated Christians, some Baptists, some Methodists, some Presbyterians, and others-searching the Scriptures and praying for light.



As they searched the Bible from cover to cover, they saw in the fourth commandment of God the great memorial of His creation-a day God asked His people to "remember."



(Text: Revelation 14:12) They read the Book of Revelation and saw the description of God's last-day people: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.



As they read and studied other texts, they were impressed that keeping the commandments of God involved keeping the Bible Sabbath.

9

They not only acted on the old light they had newly rediscovered, but they immediately launched a Sabbath reform, bringing in both a knowledge of the Bible Sabbath and the work of their Creator.



(Video: 12 sec) And even as this missing fundamental Bible truth was restored, the missing spiritual gift-the gift of prophecy-also was restored.

Is it not reasonable to conclude that God might have something special to say to this generation?

Might God in His love for us living today want to keep in touch with us?



(Text: Joel 2:28,31) Well, let's let the Bible answer that question: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh;



and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.



...before the great and terrible day of the Lord..." Joel 2:28,31. Notice that God said this would take place just prior to the "Great and terrible day of the Lord"-or just before the coming of Christ the second time.



God's people are to have the gift of prophecy in their midst during the closing hours of earth's history. Communicating with the church at Corinth, Paul made this statement concerning God's followers:



(Text: 1 Corinthians 1:7) "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:7.



We have already discovered that the people of God will have "the patience of the saints and keep the commandments of God" We are told that



(Text: Revelation 19:10) "...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.

In other words, the testimony of Jesus is the witness of Jesus through the prophetic gift.



And, according to Revelation 14:12, the church that remains as God's channel of communication in the last days is characterized as



having the faith of Jesus,



keeping all the commandments of God,



and being blessed by the gift of prophecy.



Yes, God still wants to "keep in touch." He still has something to say to this generation.

But, you might ask, "What about the possibility of deception? How can we tell the difference between a genuine prophet of God and a false prophet-an imposter?"



The possibility of deception has always existed.

Throughout history there have been false and true prophets. We don't have to be concerned about false ones, though, if we know how to recognize the genuine ones.

The Bible has some stringent qualifications and distinct characteristics that pointedly mark the true prophet:



A true prophet's message will be



in complete harmony with God's Word and His law.



(Text: Isaiah 8:20) "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no Light in them." Isaiah 8:20.



A true prophet's predictions must come to pass or be fulfilled always!

Jeremiah 28:9.



(Text: Jeremiah 28:9) "...When the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the Lord hath truly sent him." Jeremiah 28:9.



A true prophet prophesies to edify the church. The true prophet does not flatter the sinner or condone sin. He does not prophesy of movie stars or frivolous things.



(Text: 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4) "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort



...but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4.



A true prophet will exalt Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of mankind:



(Text: 1 John 4:1,2) "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they are of God,



because many false prophets are gone out into the world....



Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God." 1 John 4:1,2 KJV



A true prophet or prophetess can be known by his or her life and works.



(Text: Matthew 7:16,18) "By their fruit you will recognize them.



A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." Matthew 7:16, 18.



Based on these texts, it becomes obvious that not everyone who professes to be a prophet of God is a true prophet. A true prophet's message, his life, and actions must support and strengthen the prophetic messages in the Bible and the instructions and commands of God in His Holy Word.



So no matter who claims to speak for God, apply the tests! If they fit, thank God!

If they don't, follow Christ's warning to "watch out" for them.



But now let me share the story of how God chose to "keep in touch" with His people at time when they were making known to the world the truths which had lain dormant for centuries-the time of the Great Religious Awakening early in the 19th century.



This was a time of tremendous interest in Bible study and prayer.

The prophecies of Daniel and Revelation held special interest. The Millerite followers studied these prophecies-particularly

Daniel 8-and eventually came to the conclusion that Jesus would come and the world would end October 22, 1844.



However, October 22 came and went, and the glorious return of Jesus did not take place It was a most bitter disappointment for the "Millerites"-one that provoked much ridicule, scoffing, and misrepresentation.



Later, after much prayer and further Bible Study, the group discovered that the date, indeed, was correct-but that the event was wrong!

They had thought that the "sanctuary" mentioned in Daniel 8:14 was the earth, but in this they were mistaken.



(Video: 10 sec) Instead of the earth being cleansed by fire, the sanctuary in heaven was to be cleansed.

This involved the final vindication of God's character and government.



The "Millerites" were crushed!

The disappointment seemed unbearable.

But a loving God never forsakes the sincere seeker for truth: and He didn't forsake these "advent" believers at this moment of crises.

He wanted them to know that He cared-that He loved them and wanted to help.

So at this most crucial moment, God chose to restore the gift of prophecy to His people.

It is a fascinating story from the start!



Ellen Harmon was given her first vision soon after the Great Disappointment in December, 1844.

She was shown the advent people travelling an elevated road to heaven with a brilliant light illuminating the pathway.

What an encouragement this message was to this small and scattered group of advent believers, which would later become known as Seventh-day Adventists.



For more than 70 years, she spoke, she wrote, she taught, and she counseled for God.



Although the scope of her ministry and expertise is astounding, her greatest work, as she put it, was "to lead men and women to the 'greater light'"-the Bible.



She wrote: "Little heed is given to the Bible and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the 'Greater Light."-Colporteur Ministry, p. 125.



She championed the Holy Scriptures as the final court of appeal in all doctrinal questions.

To some who were criticizing the Word of God, she wrote:



"Cling to your Bible as it reads and stop your criticism in regard to its validity and obey the Word,



and not one of you will be lost." -Selected Messages, Bk. 1, p. 18.



No woman author has ever produced as much published religious material as Ellen White did in books, magazine articles, tracts, pamphlets, and personal letters of counsel, advice, and reproof-messages God had shown her to share with His people throughout her lifetime.



Her writings include counsel on victorious Christian living, diet, health, prenatal care, drugs, marriage and the home, child guidance, education, and much, much, more.

And though many of her writings are now more than 100 years

And though many of her writings are now more than 100 years old, science is just now catching up with her!

She has been quoted by professors, doctors, news commentators, and others as an authority in many of these fields.



Dr. Clive M. McCay, the late professor of nutrition at Cornell University, stated: "The writings of Ellen G. White have been cited because they provide a guide to nutrition that comprehends the whole body."-Natural Food and Farming, May, 1958.



(Video: 7 sec) As far back as 1864, Ellen White wrote: "Tobacco is a poison of the most deceitful and malignant kind."



110

"It is all the more dangerous because its effects upon the system are so slow, and scarcely perceivable." Those in the medical field must have chuckled at this statement, for at this time it was thought that tobacco and cigar smoke were an effective cure for lung disease.



However, it wasn't until 1957 that the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association concluded that smoking was a causative factor in lung cancer!

Ministry of Healing p. 313
Ellen E. White
"People are continually
eating flesh that is
filled with tuberculosis

113

115

In 1905 Mrs. White wrote that there were cancerous "germs." She stated: "People are continually eating flesh that is filled with tuberculosis and cancerous germs....

Ministry of Healing p. 313

Ellen 6. White

Tuberculosis,

cancer, and other
fatal diseases are

thus communicated."

and cancerous

Tuberculosis, cancer, and other fatal diseases are thus communicated."

-The Ministry of Healing, p. 313.



Of course, today we would more accurately use the word virus.

Ninety-three years later, Newsweek magazine carried a story titled, "Viruses are Activating Factors in Cancer."

"Dr. Wendell Stanley, University of California virologist, and Nobel Prize Winner, — Newsweek June 18, 1956

"Dr. Wendell Stanley, University of California virologist and Nobel Prize Winner," the article stated,



"went so far as to state without qualification that he believes viruses cause most of all human cancer."-Newsweek, June 18, 1956.



In 1902, Ellen White warned that San Francisco and Oakland would be visited by the Lord because they were becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah.
(Manuscript 1902, p. 114.)

Che Boston Noster FIRE FOLLOWS EARTHQUAN HEART OF CITY IS IN RU State of Sur Francis Wind Out was 5100.000.00 Damps, 100.000 Provis W Thomas Date and Injure. With Flame Sul Baye

On April 18, 1906 at 5:12 a.m., the Great San Francisco Earthquake occurred.

The prophecy was true.

The predicted destruction did take place.

The prophet, they said, wept!

Mrs. White's achievements are all the more astounding when we consider the overwhelming obstacles and handicaps, which confronted her throughout her lifetime.



Someone may be wondering-who was Ellen White, and what was she like?

The answer takes us back to November 26, 1827, during the presidency of John Quincy Adams.



On that date, twin girls-Elizabeth and Ellen-were born near the little village of Gorham, Maine, to Eunice and Robert Harmon.

Ellen was the last of eight children.



At the age of nine an accident changed her life forever. While returning home from school, Ellen was seriously injured by a stone thrown by a classmate.



For three weeks she was unconscious.

She was unable to continue her schooling, and it appeared that she would not live long.

She never got beyond the early grades of formal schooling.



Ellen became an avid student of the Bible.

She attended camp meetings, revivals, and cottage meetings. After attending a Methodist camp meeting in Buxton, Maine, Ellen was baptized June 26, 1842 in the Atlantic Ocean and became a member of the Methodist church.



Later, Ellen and her family attended some meetings held in Portland, Maine, by William Miller, a former army captain, who had been diligently studying the Bible.

Because he advocated the soon coming of Christ, he and his followers were labeled "Advents" or "Millerites."



The Harmon family was convinced of the truthfulness of Miller's messages.

However, after the great disappointment of October 22, 1844, they too were devastated.

And, Ellen's disappointment was no less because of her young age.

She wept, she prayed, she studied God's Word for an answer, as did many of the "advent" believers.

Then it was that God called her to be His prophetess.

Physically, she didn't appear to be what you'd expect of a prophetess, a 17-year-old girl, fighting tuberculosis and a heart condition.

In December of 1844, God chose to speak to Ellen in a vision.

"After I had the vision, and God gave me light, He bade me deliver it ... but I shrank from it. I was young, and I thought they would not receive it from me."

In her own words, she tells of her reaction:

"After I had the vision, and God gave me light, He bade me deliver it ... but I shrank from it.

I was young, and I thought they would not receive it from me." Ellen G. White Letter 3, 1847.



Although feeling inadequate and physically incapable of the responsibilities of this calling by God, in faith she accepted a mission for God that would last her lifetime.



On August 30, 1846, Ellen married James White, a young Adventist preacher.

They worked together in sharing the light God gave them, and Ellen's visions.

Their triumphs and their devotion are shared in many of her writings.



Four boys were born to Ellen and James: Henry, Edson, William, and Herbert.

On August 6, 1881, Ellen's husband James died in Battle Creek.

Michigan.



Standing by his graveside was Ellen-pledging to press on in the work they both had sacrificed and relentlessly pursued for over 35 years!

1:



Some of Ellen's most beautiful and inspiring writings appeared after this date.

She worked alone for another 34 years.

Her prophetic ministry took her to several countries-guiding, instructing, and counseling the believers as the Lord led her.



The life and labors of Ellen Gould White closed on July 16, 1915.

She was past 87 years of age.

She was buried at the side of her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery in Battle Creek, Michigan.



A few weeks after her death, a newspaper carried this statement: "She showed no spiritual pride and she sought no filthy lucre.

She lived the life and did the work of a worthy prophetess, the most admirable of the American succession."

-The New York Independent, August 23, 1915.



Yes, her voice is stilled-her pen is at rest.

But the priceless words of counsel, admonition, instruction and encouragement of this indomitable spokesperson for God will continue to guide God's people to final victory!



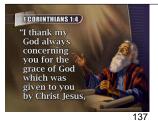
(Video: 10 sec) Her legacy to the world is a gift of love-a message to earth from across the universe, from a God of love who still wants to "keep in touch" with His children here until Christ comes.

Then the "lesser light" will pale, as we stand in the glorious

light of His presence once again to see and fellowship with God face-to-face in all His glory!

You see, God wanted to make certain that those living in the last hours of earth's history were not overcome by the darkness and deception that would cause all the world to wonder after the Beast.

Paul wrote concerning this precious gift of love:



(Text: 1 Corinthians 1:4-8) "I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,



that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,



even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,



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



who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Bible says:



(Text: 2 Chronicles 20:20) "...Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established;



believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."



Don't you want to join those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus?

Don't you want to join God's last-day people?

Consider this commitment carefully.

It could be the most important decision of your life!