



# ELLEN G WHY?!

## PART 1: BIBLICAL CONCEPTS

by Ingo Sorke, PhD



**“Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper”** (2 Chron 20:20)

As a German exchange student in the US a book called *The Ministry of Healing* by Ellen White caught my attention in my host family’s home. I had never heard of the author, but her writing style was accessible and attractive. *Who was this Ellen White?*

### PROPHETS . . .

Scripture translations: *New King James Version* of the Bible



1. **Determine God’s Way** (Matthew 11:7-11)

2. **Define God’s Will** (Matthew 14:3,4; Mark 1:1-8)

3. **Deliver God’s Word** but don’t necessarily have writings in the Bible! Examples: Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, Zadok, Ahijah, Gad, Iddo, Shemaiah, Azariah, Hanani, Jehu, Micaiah, Jeduthun, Acharias, Agabus (#2 Elijah 3:7!)

Moses & the Prophets = Scripture, but it includes noncanonical prophets! (Luke 16:29, 31; 24:27)

4. **Daughters!** Examples: Deborah, Huldah, Miriam, Noadiah, Philips’ 4 daughters

5. **Deliverance:** to get God’s people out of Egypt (Exodus 7:1 = a spokesperson for God, in God’s stead)

6. **Danger: false prophets!** (Deut 13:1-18; 18:1-22; 1Kgs 22:11; Jer 28; Ezek 22:28; Mt 24:11, 24)

7. **Destiny:** prophets are end-time essentials to prompt the ripening of God’s end-time people:

**Eph 4:11-13** “And he gave some, apostles; and some, **prophets**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (NKJV)

**1 Cor 1:7** “so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NKJV)

### REVELATION

### THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

**1:2** “who bore witness to the word of God, and to **the testimony of Jesus Christ**”

**1:9** “I, John ... was on the island of Patmos for the word of God and for **the testimony of Jesus Christ**”

**12:17** “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have **the testimony of Jesus Christ.**”

**14:12** “... here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and **the faith of Jesus.**”

**19:10** “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have **the testimony of Jesus.** Worship God! For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”



**22:8-9** “I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel ... 9 Then he said to me, “See *that you do not do that.* For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren **the prophets**, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” *God’s end-time people have a prophet in their midst = the testimony of Jesus!*

### JOHN THE BAPTIST

### PREPARATION FOR THE 1ST COMING

**Precepts:** no writings in Scripture · simple dress · simple diet · repentance · no miracles

**Matthew 11:11** “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

**Luke 7:30** “The Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”

**⚠ Caution: Rejecting a Gift = Rejecting the Giver of the Gift! ⚠**

📖 2,000 visions and dreams; 5,000 articles, 26 books, 55,000 pages

🌐 Most-translated woman in history of literature (>140 languages)

🌿 natural health + 📖 Bible-centric education

<https://cdm.lju.edu/digital/collection/wepphotos/id/1105/rec/141>  
Australia, August 1899



## !! Called, but not Chosen:

**William Foy:** called in 1842; Black freedman, Baptist, 2 visions, preached some

**Hazen Foss:** EGW's brother-in-law warned her: received vision pre-1844, didn't cooperate - lost gift!

**Edith Deen,** *Great Women of the Christian Faith*, p. 230: "Certainly she [EGW] was a spokesman for God. Like the prophets of old, her life was marked by humility, simplicity, austerity, divine learning, and devotion."

**Mark Knoll,** *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, quoting Ronald Numbers, "The Creationist" (U Wisc): "How a popular belief known as Creationism – a theory that the earth is 10,000 or less years old – has spread like wild fire in our century from its humble beginning in the writings of Ellen White, the founder of Seventh-day Adventism to its current status as a Gospel truth embraced by 10s of millions of Bible-believing Evangelicals and Fundamentalists around the world."

**Craig Dossman,** Paul Yonggi Cho interview → world's largest church based on *Evangelism & Gospel Workers*

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err" (7T 21).

**First Vision (December 1844):** "While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, . . . when a voice said to me, 'Look again, and look a little higher.' At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path . . . On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry . . . This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so that they might not stumble. If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. . . [some] rashly denied the light behind them out so far. The light behind them went out, leaving their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path down into the dark and wicked world below" (EW 14, 15).

## THE RISK OF REJECTION



## A CAUTION

**Luke 11:47** "Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. 49 Therefore the wisdom of God also said, "I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute," 50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation."

**Amos 2:10** Also *it was* I *who* brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. 11 I raised up some of your sons as prophets, and some of your young men as Nazirites. *Is it not so, O you children of Israel?"* says the LORD. 12 "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink, and commanded the prophets saying, 'Do not prophesy!'"

**Jeremiah 25:4** "And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear."



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<https://cdm.lju.edu/digital/collection/wepphotos/id/1149/rec/32> 1859  
<https://library.lju.edu/about/library-news/unknown-photo-of-ellen-white-found-1905>