WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT…
"THE GIFT OF PROPHECY"

Ellen G. White, formerly Ellen Harmon, was born in 1827 and died in 1915. Her religious roots stem from the Methodist faith. She and her family were part of the Millerite movement—a one doctrine movement that believed in the literal, visible, pre-millennial second coming of Christ. The Millerites believed that the second coming would occur on October 22, 1844. When Jesus didn't return, Ellen White and many others continued to study in-spite of the Great Disappointment. As they earnestly searched the Bible for answers, they discovered that a special event did occur on that special date according to Daniel 8:14. However, it was not the second coming of Christ. It was the beginning of the investigative judgment in heaven—the final phase of Christ's high priestly ministry in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.

Ellen White married James White in 1846 at the age of 18. She and her husband were introduced to the seventh-day Sabbath while reading a 46-page tract published by Joseph Bates entitled, *Seventh-day Sabbath*. Six months later she received a vision of the law of God in the heavenly sanctuary with a halo of light around the fourth commandment—The Sabbath. This vision confirmed her and her husband's faith of this scriptural truth.

Ellen White was one of the co-founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church which officially organized in 1863. Regarding the theological doctrines of the church, her role was confirmatory. The early advent believers would earnestly study, agonize, and pray to God for an understanding of Bible teachings. After arriving at Biblical positions of faith, God would take Ellen White into vision, and she would confirm the doctrines arrived at by the studying believers. Ellen White never claimed to be a prophet, although she meets the Biblical tests of a true prophet. When questioned about whether she considered herself to be a prophet, her response was that she is the Lord's messenger.

Ellen White is the most translated author in American history. She wrote over 40 books during her lifetime. Some of her best known works include the following: *Steps to Christ, Conflict of the Ages, The Ministry of Healing* and *Christ's Object Lessons*. Her writings uplift Christ and point the reader to the Bible. Many have gained a deeper love for Jesus and a greater appreciation of His Word as a result of reading Ellen White's writings.

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