

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN THE REMNANT CHURCH

Introduction When we studied the marks of God's Remnant Church (Lesson 31), we learned that its two plainest credentials would be:

The keeping of the commandments of God.

The possession of the "testimony of Jesus Christ".

From the beginning of their history, Seventh-day Adventists have believed that "the testimony of Jesus" is another name for the Biblical "Gift of prophecy", by which inspired men produced the Holy Scriptures (II Peter 1:21; Rev. 19:10). They strike a parallel between the Exodus movement and the Advent movement, and maintain that just as the Exodus movement was led and preserved by the prophet Moses (Hosea 12:13), so the Advent movement will be guided and protected by an active manifestation of the Biblical "Gift of prophecy".

Adventists go further, and claim that there is a broad and firm foundation in the whole Bible for the belief that God will speak again through inspired human lips in the last days, for the guidance and preservation of His Remnant Church.

Does the Bible support this claim? Let us open the Book and see.

Discussion Here is a brief summary of what the Bible teaches about the Gift of prophecy, grouped for convenience under three broad headings.

1.—THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Before sin entered, God talked with man face to face (Gen. 3:8).

Sin broke off the original, direct communication between God and man (Isa. 59:2).

God was therefore obliged to devise some new, indirect method of communication with man.

The new method God chose was by human mouthpieces, or interpreters, called "prophets"—in other words, by the "Gift of prophecy" (Num. 12:6; Ex. 4:15, 16; 7:1, 2; Amos 3:7).

The Gift of prophecy was God's preferred method of instructing His people in Old Testament times (Heb. 1:1; II Peter 1:21; Hosea 12:10).

2.—THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Gift of prophecy continued to be God's preferred method of communication in New Testament times (I Cor. 14:1; Acts 13:1; 11:27, 28; 21:9-11; I Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:8-11; Rev. 1:1, 2).

The whole Bible, therefore, is the product of the Gift of prophecy.

Jesus lifted the Gift of prophecy to its highest manifestation in His own Divine-human personality. It is actually called "the testimony of Jesus", and is the living echo of His voice (Deut. 18:15-19; I Peter 1:10, 11; Rev. 19:9, 10; Heb. 1:1, 2; I Peter 3:18-20).

The Bible expressly states that God has "set", or permanently established, the Gift of prophecy in His Church till the close of time (I Cor. 12:27, 28; 13:8-13; Eph. 4:8-11; I Cor. 1:6, 7).

Therefore, if God saw need to give special guidance to His Church amid the confusion of the last days, we would expect Him still to use His preferred method (Heb. 13:8; Prov. 29:18).