

# SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

Take a minute to pray for God to guide you as you study...

To begin this lesson, let us take a quick look at the journey God has brought us on. We have learned that God has always had a missional movement made up of regular human beings. They have faithfully proclaimed a loving, personal, coming Savior throughout the ages. Many lost their lives on account of their witness, but this was done cheerfully and not tearfully. We learned that God began with Abram who would eventually become the father of the nation of Israel! That Israel would expand, and even through disobedience, set the stage for the New Testament church that would arise shortly after the resurrection of Jesus. This New Testament Church was driven into the wilderness by a power that wanted to suppress the Truth of Jesus. But God knew all this would take place and planned perfectly so that at the end of a set time, God's church would rise up through the Millerite Movement proclaiming a coming Savior and understanding Bible prophecy that had been sealed until the "time of the end". They began to proclaim a judgment going on where Christ was ministering in the final phase of the plan of redemption and they began preparing for His soon coming! This brings us to our topic today: The Spirit of Prophecy!

John the Revelator, writing about Satan attacking God's end time church says:

**Revelation 12:17:** "So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus." (NASB)

Compare this verse with this next verse.

**Revelation 19:10:** "For the testimony of Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

The *Testimony of Jesus* **IS** *The Spirit of Prophecy!*

What this means is that at the end of time, God would give His church the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy to help guide them through the many traps that Satan would try to set intending to lead the church astray. But what does "Spirit of Prophecy" mean and how can we know what it looks like? We will spend the rest of our lesson seeking to understand these two questions.

### *The What:*

Prophecy and Prophets have always been used by God through the ages. Take some time to list and share some of the major prophets of the Bible.

Read **Hosea 12:10** and write down the primary responsibility of a prophet.

How important is the ministry of the prophets? Here's how Amos puts it...

**Amos 3:7:** "Surely the Lord God does \_\_\_\_\_, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the \_\_\_\_\_." (NKJV)

When God wanted to do great things in the world, He would communicate to a prophet, and the prophet would then make it known to the the community. Examples of this are Noah warning of a coming flood, Isaiah announcing the birth of Jesus, Micah prophesying Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, and Daniel prophesying of Jesus' crucifixion.

The "What" of the Spirit of Prophecy is that God would raise up an end time prophetic movement with individuals that would have understanding of God's ways and plan of redemption. They would know what God is up to right now, and in a major way, they would be the prophet for the entire world!

Before we transition to knowing what this Spirit of Prophecy looks like we must stress one key point. This gift of Prophecy is not given to any individual just for them to have. The gift of prophecy is given to God's church to help give light to the world. It is given to aid the mission of God in the last days through His chosen instrument, the church.

Paul tells us how prophecy is a God-given part of the mission of the church.

**1 Corinthians 12:28:** "And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second \_\_\_\_\_, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues."

## BASIC POINT

God has given the **Spirit of Prophecy** to aid the mission of God in the last days.

### *Identifying the Spirit of Prophecy:*

Being able to identify the Spirit of Prophecy is incredibly important, because it helps prevent genuine Christians from falling into fanatical movements. Jesus warned of false prophets that would arise in the last days.

**Matthew 24:11:** "Many \_\_\_\_\_ will rise up and deceive many."

**Matthew 24:24:** “False christs and \_\_\_\_\_ prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to \_\_\_\_\_, if possible, even the elect.”

Jesus knew that Satan would employ many devices to deceive and one would be false prophets. This is why God gave us three tools to test a prophet on if they actually have the “Spirit of Prophecy.”

Read Jeremiah 28:9, Deuteronomy 13:1-3, and Isaiah 8:20 and write out the three tools to know if the Prophet is true.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Another amazing thing in Scripture that shows God’s confirmation of a prophet is found at the end of Bible time prophecies. In Genesis 15:12-16, Abraham is told that his descendants will be enslaved for 400 years and then they will be liberated. At the end of the 400 years, God raises up Moses and Aaron, two of the most well known prophets in the Bible, to instruct God’s people and lead them into the promised land. When Jeremiah was given the 70 year prophecy at its end, God raised up Daniel to help guide God’s people into the next step of God’s plan for redemption.

And keeping with the consistency of the Bible and the end of the longest time prophecy in scripture, at the end of the 2300 years, God placed His hand on a young woman named Ellen White who would counsel and guide God’s end time movement through many of the early hardships. She received her first vision in December of 1844 that clarified the great disappointment of the Advent believers. Ellen White would go on to be recognized as someone whom God has laid His hand on through her knowledge of medicine, health, biblical understanding. Jesus said, “you will know them by their fruits” and Ellen White had lead thousands into a closer relationship with Jesus. God gave His end time church “The Spirit of Prophecy” to help lead the end time movement to proclaim Jesus!

Ellen has written many books that are a prophetic commentary on the Bible. Her desire was always to lift Jesus up and draw others to Him. Here is a short excerpt from one of her books, Steps to Christ.

*“A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might....Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection of His character.”*

If you haven’t had a chance to read any of her books, you should find one and see for yourself how her words give prophetic insight into a deeper understanding of the love of God.

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## FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

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1. What surprised you about this lesson?
2. What questions do you have about the Spirit of Prophecy?

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### LESSON 6: SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

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