

LESSON 2



The Gift of *Prophecy*

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

MEMORY TEXT:

Isaiah 6:8

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then I said, Here am I; send me.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Isaiah 6:5-7

⁵ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts.

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

⁷ and he touched my mouth with it, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin forgiven.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

The LORD in Isaiah 6 is also the SON:

John 12:39-41

³⁹ For this cause they could not believe, for that Isaiah said again,

⁴⁰ He hath blinded their eyes, and he hardened their heart; lest they should see with their eyes, and perceive with their heart, and should turn, and I should heal them.

⁴¹ **These things said Isaiah, because he saw his glory; and he spake of him.**

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

The LORD in Isaiah 6 is also the HOLY SPIRIT:

Acts 28:25-27

²⁵ And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Spirit through Isaiah the prophet unto your fathers,**

²⁶ saying, go thou unto this people, and say, by hearing ye shall hear, and shall in no wise understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive:

²⁷ For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should turn again, and I should heal them.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

הִנְנִי

(hinnēnî)

"here I am"

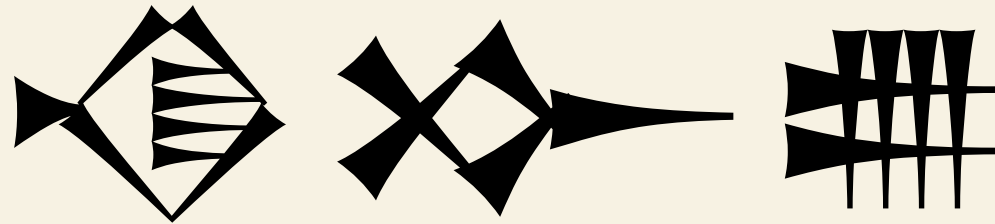
THE CALL OF A PROPHET

נָבִיא

(nābî')

"prophet"

THE CALL OF A PROPHET



(nabû)

“to call,” “to name,” “to proclaim”

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

What is a prophet?

Answer: A prophet is someone who is called by God and who announces or proclaims the word of God.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Numbers 12:6

And he said, Hear now my words: if there be a **prophet** among you, I Jehovah will make myself known unto him in a **VISION**, I will speak with him in a **DREAM**.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

1 Samuel 9:9

⁹ (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he said, Come, and let us go to the seer; **for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.**)

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Hosea 12:10

¹⁰ I have also spoken unto the **prophets**, and I have multiplied **VISIONS**; and by the ministry of the **prophets** have I used **similitudes**.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Not everyone who receives a dream from God is a prophet.

Examples:

- Abimelech (Gen. 20:3, 6);
- Nebuchadnezzar (Dn. 2:1; 4:5);
- Wife of Pontius Pilate (Mt. 27:19).

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Characteristics of the prophet:

- 1) Receive divine revelation through visions and dreams;
- 2) Being called by God to exercise the prophetic ministry;
- 3) Announce the content of the visions and dreams to the recipients of the message, exhorting, reproofing, advising, and instructing them.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

Exodus 7:1, 2

¹ And Jehovah said unto Moses, See, **I have made thee as God** to Pharaoh; and **Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.**

² Thou shalt speak all that I command thee; and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he let the children of Israel go out of his land.

THE CALL OF A PROPHET

**The biblical prophet is
a direct spokesperson for God.**

SUNDAY – Abraham, Defender of the Covenant

Patriarch —→ father-head = head of a large family

Abraham had visions and dreams:

Genesis 15:1

¹ After these things the word of Jehovah came unto Abram in a **vision**, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

See Genesis 15:12-21; 17:1; 18 (entire chapter).

Genesis 20:7

⁷ Now therefore restore the man's wife; for **he is a prophet**, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

SUNDAY – Abraham, Defender of the Covenant

Genesis 22:2-13

² And he said, Take now **thy son, thine only son**, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the **land of Moriah**; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold, the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?

⁸ And Abraham said, **God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son**: so they went both of them together.

¹² And he said, **Lay not thy hand upon the lad**, neither do thou anything unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou **hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me**.

¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and **looked, and, behold, behind him a ram** caught in the thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son.

SUNDAY – Abraham, Defender of the Covenant

1. Read Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6-9; and Hebrews 11:8. What about Abraham's life and character qualified him for God's service, even though he was, clearly, a flawed man?

Genesis 15:6

⁶ And he **believed** in Jehovah; and he **reckoned it to him for righteousness**.

Galatians 3:6-9

⁶ Even as Abraham **believed** God, and **it was reckoned unto him for righteousness**.

⁷ Know therefore that they that are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham.

⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand unto Abraham**, saying, In thee shall all the nations be blessed.

Hebrews 11:8

⁸ **By faith** Abraham, when he was called, **obeyed** to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

SUNDAY – Abraham, Defender of the Covenant

1. Read Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6-9; and Hebrews 11:8. What about Abraham's life and character qualified him for God's service, even though he was, clearly, a flawed man?

A: Faith and obedience to God.

MONDAY – The Elijah Message

2. Read 1 Kings 18:19-39. What can we see from this story about how the prophetic office can work?

A: The true prophet confronts idolatry and promotes true worship.

MONDAY – The Elijah Message

2 Kings 9:30

³⁰ And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and **she painted her eyes**, and attired her head, and looked out at the window.

MONDAY – The Elijah Message

1 Kings 18:38

³⁸ Then the fire of Jehovah fell, and consumed the burnt-offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

MONDAY – The Elijah Message

3. Read Malachi 4:5, 6. How does the Elijah message impact the homes of those who follow God?

A: The work of the prophet promotes conversion and the restoration of relationships in preparation for the day of Christ's Second Coming.

Malachi 4:5, 6

⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Jehovah come.

⁶ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

MONDAY – The Elijah Message

Sabbath School Lesson – The Gift of Prophecy, p. 21

True revival starts in the heart and the home. The family is the cornerstone of the church and an indispensable building block of community. Revival in the home spreads a heavenly love to the church, the community, and the nation. This is God's purpose for the Christian home. Revival also motivates God's people for mission.

TUESDAY – Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet

4. Read Isaiah 53. How did this amazing prophecy, written more than half a millennium before the Cross, so powerfully reveal Christ's death for us? What should this prophecy teach us about the prophetic gift?

Isaiah 53:7

⁷ He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he **opened not his mouth**; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he **opened not his mouth**.

TUESDAY – Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet

4. Read Isaiah 53. How did this amazing prophecy, written more than half a millennium before the Cross, so powerfully reveal Christ's death for us? What should this prophecy teach us about the prophetic gift?

Isaiah 53:9–11

⁹ **And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death;** although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased Jehovah to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see** his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ **He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied:** by the knowledge of himself shall my righteous servant justify many; and he shall bear their iniquities.

TUESDAY – Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet

4. Read Isaiah 53. How did this amazing prophecy, written more than half a millennium before the Cross, so powerfully reveal Christ's death for us? What should this prophecy teach us about the prophetic gift?

A:

- 1) This prophecy already foretold what Christ's atoning death would be like.
- 2) This shows us that the predictions of true prophets are fulfilled perfectly.

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

Sabbath School Lesson – The Gift of Prophecy, p. 23

Most Christians know the story of Daniel 1, in which he stood for the health principles that he had learned as a child. Daniel was a model of faithfulness (Dan. 1:8). When presented with royal delicacies, he insisted on eating a plant-based diet and drinking only water instead of partaking of the diet offered him from the king's table (Dan. 1:12–16). This was a small test in contrast to what would come later, such as in Daniel 6, when his faithfulness could have easily meant death for him.

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

Daniel 1:17

¹⁷ Now as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: **and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

Matthew 24:15

¹⁵ When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through **Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand),

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

5. Read Daniel 2:46-48; 4:18; 5:13, 14; 6:25-27. What do these verses tell us about the kind of witness Daniel was to the pagans around him?

Daniel 2:46-48

⁴⁶ Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odors unto him.

⁴⁷ The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth your God is the God of gods, and the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou hast been able to reveal this secret.

⁴⁸ Then the king made Daniel great, and gave him many great gifts, and made him to rule over the whole province of Babylon, and to be chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 4:18

¹⁸ This dream I, king Nebuchadnezzar, have seen; and thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation; but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

5. Read Daniel 2:46-48; 4:18; 5:13, 14; 6:25-27. What do these verses tell us about the kind of witness Daniel was to the pagans around him?

Daniel 5:13, 14

¹³ Then was Daniel brought in before the king. The king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, who art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Judah?

¹⁴ I have heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in thee.

Daniel 6:25-27

²⁵ Then king Darius wrote unto all the peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied unto you.

²⁶ I make a decree, that in all the dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, And his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed; and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

²⁷ He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

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WEDNESDAY – Daniel, the Faithful Seer

5. Read Daniel 2:46-48; 4:18; 5:13, 14; 6:25-27. What do these verses tell us about the kind of witness Daniel was to the pagans around him?

A: Daniel testified before the pagan kings that the God of Heaven is alive, wise, knows the future, and is powerful to save.

Daniel 6:25-27

²⁵ Then king Darius wrote unto all the peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied unto you.

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THURSDAY – John the Baptist, Preparing a People

6. Read Mark 1:2-5. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's ministry?

Mark 1:2-5

² Even as it is written in Isaiah the prophet, behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ye ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; ⁴ **John came, who baptized in the wilderness** and preached the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins. ⁵ And there went out unto him all the country of Judæa, and all they of Jerusalem; and they were baptized of him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Isaiah 40:3

³ The voice of one that crieth, **Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah**; make level in the desert a highway for our God.

John 1:31

³¹ And I knew him not; but **that he should be made manifest to Israel, for this cause came I baptizing in water.**

THURSDAY – John the Baptist, Preparing a People

6. Read Mark 1:2-5. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's ministry?

A: To prepare people for the coming of the Messiah, calling everyone to repentance.

Mark 1:2-5

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THURSDAY – John the Baptist, Preparing a People

7. Read Matthew 11:1-6. How did Jesus reaffirm John's faith while the preacher was in prison?

A: To prepare people for the coming of the Messiah, calling everyone to repentance.

Matthew 11:1-6

¹ And it came to pass when Jesus had finished commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and preach in their cities.

² Now when John heard in the prison the works of the Christ, he sent by his disciples

³ and said unto him, Art thou he that cometh, or look we for another?

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and tell John the things which ye hear and see:

⁵ the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good tidings preached to them.

⁶ And blessed is he, whosoever shall find no occasion of stumbling in me.

THURSDAY – John the Baptist, Preparing a People

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

THURSDAY – John the Baptist, Preparing a People

7. Read Matthew 11:1-6. How did Jesus reaffirm John's faith while the preacher was in prison?

A: Jesus sent word to John that healings and miracles were taking place, indicating that the Messiah had indeed arrived.

Isaiah 35:5, 6

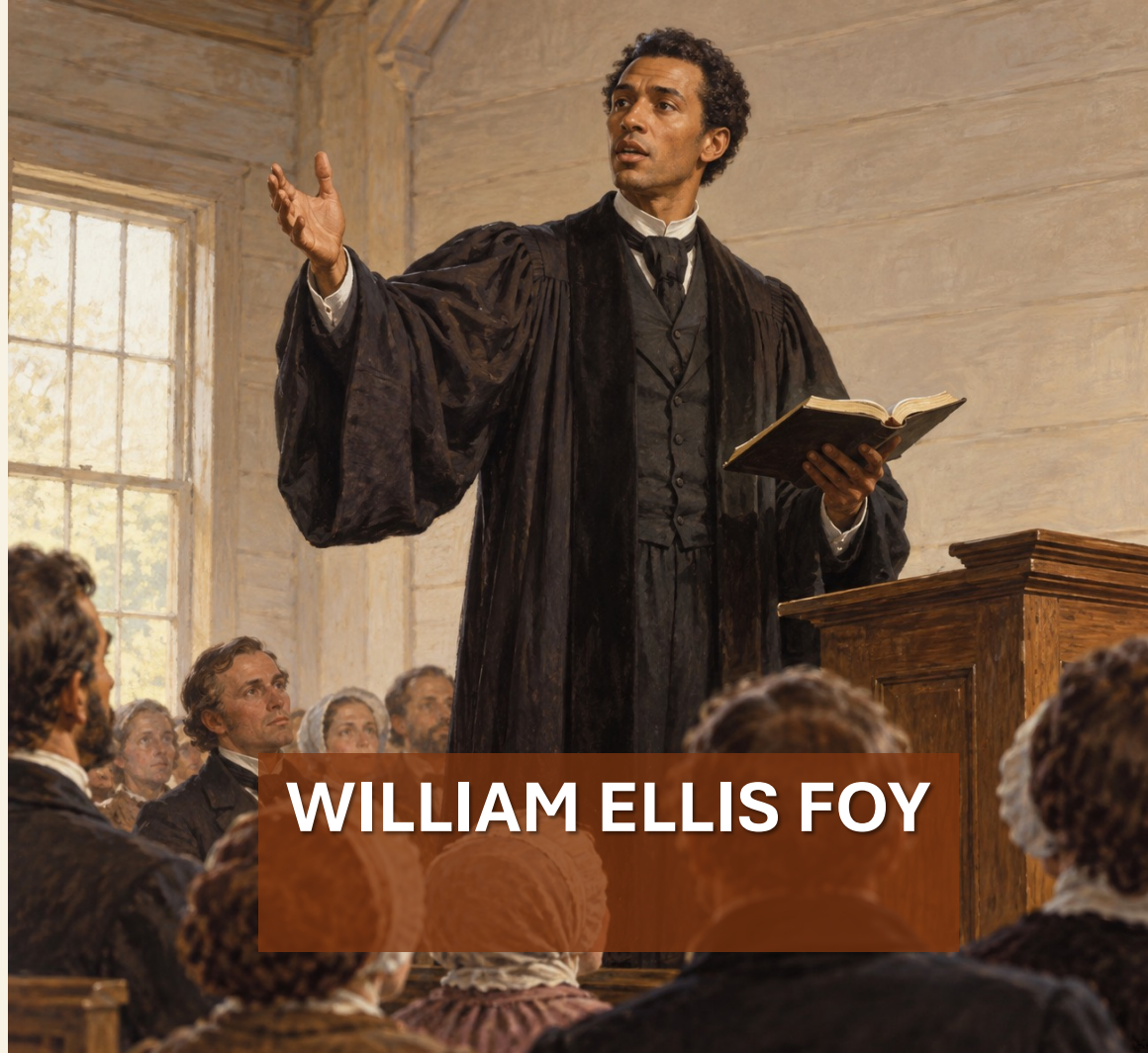
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

⁶ Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 61:1

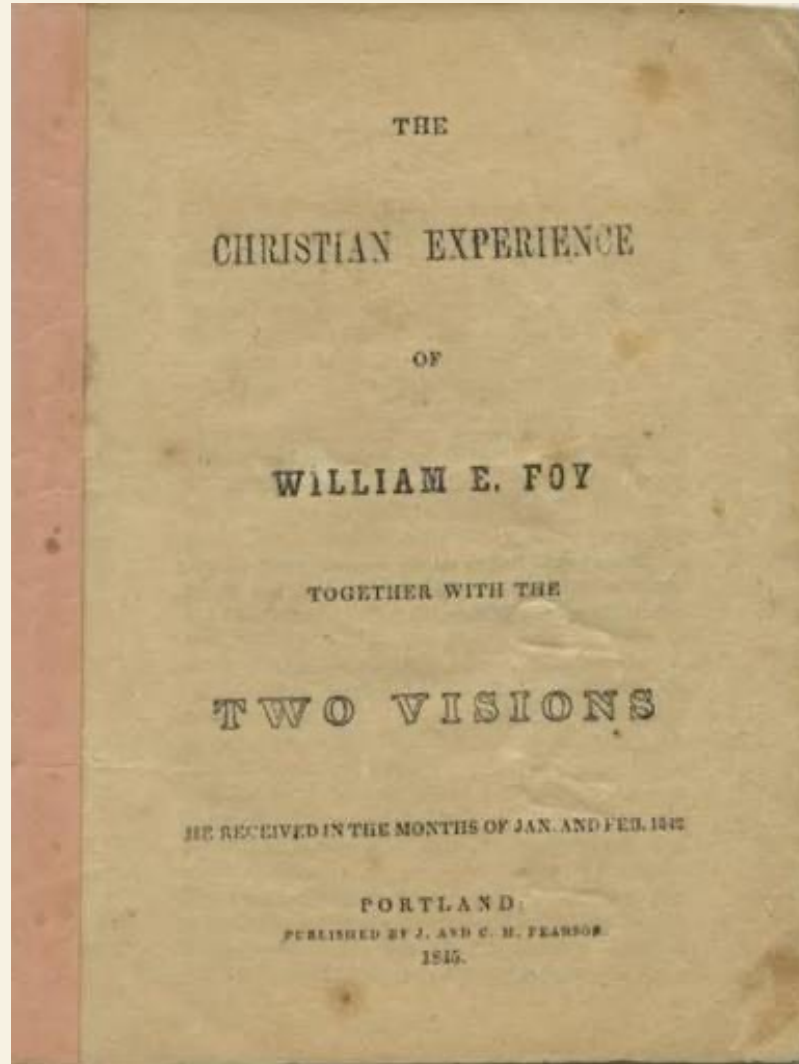
¹ The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me; because Jehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry



WILLIAM ELLIS FOY

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry

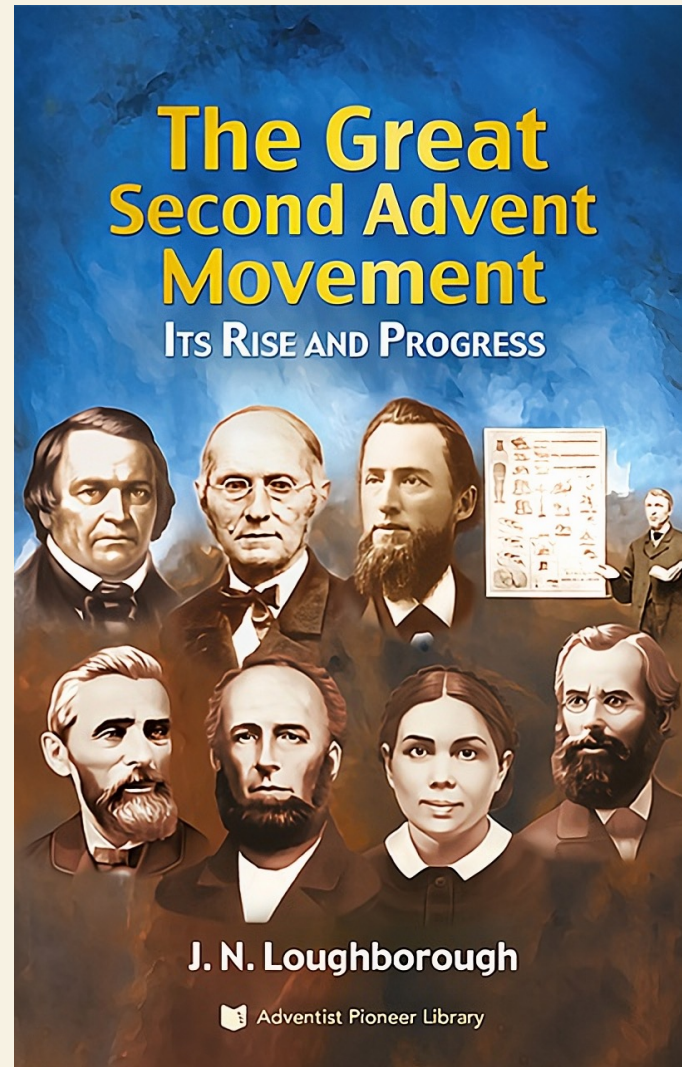


FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry

Clearing up the confusion:

- 1) **WILLIAM FOY**: Prophetic ministry in the Millerite movement before and shortly after the Great Disappointment (1842–1844). Answered the call.
- 2) **HAZEN FOSS**: Prophetic ministry for the Millerite movement after the Great Disappointment. Did not answer the call.

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry



FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry



HAZEN FOSS

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry



ELLEN GOULD HARMON

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry



ELLEN GOULD HARMON

FRIDAY – Called to Prophetic Ministry

