TALKING POINTS

The Gift of Prophecy
Quarter 4, Lesson 11
"Prophetic Manifestation in Crucial Moments"

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MEMORY VERSE: "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson is basically a chronological review of occasions in salvation history when God raised up prophets with timely messages.

1. Times change, but God speaks consistently (Sun-Fri)

- We are not dispensationalists, but we do recognize different eras of church history.
    - This week's lesson looks at prophets from pre-Israel, the time of judges, throughout the reign of kings, during the exile, in the early church, and finally these last days.
    - Though circumstances differ, God's work through prophets is consistent in all these times.
- God's people in every era have faced significant challenges—most often from within. And at each crucial moment, God speaks to His people through a prophet (Am. 3:7).
    - Noah, Deborah, Elijah, Ezekiel & Daniel, John, and Ellen White.

2. God's people often resist His messengers (Sun-Fri)

- A prophet's message is not just another opinion. Nevertheless, God's people often resist or even refuse the message sent.
    - Noah built a boat by divine instruction and warned of the flood for 120 years, yet no other family entered the ark (Gen. 7:1).
    - Deborah told Barak to fight Sisera, but he was faithlessly reluctant (Jdg. 4:4-9).
    - Despite years of evidence that the Lord was speaking through Elijah, "the people answered him not a word" when had called for a decision on Mount Carmel (1 Ki. 18:20, 21).
- The history of ancient Israel is one consistent, continued and repeated rejection of God's prophets (Heb. 1:1, 2; Mt. 21:33-45; Mt. 23:37; Ac. 7:51, 52).

Had Israel heeded the messages of the prophets, they would have been spared the humiliation that followed. It was because they had persisted in turning aside from His law that God was compelled to let them go into captivity. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," was His message to them through Hosea. 'Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee: ... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God.' Hosea 4:6. In every age, transgression of God's law has been followed by the same result. PK 297.1, 2

3. We must not repeat the mistakes of the past (Sab, Fri)

- God has raised up a people in these last days to finish the work first entrusted to Israel (1 Pet. 2:4-10; Gal. 3:26-29).

  That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has "let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen," even to His covenant-keeping people, who faithfully "render Him the fruits in their seasons." PK 713.1

  - "God always has communicated with people through His prophets. This was particularly true at crucial moments in history. Is it not reasonable to expect, then, that God would speak to His people at the end of time?" Qtly, Fri, par 1
    - To help clarify Bible truth after the Great Disappointment
    - To guide the formation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
    - To provide light on physical health and true education
    - To support the message of righteousness by faith
  - "In short, there would be no Seventh-day Adventist denomination as we know it today without Ellen G. White's ministry. She was God's messenger in critical moments. Qtly, Fri, par 7

CONCLUSION

"How reasonable it is that God should speak to his people in earth's last days just as he spoke to his people in time of special need in centuries past. When this church of prophecy—the Seventh-day Adventist church—came into being in the mid-1800s, a voice was heard among us… Through seventy years of faithful ministry that voice was heard, guiding, correcting, instructing. And that voice is still heard today through the thousands of pages written by the Lord's chosen messenger, Ellen G. White." Counsels for the Church, Introduction, p. 10