TALKING POINTS

The Gift of Prophecy
Quarter 4, Lesson 12
"End-Time Prophetic Revelations"

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MEMORY VERSE: "'And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.'" Joel 2:28, 29, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

"This week we will examine the prophetic gift at the end of time…"

Qtly, Sab, last par

1. The gift of prophecy identifies the remnant (Wed)

- In addition to the Bible teaching that the gifts will remain in the church until Christ's return (Eph. 4:11-13), it also says the gift will be prominent in the last-day church (Rev. 12:17).
    - The "testimony of Jesus" is listed as an identifying characteristic of the last-day church, and must therefore be something unique that not everyone has.
        - "Revelation 12:17 shows that Jesus makes His church recognizable through this gift of prophecy." Qtly, Wed, last par
- Some have argued that the "testimony of Jesus" refers to the believer's witness about Jesus rather than a message from Jesus.
    - As the original Greek could be read either way, the context must determine the meaning. When comparing this verse with Rev. 19:10 & 22:8, 9, it becomes clear that John is referring to something the "brethren the prophets" have.
        - In addition, Paul speaks of the "testimony of Christ" as a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 1:6, 7), and Peter speaks of the prophets' messages as Christ "testifying" "in them" (1 Pet. 1:10, 11).

> [Some] persons are disposed to conceal the fact that, in connection with the work of the third angel's message, the Lord through the Spirit of prophecy has been communicating to His people a knowledge of His will. They think that the truth will be received more readily if this fact is not made prominent. But this is mere human reasoning. The very fact that this light, coming to the people, is not presented as having originated with human minds will make an impression upon a large class who believe that the gifts of the Spirit are to be manifested in the church in the last days. The attention of many will thus be arrested, and they will be convicted and converted. Many will thus be impressed who would not otherwise be reached. 6LtMs, Ms 31, 1890, par 21, 22

2. The gift of prophecy keeps the church on task (Mon, Tue, Fri)

- All the gifts of the Spirit are to "equip the saints for the work of ministry…" until the completion of the mission (Eph. 4:11-16).
    - "The purpose of all spiritual gifts is to build up the church, as well as (*in order to*) to proclaim the gospel." Qtly, Tue, par 2
        - This has included calling believers to repentance, thus keeping them humble and teachable (Ac. 2:37-39; 2 Sam. 12:7; Joel 2:12, 13), as well as giving guidance in times of crisis (2 Ki. 22:13-18; Isa. 37:1-6; Ac. 11:27-30).

3. Ellen White's ministry was foretold (Sun, Mon, Thu)

- In addition to Rev. 12:17, both the prophets Joel and Malachi foretold an end-time manifestation of the prophetic gift.
    - Joel's prophecy met a partial fulfilment at Pentecost (the "former rain") with a greater fulfillment to follow (the "latter rain" – see Joel 2:23).
    - Likewise, Malachi's prophecy met a partial fulfillment in John the Baptist (compare Mal. 3:1 w/Mt. 11:10; Mal. 4:5 w/ Mt. 11:14), with a greater fulfillment "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (see also Joel 2:31; 1 Th. 5:2).
        - John was referred to as "more than a prophet" as well as the Lord's "messenger" (Mt. 11:9, 10). Furthermore, Ellen White refers to John as a "lesser light" –

> As the Messiah's herald, John was "much more than a prophet."…. He was the **lesser light**, which was to be followed by a **greater**. DA 220.2

- Ellen White, speaking of her own ministry, said.

> Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a **lesser light** to lead men and women to the **greater light**. The Review and Herald, January 20, 1903

> I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Saviour declared me to be **His messenger**…. Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?—Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes **much more than** the word "prophet" signifies. 1SM 32

CONCLUSION

> Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent, and arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath? 1SM 27.1