

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

Fourth Quarter 2026: *The Gift of Prophecy*

Lesson 3 “Old Testament Prophets”

Read for this week’s study

James 5:17, 18; 1 Kings 19:1-16; 1 Kings 22:1-14; Exodus 15:20; 2 Kings 22:11-14; Jeremiah 14:1-15.

Memory Text

“Jehoshaphat stood and said, ‘Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper’” (2 Chronicles 20:20, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Humanity of Prophets
- III. Identifying True Prophets
- IV. Functions of Prophets
- V. Women Prophets
- VI. False Prophets
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. The lesson for this week explores Old Testament descriptions of prophets, which will help us understand how the gift of prophecy works. The Old Testament prophets, both men and women, were people like us; human beings prone to things like fear, anger, and discouragement. Nevertheless, God used these frail human beings to provide something like a spiritual global positioning system (GPS) that provided divine guidance for the immediate situation and also for the future. (Sabbath Afternoon)
2. Last week we reviewed the story of Elijah, who did some amazing things in behalf of Israel. Yet there is another side to that story. Read James 5:17-18. How does it summarize Elijah’s ministry in a nutshell? (Sunday)

3. In spite of the way Elijah was used by God on Mount Carmel, the story took a very different turn afterward. Read 1 Kings 19:1-16. What does this tell us about the emotional state of the prophet in the aftermath of his great victory? (Sunday)
4. How do you tell a false prophet from a true one? Read 1 Kings 22:1-14. What is the key difference between the true and the false prophets in this story? Are there false prophets today? (Monday)
5. Read 1 Samuel 9:3-14. What is the evidence cited that a prophet is true? (Monday)
6. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-22. How did prophets function in relation to Israel's kings? Read Exodus 19:5-6. What was God's overarching purpose in creating Israel as a nation? What role did prophets and kings play in achieving that purpose? (Tuesday)
7. Trivia question: How many female prophets are there in the Bible? (Wednesday)
8. Read 2 Kings 22:2-20. Why did King Josiah's men go to Huldah the prophetess? What was the issue they were trying to resolve. What message did she share with them? (Wednesday)
9. Read Jeremiah 14:1-15. What can we learn from the interaction of true and false prophets in this story? (Thursday)
10. The lives of OT prophets were not easy ones. Ellen White had a similar experience. She felt much anxiety about her commission. She had little self-confidence. She had a lot of opposition and anguish of spirit. She suffered from poor health. She thought that she would rather die than accept God's call to be a prophet. But we have seen that God calls imperfect people who are willing to serve Him. But in spite of her weaknesses, she helped found a major denomination, a medical school and the world's largest protestant educational system. It is no wonder that she was named one of the hundred most influential Americans of all time by *Smithsonian* magazine in 2014. And by the end of her life, she had written more than 100,000 pages.

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

But as we open up the sixty-six books and ask God, "How **do** You run Your universe? Do you ask your children to believe You without evidence?" I find precisely the opposite. I find Him warning us against believing mere claims. Look at Deuteronomy 13 on the Bible Reference Sheet:

If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which he tells you comes to pass [it actually happens], and if He says, "Let us go after other gods" which you have not known, "and let us serve them," you shall not listen to the word of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams.
(RSV)

Never mind the miracle. Then look at the extraordinary story told in 1 Kings 13. It's a whole chapter. I wish there was time to retell it; it's so dramatic. About this younger prophet called

the “man of God,” who was told by God to deliver a message to the king, not to accept hospitality, but to come home by another route. But on the way an older prophet heard of what had happened. And he asked his sons to saddle his donkey (you remember) and he got on it and chased after the man of God. When he caught up with him, as it says on the Bible Reference Sheet:

Then (the old prophet) said to him, “Come home with me and eat bread.” And he (the man of God) said, “I may not return with you, or go in with you; neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place; for it was said to me by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came’” And he said to him, “I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.’” But he lied to him. (RSV)

And you remember that the younger prophet believed the older prophet, and he went home and ate with him. And as he proceeded on his way he was met by a lion that slew him. If you don’t know the story you ought to read it. But that warns us that people who make claims that God has spoken through them may be lying to us. And it’s God Himself who warns us of that. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #4, “God’s Way of Restoring Trust” recorded February 1984, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:* <http://pkp.cc/4MMCAG>

Further Study with Ellen White

In His wisdom the Lord brings those who are seeking for truth into touch with fellow beings who know the truth. It is the plan of Heaven that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness. Humanity, drawing its efficiency from the great Source of wisdom, is made the instrumentality, the working agency, through which the gospel exercises its transforming power on mind and heart. {AA 134.3}

In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with, but let us not forget that the three great Powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass. —Ev 65 (1902). {LDE 29.3}

As the wheel-like complications were under the guidance of the hand beneath the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated play of human events is under divine control. Amidst the strife and tumult of nations, He that sitteth above the cherubim still guides the affairs of the earth. [See Ezekiel 1:4, 26; 10:8; Daniel 4:17, 25, 32.] —Ed 178 (1903). {LDE 29.4}

Never are we absent from the mind of God. God is our joy and our salvation. {CTr 357.2}

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. . . . He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you. {COL 146.4}

“Be not therefore anxious for the morrow.” Matthew 6:34, R. V. We are to follow Christ day by day. God does not bestow help for tomorrow. He does not give His children all the directions for their life journey at once, lest they should become confused. He tells them just as much as they can remember and perform. The strength and wisdom imparted are for the present emergency. “If any of you lack wisdom,”—for today,—“let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5. {DA 313.4}

In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day. {MH 482.1}

It is part of God’s plan to grant us in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask. {GC 525.2}

In the humble round of toil, the very weakest, the most obscure, may be workers together with God and may have the comfort of His presence and sustaining grace. They are not to weary themselves with busy anxieties and needless cares. Let them work on from day to day, accomplishing faithfully the task that God’s providence assigns, and He will care for them. {MH 199.1}

Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God. {SC 97.2}

It is when we come into difficult places that He reveals His power and wisdom in answer to humble prayer. Have confidence in Him as a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God. He will reveal Himself to you as One who can help in every emergency. He who created man, who gave him his wonderful physical, mental, and spiritual faculties, will not withhold that which is necessary to sustain the life He has given. He who has given us His word—the leaves of the tree of life—will not withhold from us a knowledge of how to provide food for His needy children. {MH 199.4}

Prayer unites us with one another and with God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives to the fainting, perplexed soul new strength to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan. {COL 250.2}

God will not give His Spirit to those who make no use of the heavenly gift. But those who are drawn out of and away from themselves, seeking to enlighten, encourage, and bless others, will have increased ability and energy to expend. The more light they give, the more they receive.—*Southern Watchman*, Oct. 31, 1905. {RC 319.3}

In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace—in “the beauty of the Lord our God” (Psalm 90:17). {AG 223.3}

By the grace of Christ, perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding, and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt. {SC 111.2}

The Lord’s angels are appointed to keep strict watch over those who put their faith in the Lord, and these angels are to be our special help in every time of need. Every day we are to come to the Lord with full assurance of faith, and to look to Him for wisdom. . . . Those who are guided by the Word of the Lord will discern with certainty between falsehood and truth, between sin and righteousness. {AG 201.4}

The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image. The pure element of love will expand the soul, giving it a capacity for higher attainments, for increased knowledge of heavenly things, so that it will not rest short of the fullness. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.” {DA 302.1}

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character. Through a connection with Christ he will have clearer and broader views. His discernment will be more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. He who longs to be of service to Christ is so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God. {DA 251.1}

The Lord is our helper, our defense. God has provided that no soul that trusts in Him shall be overcome by the enemy. {CTr 47.4}

In the closing scenes of this earth’s history, when intensity is taking possession of every earthly element, the Lord requires of us a vigilance that knows no relaxation. But we are not left to struggle alone. Amid the dangers increasing on every hand, those who walk humbly before

God, distrustful of their own wisdom, will have angels as their helpers and protectors. In times of special peril they will know the power of God's keeping care.—RH April 25, 1907. {TA 272.3}

He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His own work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men, and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sitteth between the cherubim, and amid the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still. He who ruleth in the heavens is our Saviour. He measures every trial, He watches the furnace fire that must test every soul. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands. {MB 121.1}

Satan is working with great diligence to compass the ruin of the souls of men. He has come down with great power, knowing that he has but a short time to work. Our only safety lies in following closely after Christ, walking in His wisdom, and practicing His truth. We cannot always readily detect the working of Satan; we do not know where he lays his traps. But Jesus understands the subtle arts of the enemy, and He can keep our feet in safe paths. . . . "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) Christ declares. {OHC 16.3}