

Fundamental Belief Number Thirteen

The Remnant and its Mission

Part 3

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Memory Text

Revelation 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Revelation 22:9 Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy **brethren** the **prophets**, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Bible Study Summary Introduction Statement

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments

of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.

BIBLE STUDY

Ellen G. White fulfils the Thirty Spiritual tests of a True Prophet of God

What is the third spiritual test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled?

1. Every True Prophet of God will encourage everyone to keep all of the Ten Commandments including the fourth Commandment to keep the Seventh-day Sabbath holy

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a **prophet**, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

Deuteronomy 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other **gods**, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

Deuteronomy 13:3 Thou shalt **not** hearken unto the **words** of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and **keep** his **commandments**, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Deuteronomy 13:5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

2 Chronicles 24:19 Yet he sent **prophets** to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

2 Chronicles 24:20 And the **Spirit of God** came upon **Zechariah** the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why **transgress** ye the **commandments** of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

Zechariah 7:11 But they **refused to hearken**, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Zechariah 7:12 Yea, they made their hearts *as* an adamant stone, lest they should **hear** the **law**, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former **prophets**: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

Daniel 9:11 Yea, all Israel have **transgressed** thy **law**, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that *is* written in the law of **Moses** the servant of God, because we have **sinned** against him.

Daniel 9:12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

2 Kings 17:13 Yet the **LORD** testified against Israel, and against Judah, by **all** the **prophets**, *and by all* the **seers**, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and **keep** my

commandments and my statutes, according to **all** the **law** which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

Matthew 5:17 Think **not** that I am come to **destroy** the **law**, or the **prophets**: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in **no** wise **pass** from the **law**, till all be fulfilled.

Ellen G. White fulfills this spiritual test perfectly as the following quote verifies. **"The great principles contained in that law enjoin upon us the duty of loving God supremely and our neighbors as ourselves.** Those who love God will keep the first four precepts of the decalogue, which define the duty of man to his Creator. But in carrying out this principle through the grace of Christ, we shall express in our characters the divine attributes, and shall work out the love of God in all our dealing with our fellow-men. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God gave his best gift to the world, and whosoever has the attributes of God will love his fellow-men with the same love wherewith God has loved him. The Spirit of God dwelling in the heart will be manifested in love to others." **{RH, December 18, 1894 par. 3}**

In keeping the first four commandments, which reveal the duty of man to his God, the worshiper of God will find that he cannot cherish one fiber of the root of selfishness. He cannot do his duty to his God, and practice oppression toward his fellow-men. The second principle of the law is like unto the first, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." "This do, and thou shalt live." **These are the words of Jesus Christ, from which there can be no departure on the part of any man, woman, or youth who would be a true Christian. It is obedience to the principles of the commandments of God, that molds the character after the divine similitude.** Those who render this obedience through the grace of Christ, possess the attributes of the Saviour's character, and are partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. The word "lust" here includes not only licentiousness, but covetousness, desire for position, love of money, and that which leads to false dealings and unjust practices. **{RH, December 18, 1894 par. 4}**

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward." **The people who keep God's commandments are to bring the law of God into their lives, and reveal its value in their characters; they are to be Christlike and show forth true charity. {RH, December 18, 1894 par. 5}**

Those who love God will keep his commandments; for Christ has said, "I have kept my Father's commandments." Jesus made an infinite sacrifice in leaving his majesty, to come to a fallen world, that he might lift up sinful man; and everyone that is connected with Christ, as the branch is united with the vine, will manifest the spirit of his Redeemer. **{ST, March 10, 1890 par. 4}**

What is the fourth spiritual test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled?

- 4. Every True Prophet of God will show good fruits in their life as a testimony that they are filled and led by the Spirit of God**

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false **prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall **know** them by their **fruits**. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every **good** tree bringeth forth good **fruit**; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their **fruits** ye shall **know** them.

More than a century has passed since the ministry of Ellen White began. Decades have elapsed since her death. Therefore, there has been abundant opportunity to study the fruit of her life and ministry. What has it been?

Her personal life. A few days after the death of Ellen White the following article appeared in the local newspaper of the California town, Saint Helena, near which she had lived for fifteen years:

“By the death of Mrs. Ellen G. White, a noted religious leader has been called to her reward.

“Mrs. White was probably one of the best-known women in the world. She had traveled extensively, had lectured to large audiences in many countries, and her writings had been published in various languages carrying to people of nearly all tongues the message she felt called upon by God to deliver.

“The life of Mrs. White is an example worthy of emulation by all. Though of limited education, for the greater part of her long life in poor health, she never faltered, but for seventy-two years carried and preached the message of Jesus Christ, as understood by her, to the furthest corners of the earth. She was a humble, devout disciple of Christ and ever went about doing good. Her writings have been published in books, papers and periodicals and from her prolific pen has come writings on many religious topics. She was revered by all the members of the Seventh Day Adventist church and honored and respected by all who appreciate noble womanhood consecrated to unselfish labor for the uplifting and betterment of mankind. Her death marks the calling of another noted leader of religious thought and one whose almost ninety years were full to overflowing with good deeds, kind words and earnest prayers for all mankind.

“This good Samaritan will surely be greatly missed. Her reward will be commensurate with the great good she has done.”—Saint Helena, California, *Star*, July 23, 1915.

An article in the *Detroit News-Tribune* commented: “Mrs. White was a remarkable woman in many ways. She was deeply religious, and none who knew her intimately had any doubt as to her sincerity.”—July 25, 1915.

At the time of her death Mrs. White received considerable editorial comment in the secular press. Two examples are fairly typical of the observations of non-Adventist newspaper editors concerning her life and the significance of her accomplishments.

“Mrs. White . . . early manifested some of the gifts of prophecy. With the formation of the church of the Seventh-day Adventists, she immediately developed an influence, and that influence was maintained to the hour of her death, a period of seventy years. Besides unusual talents as a preacher, she had organizational and administrative powers. These were all given to her church. It prospered and grew until it has spread through many lands. Universities were founded, medical schools, hospitals and schools for teachers and missionaries.”

“Mrs. White was a remarkable woman. Had she lived in an earlier period of the career of Christianity and escaped the bigots and the fire she would most surely have been canonized. She was of the flesh of which saints are made.” The editor of the Toledo (Ohio) Blade wrote in: Editorial, “A Modern Prophetess,” Toledo Blade, July 19, 1915; cited in Review and Herald, May 27, 1971, p. 24.

The New York City Independent editorialized first concerning the results, and then the life that produced them, stating:

“Of course, these teachings were based on the strictest doctrine of inspiration of the Scriptures. Seventh-day Adventism could be got in no other way. And the gift of prophecy was to be expected as promised to the ‘remnant church,’ who had held fast to the truth. This faith gave great purity of life and incessant zeal. No body of Christians excels them in moral character and religious earnestness.

“Their work began in 1853 in Battle Creek, and it has grown until now they have thirty-seven publishing houses throughout the world, with literature in eighty different languages, and an annual output of \$2 million. They have now seventy colleges and academies, and about forty sanitariums; and in all this, Ellen G. White has been the inspiration and a guide. Here is a noble record, and she deserves great honor.

“Did she really receive divine visions, and was she really chosen by the Holy Spirit to be endowed with the charisma of prophecy? Or was she the victim of an excited imagination? Why should we answer? One’s doctrine of the Bible may affect the conclusion. At any rate, she was absolutely honest in her belief in her revelations. Her life was worthy of them. 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.” Editorial, “An American Prophetess,” The Independent, Aug. 23, 1915, pp. 249, 250; cited in Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White: The Later Elmshaven Years* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1982), p. 444.

Brief statements by two men within the church who knew Mrs. White well will suffice to reveal the attitude of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all over the world.

“Now she is at rest. Her voice is silent; her pen is laid aside. But the mighty influence of that active, positive, forceful life will continue. That life was linked with the eternal; it was wrought in God.”—Arthur G. Daniells, in *Review and Herald*, July 29, 1915.

“Her Christian life was marked by deep personal piety; she had great faith in prayer, and was zealous in her spiritual devotions. Her charities were liberal beyond her means; she was ever impoverishing herself by her gifts to the cause she loved and by her care for the poor and needy.

“She believed in the divine inspiration of the Bible. Of this word she was a constant student all her life; to her it was the voice of God.... She exalted Christ as the sinner's only hope. She loved this Saviour, and did what she could to bring others to a knowledge of Him.”—**I. H. Evans, in *Review and Herald*, July 29, 1915.**

Those who knew her well had only good to speak of Mrs. White's personal life and Christian experience. Even her most severe critic, a former co-worker, attended her funeral, and, while viewing her body, said, “A noble Christian woman gone.”—**Comment of D. M. Canright. See Arthur W. Spalding, *Captains of the Host*, page 581.**

Influence of her life and messages. Writing in 1866 of the influence of Ellen White's testimonies, Uriah Smith, the editor of the *Review and Herald*, testified in an editorial: “Their fruit is such as to show that the source, from which they spring, is the opposite of evil. They tend to the purest morality. They discountenance every vice, and exhort to the practice of every virtue. They point out the perils through which we are to pass to the kingdom. They reveal the devices of Satan. They warn us against his snares. They have nipped in the bud, scheme after scheme of fanaticism which the enemy has tried to foist into our midst. They have exposed hidden iniquity, brought to light concealed wrongs, and laid bare the evil motives of the falsehearted. They have warded off dangers from the cause of truth upon every hand. They have aroused and rearoused us to greater consecration to God, more zealous efforts for holiness of heart, and greater diligence in the cause and service of our Master.

“They lead us to Christ.... They lead us to the Bible.... They have brought comfort and consolation to many hearts. They have strengthened the weak, encouraged the feeble, raised up the despondent. They have brought order out of confusion, made crooked places straight, and thrown light on what was dark and obscure.”—***Review and Herald*, June 12, 1866.**

The fruits of the work of Ellen White are observable in the development of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Though the instruction may have been imperfectly followed, still, these messages are so closely entwined with the growth of the church and its continued expansion that it is not too much to say that without them the Seventh-day Adventist Church would not exist as it is today. Already, in the survey of the life of Ellen White, we have noted some of the influences she exerted, first on the unorganized bands of advent believers and later on the church body. Her influence may be classified under these eight headings: (1) assisting in developing doctrines, (2) saving members from fanaticism and false teachings, (3) developing organization, (4) guiding when problems arose, (5) guiding the plans for the future, (6) revealing future events, (7) encouraging and aiding Bible study, (8) guiding in Christian living. A detailed study involving these topics will produce a wealth of evidence of good fruit. “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

What is the fifth spiritual test of a prophet that Ellen G. White fulfilled?

5. Every True Prophet of God will confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh and will exalt and lift him up as the only hope and Saviour for all

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the **Spirit** of God: Every spirit that **confesseth** that **Jesus** Christ is **come** in the **flesh** is of God:

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

John 12:32 And **I**, if I be **lifted** up from the earth, will draw **all men** unto **me**.

John 5:39 Search the **scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of **me**.

Of all the Bible tests, this is perhaps the easiest one to apply to the writings of Ellen White. She has written voluminously on the life and ministry of Jesus, as well as on His pre-existence, His heavenly ministry, and His return. The books *The Desire of Ages, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, Steps to Christ, and Christ's Object Lessons*, as well as hundreds of pages in her other volumes, are devoted to a portrayal of the character and ministry of the Saviour. The high points of the story are told in these short statements.

Christ is our Redeemer. He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. He is the fountain in which we may be washed and cleansed from all impurity. He is the costly sacrifice that has been given for the reconciliation of man. {LHU 232.3}

As the Son of God in human form was perfect in his life, so he requires that his followers shall be perfect in their lives. **He was made in all things like unto his brethren. He hungered, he thirsted, he was weary, he slept, he wept, and yet he was the blameless Son of God, he was God in the flesh.** He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, and we have not a high-priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows how to succor those that are tempted. In living out the truth of God, man is continually assured that supernatural help will be granted to him, and that while he retains his human nature, yet through an unseen agency he receives the impress of the divine nature through the truth as it is in Jesus. {RH, October 23, 1894 par. 9}

Man was God's workmanship, made after his image, endowed with talents, and fitted for a high destiny. But Satan has worked to obliterate the divine image, and to impress his own image instead of the image of God in man's nature. Jesus condescended to humble himself, to take human nature, and by uniting divinity with humanity, he proposed to elevate man in the scale of moral value. All heaven was poured out in the gift of God's dear Son. Through faith in him the sinner could be justified, and God could yet be just in justifying the sinner; for Christ had become a propitiation for the sins of the repentant soul. The only plan that could be devised to save the human race was that which called for the incarnation, humiliation, and crucifixion of the Son of God, the Majesty of heaven. After the plan of salvation was devised, Satan could have no ground upon which to found his suggestion that God, because so great, could care nothing for so insignificant a creature as man. The redemption of man is a wonderful theme, and the love manifested to the fallen race through the plan of salvation, can be estimated only by the cross of Calvary. The depth of this love even angels cannot sound. **That God could consent to become flesh, and dwell among fallen beings, to lift them up from their helplessness and despair, is an unfathomed mystery.** He whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, whose dominion endureth throughout all generations, made himself to be sin for us that he might lift up all that are bowed down, and give life to those who are ready to perish. {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 8}

“From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 19.

“In it [the Bible] we may learn what our redemption has cost Him who from the beginning was equal with the Father, and who sacrificed His life that a people might stand before Him

redeemed from everything earthly, renewed in the image of God.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, pages 13, 14.

“The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 36.

“God, the Owner of the world, was His Father.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 401.

“What a contrast between this unbelief and the sweet, childlike faith of Mary, the maiden of Nazareth, whose answer to the angel's wonderful announcement was, ‘Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word’!”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 98.

“But the Sinless One has taken our place.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 71.

“Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 25.

“By His word and His works He declared Himself the Author of the resurrection. He who Himself was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life.”—*Ibid.*, p. 530.

“We should be comforted by the thought that we have a great intercessor in the heavens, presenting our petitions before God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, P. 530.

“The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures.”—*The Great Controversy*, page 299.

“The blessed hope of the second appearing of Christ, with its solemn realities, needs to be often presented to the people.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 406.

Are you happy that God has been so gracious and merciful to give easy and clear evidences that the Spirit of Prophecy is fulfilled in the life of Ellen G White and her writings? Yes!

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How should we react to a prophet that does not keep all of the Ten Commandments? Not hearken unto his words

How many of God's prophets kept and taught God's people to keep the Ten Commandments? All of them

Did Jesus come to destroy the Ten Commandments and the Law of God? No

What spiritual test of a prophet is compared to the way to determine what sort of tree is being observed in the physical realm? Fruits of the tree tell us what type of tree it is

Does Ellen G. White fulfill these spiritual tests of prophet in a very clear manner? Yes