

Unmasking the Supernatural 05

“And (Jesus) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven!” Luke 10:18

Understanding True Prophets

During the time of Jesus’ ministry on earth He did the work of a true prophet. He was bringing the messages of God to the people of that era and of course for all people that would live after as well. You would think that with all the fuss the church leaders made that He was teaching totally new and weird things; but the fact is, all of Jesus’ teachings were from the Old Testament Scriptures, known as the Law and the Prophets. So why did those leaders have a problem with them? It was because *they* no longer taught the pure scriptures—they went in for ‘Higher Education’ and mixed Greek Philosophy, which is totally opposite from the teachings of the pure Word of God, into their doctrines. Also they loved to dwell on the writings of dead rabbis, and study what they had written ABOUT the scriptures, rather than the scriptures themselves.

So when John the Baptist and later, Jesus came along and the ordinary people could see they were ‘prophets indeed’, the leaders said, “We believe in Moses; we know he was a prophet, but we won’t listen to these imposters! Why they haven’t even studied at our schools!”

Funny thing is that during Moses’ time the people back then didn’t want to believe he was a prophet either. “Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem; thou that killest the prophets and stoneth them that are sent to you!” And so it is the same in our day; we have so many saying, “Don’t quote from Sister White to me; I only believe the Bible.” Let’s do some exploring into this subject, shall we?

The Spirit of Prophecy:

The Bible is clear that prophets are one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to God’s church. In the time of the Apostles we see prophets mentioned; Agabus and the four daughters of Phillip for example. (Acts 21:9, 10.) Why is it then, that as far as the mainstream churches are concerned today, the gift of prophecy has practically disappeared? Well, I’ll explain to you why. The following verse helps us to understand a little.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Proverbs 29:18.

Notice the Bible indicates that there are two things that are inseparably linked together. One is the gift of prophecy, and the other is the Ten Commandments. You’ll find that whenever the Ten Commandments are downgraded, whenever they are not kept, whenever they are neglected, whenever they are trampled underfoot and changed, then the gift of prophecy is removed from that church. It always works that way. First it talks about the gift of prophecy; then it mentions, “he that keepeth the law, happy is he,” because they’re linked together. It seems also that the gift of Prophecy includes the ability to correctly understand existing Bible prophecy as well.

“Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumor shall be upon rumor, then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest.” Ezekiel 7:26.

You see, the reason why they can’t find a vision from the prophet is because the law has not been taught to them by the priests or the religious leaders. Once again the gift of prophecy is linked with the Ten Commandments. When the Ten Commandments are downgraded and forgotten and lost sight of, then the gift of prophecy also is lost.

“Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; (they have neglected the law), her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.” Lamentations 2:9.

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

The two are eternally linked together and the reason why the majority of churches have lost the gift of prophecy is because they have trodden underfoot one or more of God's Ten Commandments. About the only mention you'll find in the average Christian church today if they talk about the Ten Commandments at all, is that they're done away with. They don't have to be kept. No Christian is under any obligation, they say, to keep them anymore.

After Christ went back to heaven and the apostles died, gradually, as the Bible predicted, corruption, error, apostasy, and a falling away from truth came into the church. Over the first five centuries after Christ, we find that just about every truth that Jesus outlined in the Word of God was changed, including the Sabbath and others of the Ten Commandments. As a result, the gift of prophecy was taken away from the church.

Was the gift of prophecy restored in the days of the Reformation? The answer is, No, it wasn't. The reason was simply because, while Luther, Wesley and these other men were wonderful men, godly men, they did not restore the great truth on the commandments. The reformation made a start but didn't go all the way. As a result, still the gift of prophecy was not restored. So is the gift of prophecy going to be found in the church in the last days? The Bible predicted it will be.

Are there any prophets outside of those that wrote the Bible books? Well, there are prophets mentioned in the Bible who never wrote a book. Have you ever read the book of Agabus, mentioned in the book of Acts? You have never read the book of Agabus because his writings were not included in the Bible. You have heard of the prophet Elijah, but you have never read Elijah's writings, although the Bible says that there were writings and books of Elijah. But God never put them in the canon of Scripture. These men like Agabus, Elijah, Zacharias, Simeon, and even women who had the gift of prophecy in the Bible, such as Huldah, Anna and the daughters of Philip, they all had the gift of prophecy and were just as surely inspired as the prophets that wrote the Bible. The only difference is their writings had a particular relevance to their day and God never saw fit to preserve them for all mankind. Notice this verse about our day:

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; “And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God. I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.” Acts 2:16, 17.

Women are included in this gift; “Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.” One of the most conclusive evidences that the gift of prophecy was going to be found in the church is Jesus' warning in Matthew 24, where He says that in the last days there will come false prophets. Now listen! If there are false prophets, there must be true and genuine ones. You can't counterfeit something that doesn't exist. You only have counterfeits when there is a genuine. The very fact that Jesus said that in the last days, to be careful, be on your guard and watch out for false prophets, indicates that there would be true prophets. Paul wrote in the book of 1 Thessalonians 5:20 that we are not to despise prophesying, but to test and prove all things. Notice this verse in Revelation:

“And the dragon (the devil, as it says in verse 9) was wroth (angry) with the woman, (in Bible prophecy a woman represents the church), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

The devil is angry, particularly with the remnant church, the last of God's people who are living on the earth at the end of time. God's remnant people are going to have these two great characteristics:

1. “Which keep the commandments of God.” The first characteristic of God's people, the remnant people, is that they will keep the commandments of God.
2. “And have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Now we know what the commandments of God are, but what about “the testimony of Jesus?” the Bible gives us the answer: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10.

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

God's remnant people are going to be identified in the last days by two outstanding characteristics--they'll keep the commandments of God, and they'll have the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy. Remember this great test of all those who claim the gift of prophecy?

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

All religions, churches and individuals must be evaluated by comparing them to the testimony of Scripture and the Law of God. If they don't speak according to this Word, it is simply because there is no light in them at all. It's as simple as that!

"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." 1 Corinthians 14:32

Here it is again; this is saying that any new prophet if they are true will be in agreement with the former true prophets. In addition to this, the Scripture gives other physical and moral tests which we looked at in our last lesson.

Here is a brief account of the thrilling story of the Great Advent Movement foretold in prophecy, that began in 1798. A special interest arose connected with the Bible Time Prophecies, especially the ones in the book of Daniel as predicted in Daniel 12:4. Interest in these prophecies sprang up all over the world and in many denominations; Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans, and even some Catholics were involved. There was no human leader really, but the Lord was stirring up this interest right on schedule. It was worldwide in extent; through North America, in Europe, South America and elsewhere, people began to study Daniel 8, and they came to the conclusion that Jesus was going to come very soon.

In America a man named William Miller began a systematic study of the Bible early in the 1800s. He wanted to prove whether or not the Bible was truly inspired. He came upon various time prophecies, and by using a concordance and allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter and comparing text with text, he too came to the conclusion that Jesus was about to return and it would be somewhere in the 1840s. We do not have time to tell that wonderful story here, but later as hundreds of people, then called 'Millerites' were teaching the same thing, they found that the Bible evidence pointed to the date of October 22, 1844.

But October 22 in 1844 came and went, and Jesus didn't come back, then there was a bitter disappointment. They did not know it at the time but that very disappointment is foretold in Revelation 10. There were two reactions among the Millerites, or as they were then called, Adventists.

Some angrily denounced, "Well, we're finished with God; the whole Bible is a lot of nonsense and fairy tales," and they left religion forever. A smaller group said, "No, we do not believe that the Bible or God is wrong. It must be our understanding of what we have studied, that is wrong." So they went back to study it over again, and came to exactly the same conclusion, that 1844 and October 22 of that year was correct. Then by God's guidance suddenly light dawned on their minds; they realized that when the Bible said, "Unto two thousand three hundred days, then shall the *sanctuary* be cleansed," that the sanctuary wasn't this earth that was to be cleansed then by fire like they had been thinking before, but instead it had to do with the great work that Jesus, our great High Priest was doing in the heavenly sanctuary, as foretold in Revelation and Hebrews.

God did not leave His people without guidance; during this time of the Great Advent Movement God began to send the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy; first to a black man named William Foy in 1842. He saw a total of three visions and all the signs of a true prophet were seen in him. He shared faithfully the things he had seen and had them legally attested to in 1843 and published in 1845. Being a black man in those days though, he was somewhat limited in those he could reach with the messages of those visions. Many teach he died shortly after but this is not true, even though he did not receive any more visions, and never left the Baptist church, he remained a faithful minister and Christian until his death in the late 1800s.

Shortly after Foy's experience, God gave those same visions to another man by the name of Hazen Foss. Foss was of fine appearance, pleasing address and well educated. He was given the same two visions as Foy, and

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

finally the third vision. Fearing to be ridiculed and being of a proud spirit, he refused to relate them. He was warned in vision that if he still refused, the gift would be taken from him! He again refused and a third vision was given releasing him from this responsibility. God said, "If you will not give it, Hazen Foss, then I will take it from you, and give it to the weakest of the weak."

This startled the young man, so he decided to relate the vision; before a large audience he told his experience and the warnings God had given him, but when he tried to relate the vision, he stood before the people as one dumb, and exclaimed, "I cannot remember a word of it. God has fulfilled His word and taken the vision from me." In great mental distress, he said, "I am a lost man" and from that time he lost his hope in Christ, and went into a state of despair, and had no further personal interest in religion.

Now, you must understand that the devil is a great student of Bible prophecy and he knew also that something grand was going to happen in October of 1844; he knew that the Gift of Prophecy was about to be restored to God's people and that the Lord was gathering a special group to carry forward His messages. So knowing that, he raised up people before, during, and after 1844, all claiming that they had the gift of prophecy. Many of them were absolute fanatics and some very immoral; so this brought great derision against the cause of God. Visions were held in disrepute and people were regarded as crazy or fanatics if they claimed to have had a vision. So when the genuine came along, Foss knew he would be ridiculed and laughed at, especially if trying to relate something that he didn't fully understand.

God said that He was going to take the Heavenly Gift from this man and give it to the weakest of the weak. The third person to whom God gave the Gift of Prophecy was a humble, but godly young woman. Even in the Bible we find times that when men did not respond to the call of God, He called a woman to do His bidding. This young woman's name was Ellen Gould Harmon, aged 17. She was not well educated as were the two men before her. But nevertheless, because of her humility and dependence on God she accepted the burden that the Lord placed upon her. A solemn sense of eternal interests was constantly upon her. She seemed to be filled with an unspeakable awe that she should be chosen by God to bring instruction to His people.

She received the same three visions as the two men before her; and she described them including the third vision and later the meaning of it was revealed to her. Her physical condition in vision fulfilled to perfection the five physical tests of a true prophet. During her ministry she was examined minutely by doctors, Christian and non-Christian. When she first received a vision, for about five seconds she seemed to drop down as if in a faint, completely losing her strength; then immediately a superhuman strength would come upon her.

Sometimes she walked about the room, sometimes movements were made with her hands, all were done in a graceful manner. Even though she was a frail girl, in whatever position her hand or arm was placed, it was impossible for anyone to move it. In vision her eyes, were always open, but she did not blink. Her head was raised with an upward look, but not a vacant stare. Her expression was pleasant and she appeared to be looking intently at some distant object.

She did not breathe while in vision, yet her pulse was regular and her face retained its natural color. Doctors, after examination, admitted that Ellen Harmon did not breathe while in vision. This baffled them. They confessed that they could not understand it. On one occasion a spirit medium who was also a doctor of medicine, claimed he could prove her visions were false and even stop her from having one in his presence. He was invited to examine Ellen Harmon in vision; as he did so he turned deathly pale and shook with fear. He admitted that she did not breathe, and he rapidly ran for the door. The power which controlled him as a spirit medium was very foreign to the Spirit that controlled Ellen Harmon.

Her coming out of vision was as marked as her going into it. She drew her first breath deep, long and full, revealing that her lungs must have been entirely empty of air. Several minutes passed before the second breath was taken which filled the lungs like the first. Then after two minutes, a third followed then her breathing became natural. There is no question among those who knew her, that Ellen Harmon fulfilled the tests of a true prophet.

A Brief Biography:

Twin girls arrived at the home of Robert and Eunice Harmon on November 26, 1827. They were named Ellen and Elizabeth. The little farm was near the village of Gorham, Maine, about twelve miles west of Portland, Maine, in the northeastern part of the United States.

During her childhood, the active and helpful Ellen cheerfully assisted in the home. She was bright and alert, but at the age of nine, while returning home from school, she was injured by a stone thrown by an angry classmate. The accident, which nearly cost her life, stopped her formal schooling with about three grades of education. It was expected that she would soon die.

In the year 1840, at the age of twelve, Ellen gave her heart to God. At her insistence, she was baptized in the foaming surf of the Atlantic Ocean. During the next several years, she found enough strength to knit stockings to be sold to help support missionaries. Her parents, both faithful Christians, were glad that she could be so occupied, for they were certain she did not have long to live.

But there was one thing that she could not bring herself to do for her Lord, and that was to publicly witness to her faith in prayer before others. She felt she could not do it, and resisted the duty for several weeks and finally felt such a sense of hopeless despair that she sought counsel from a godly minister who encouraged her to trust in Jesus.

"I returned home and again went before the Lord, and promised that I would do and suffer anything if I could have the smiles of Jesus. The same duty was presented. There was a prayer meeting that evening, which I attended, and when others knelt to pray, I bowed with them trembling, and after two or three had prayed, I opened my mouth in prayer before I was aware of it, and the promises of God looked to me like so many precious pearls that were to be received by only asking for them. As I prayed, the burden and agony of soul that I had so long felt left me; and the blessing of God came upon me like the gentle dew, I gave glory to God for what I felt, but I longed for more. I could not be satisfied till I was filled with the fullness of God. Inexpressible love for Jesus filled my soul. Everything looked glorious and new, as if smiling and praising God. I was then willing to confess Jesus everywhere." Early Writings, page 12-13.

Ellen took spiritual things very seriously. Freed from her fears about speaking, and anxious that her teenage acquaintances might come to know the Lord, she immediately began praying for and pleading with them individually.

"I arranged meetings with my young friends, some of whom were considerably older than myself, and a few were married persons. A number of them were vain and thoughtless; my experience sounded to them like an idle tale, and they did not heed my entreaties. But I determined that my efforts should never cease till these dear souls, for whom I had so great an interest, yielded to God. Several entire nights were spent by me in earnest prayer for those whom I had sought out and brought together for the purpose of laboring and praying with them.

"Some of these had met with us from curiosity to hear what I had to say; others thought me beside myself to be so persistent in my efforts, especially when they manifested no concern on their own part. But at every one of our little meetings, I continued to exhort and pray for each one separately, until everyone had yielded to Jesus, acknowledging the merits of His pardoning love. Everyone was converted to God.

"Night after night in my dreams I seemed to be laboring for the salvation of souls. At such times special cases were presented to my mind; these I afterward sought out and prayed with. In every instance but one these person yielded themselves to the Lord. Some of our more formal brethren feared that I was too zealous for the conversion of souls; but time seemed to me so short that it behooved all who had a hope of a blessed immortality and looked for the soon coming of Christ, to labor without ceasing for those who were still in their sins and standing on the awful brink of ruin." Life Sketches, page,41, 42.

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

One morning in late December of 1844, Ellen Harmon went to the home of a fellow believer in South Portland, Maine. There, together with four Christian ladies, she bowed in prayer that souls would be helped to know Jesus better. Poor little Ellen: so frail, so physically weak. And yet the God of heaven loves His little ones. When you and I come to Him, He will accept us in our great weakness and empower us to do the work He has assigned us.

As they were kneeling together in prayer, Ellen was taken off in her first vision. Here is her account of part of that first vision. It was not an expose of movie stars or celebrity love affairs; it was a description of the deeper Christian experience we all need in order to weather the dark days ahead; it was also a view of future events:

"While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising "higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people [the people who were longing for Jesus' Second Coming] in the world, but could not find them, 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, cast up high above the world. 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 setup behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the midnight cry [read Matthew 25:6].

"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. But soon some grew weary, and said the city was a great way off, and they expected to have entered it before. Then Jesus would encourage them by raising His glorious right arm, and from His arm came a light which waved over the Advent band, and they shouted, 'Alleluia!' Others rashly denied the light behind them and said that it was not God that had led 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. . Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire, a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man. .

"Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell of the glory of the better world.. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and have done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Alleluia! glory! and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and. many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain.' And He said, 'You must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you.' Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world. Sometimes I think I can stay here no longer; all things of earth look so dreary. I feel very lonely here, for I have seen a better land. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest!" Early Writings, pages 14-16, 19-20..

Years later, she described what happened when she came out of that first vision: "They thought that I was dead, and there they watched and cried and prayed so long, but to me it was heaven. It was life, and then the world was spread out before me and I saw darkness like the pall of death.

"What did it mean? I could see no light. Then I saw a little glimmer of light and then another, and those lights increased and grew brighter, and multiplied and grew stronger and stronger till they were the light of the world. These were the believers in Jesus Christ..

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

"I never thought that I should come to the world again. When my breath came again to my body, I could not hear anything. Everything was dark. The light and glory that my eyes had, rested upon had eclipsed the light and thus it was for many hours. Then gradually I began to recognize the light, and I asked where I was.

" 'You are right here in my house,' said the owner of the house.

" 'What, here? I here. Do you not know about it? Then it all came back to me. Is this to be my home? Have I come back here again? Oh, the weight, and the burden which came upon my soul.'" Manuscript 16, 1894.

At the time when Ellen received her first vision, her health was so bad that her friends fully expected her to be dead before springtime.

"Miss Harmon was at that time in a very critical condition of health. For a number of weeks she had scarcely been able to speak above a whisper. One physician had decided that her trouble was dropsical consumption [tuberculosis complicated by dropsy]. He said her right lung was decayed and the left one considerably diseased, and that her heart was affected. . He said he did not think she could live but a very short time at most, and was liable to drop away at any time. It was with great difficulty that she could breathe when lying down. At night she obtained rest only by being bolstered up in the bed in an almost sitting posture. Frequent spells of coughing and hemorrhages from the lungs had reduced her physical strength" Statement by J.N. Loughborough.

A week after that first vision, she had a second: "In my second vision, about a week after the first, the Lord gave me a view of the trials through which I must pass, and told me that I must go and relate to others what He had revealed to me . . After I came out of this vision I was exceedingly troubled, for it pointed out my duty to go out among the people and present the truth. My health was so poor that I was in constant bodily suffering, and to all appearance had but a short time to live. ...

"For several days, and far into the night, I prayed that this burden might be removed from me, and laid upon some" one more capable of bearing it. But the light of duty did not change, and the words of the angel sounded continually in my ears, 'Make known to others what I have revealed to you.' . . How could I, a child in years, go forth from place to place, unfolding to the people the holy truths of God? .. My father. . repeatedly assured me that if God had called me to labor in other places, He would not fail to open the way for me." Life Sketches, pages 69.70. .

It is interesting that when God wants to find someone that He can use for a special work, He may have to select the humblest, simply because the more capable are too self-sufficient to be used.

Ellen had no idea how she was going to answer this call, and travel from town to, town in her weakened condition. She had little strength, no money, no traveling companion, and last but not least, she could not speak above a whisper. She spoke with her father about the situation, and he told her that the Lord would give her strength to do whatever He might ask of her. Then Sarah, an older sister, offered to accompany her if she had to travel and relate what she had been shown to others.

"A day or two after this, Ellen's brother-in-law, from a little town thirty miles to the north drove up in a sleigh.'Will you come back with me, Ellen?' he asked. 'Mary wants you to visit her.'"

"Ellen felt that God was opening the way for her to give His message and that she must go. It was midwinter in northern New England. Every breath of the icy air pained her lungs. But she dressed warmly, and sitting on the floor of the sleigh, she pulled a heavy buffalo robe over her head. When they arrived, her sister said, 'I'm glad you came; there's to be a meeting tonight at MacGuire's Hill. Will you go with us?'

". . When Ellen reached the meeting place [in a private home], she found a large room filled with people eager to hear her describe the vision. But when she stood up to speak, her voice was so weak and hoarse that she could scarcely be heard. For five minutes she tried, while her listeners leaned forward to catch her whispered words.

Unmasking the Supernatural: Lesson 05

"Then suddenly, to the surprise of all, her voice changed. It rang out clear as a bell. She spoke for two hours, describing the travels of God's people to the Holy City, the coming of Jesus, and their heavenly home. Many tears were shed, but they were tears of joy. Every heart was cheered. When Ellen sat down and tried to talk with those near her, her voice was as hoarse as before, and she could only whisper.

"Some people have wondered why God chose one so weak to bring His messages to His people. There was a reason. When that company . . . saw Ellen stand up and try in her weakness to make them hear, and then when the power of God came upon her, enabling her to speak clearly, they knew she was not doing it alone—God was helping her.

"That night as the company broke up, there were shouts of joy: 'We are going home! We are going home!' Some who watched Ellen's friends support her as she went back to the sleigh were thinking of the Apostle Paul's words: 'God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; . . . that no flesh should glory in His presence.' " Ella M. Robinson, *Stories of My Grandmother*, page 25,26.

That evening, unknown to Ellen, Hazen Foss stood outside the door and listened to what she said. The next day he went to the house where she was visiting, and introduced himself. She had never met or heard of him before. He told her that he had received the same vision of heaven that she had, but that because he refused to relate it, God told him that He had released him from the work and that He would give it to another.

"Ellen.. the Lord gave me a message to bear to His people. And I refused after being told of the consequences. . . I murmured against God and wished myself dead. . . I heard you talk last night. I believe the visions are taken from me, and given to you. Do not refuse to obey God, for it will be at the peril of your soul. I am a lost man. You are chosen of God; be faithful in doing your work." Letter 37, 1890.

And so it was that a young girl, barely strong enough to walk to a sleigh by herself, was ultimately to receive a startling array of special messages to the people living in these last days of earth's history. At seventeen this young woman was opposing mesmerists, rebuking fanatics, traveling through Maine. At eighteen and nineteen she was telling others about Christ in Vermont and Massachusetts. By twenty-two she was urging that a major publishing work begin. At twenty-five she was explaining to others twice her age the intricacies of organizational structure of a growing movement.

How did this frail girl with only a third-grade education do all this? All this was not the kind of work naturally belonging to a young woman. No committee would ask a girl to undertake such a task; no call of any committee could qualify a youth for such service. But God had called and men recognized the call.

In February 1845, a two-day sleigh ride took her to Orrington, Maine, 135 miles to the north-east. While there she met a young preacher named James White and a year and a half later they were married, on August 30, 1846. James recognized the prophetic gift that Ellen had been entrusted with, and he determined to help her in her work. And so it was that Miss Ellen Gould Harmon became Mrs. Ellen Gould White.

Extreme poverty marked the beginning of their marriage. Recognizing their great need, the Howland family in Topsham, Maine offered them a free room in their home. It was not until 1855 that they were able to live in a house by themselves. With borrowed furniture, and often food, they kept at their work of traveling from place to place. Ellen also tried to find strength to write out messages needed by others. As they traveled and spoke, much courage was brought to many a heart! Ellen told them that God had not forsaken His people, and that He would be with them to the end. She would picture for them scenes of what their eternal home in heaven would be like. Many who have since read these words of encouragement and these descriptions in her published books have alike been strengthened to continue on with their allotted duties in this world of sorrow, as they await the goodly land that God is preparing them to enter.

"The Lord never denies His word. Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in in these last days." {8MR 320.2}