LESSON 3



The Gift of *Prophecy*

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

MEMORY TEXT:

2 Chronicles 20:20

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem: believe in Jehovah your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

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SUNDAY – The Humanity of Prophets

1. Reflect on how James presents Elijah the prophet in James 5:17, 18. What might he mean by saying that Elijah had "a nature like ours" (NKJV)?

A: Elijah was a human being, with the limitations and fears of every human being.

James 5:17, 18

17 Elijah was **a man with a nature like ours**, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

SUNDAY – The Humanity of Prophets

2. Read 1 Kings 19:1-16. What does this tell us about the emotional state of God's prophet?

A: Elijah was tired, afraid, and discouraged.

1 Kings 19:4

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper-tree: and **he requested for himself that he might die**, and said, It is enough; **now, O Jehovah, take away my life**; for I am not better than my fathers.

1 Kings 19:9, 10

9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of Jehovah came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

10 And he said, I have been very jealous for Jehovah, the God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword: **and I, even I only, am left**; and they seek my life, to take it away.

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SUNDAY – The Humanity of Prophets

Sabbath School Lesson – The Gift of Prophecy, p. 32

This sounds as though he's lamenting what he believes to be his failures in ministry. Apostasy remains, despite his best efforts, as if he alone could have stemmed the tide. Whatever ultimately is going on here, we can see the humanity and fragility of this man of God. In other words, Elijah was a man who had "a nature like ours."

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MONDAY – Identifying True Prophets

3. Read 1 Kings 22:1-14. What does it tell us about how faithful prophets operate?

A: The true prophet does not try to flatter anyone. He speaks the message sent by God.

MONDAY – Identifying True Prophets

William Penn – 17th-century quaker leader:
Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.

MONDAY – Identifying True Prophets

4. Read 1 Samuel 9:3-14. What do these verses tell us about how others viewed faithful prophets of God?

A: People saw the prophets as men of God, highly esteemed and they also called them seers.

1 Samuel 9:6

6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a **man of God**, and he is a man that is **held in honor**; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can tell us concerning our journey whereon we go.

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**.)

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TUESDAY – Functions of Prophets

5. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-22 and Leviticus 8:10-13. How did prophets function in relation to kings and priests?

A: The first king was appointed by a prophet, just as the first priests were consecrated by a prophet.

TUESDAY – Functions of Prophets

KING ⟶ Civil and military ruler of the people. Lifetime and hereditary position. There is an example of a woman who was a queen regent: Athaliah.

PRIEST ⟶ Mediator between God and the people in the sanctuary worship service. Lifetime and hereditary position. Women could not be priestesses.

PROPHET ⟶ Messenger of God to speak to the people. Non-hereditary office. Women could be prophetesses.

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TUESDAY – Functions of Prophets

PRIEST
He represented the people before God for the presentation of sacrifices and offerings.

PROPHET
Representative of God before the people, conveying God's messages to kings, priests, and the people.

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WEDNESDAY – Women Prophets

6. Read Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, 2 Kings 22:14, and Nehemiah 6:14. What do these texts also teach about the prophetic role?

A: Women have also received the gift of prophecy.

Exodus 15:20

20 And Miriam the **prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Judges 4:4

4 Now Deborah, a **prophetess**, the wife of Lappidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

2 Kings 22:14

14 So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah, went unto Huldah the **prophetess**, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the second quarter); and they communed with her.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

WEDNESDAY – Women Prophets

7. Read 2 Kings 22:11-14. Why did King Josiah's men go to Huldah? What should this tell us about her important role in the nation?

A:

1) The king's messengers went to consult Huldah about the contents of the Book of the Law.

2) This shows the importance and authority of the Lord's messenger.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

THURSDAY – False Prophets

8. Read Jeremiah 14:1-15. What was happening here, and how did the Lord regard those who spoke falsely as "prophets" in His name?

A: These prophets prophesied without being sent by God and presented false visions.

Jeremiah 14:14, 15

14 Then Jehovah said unto me, **The prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them**: they prophesy unto you **a lying vision**, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the **deceit of their own heart**.

15 Therefore thus saith Jehovah concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land: By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

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THURSDAY – False Prophets

Jeremiah 6:13, 14

13 For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. 14 **They have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.**

Jeremiah 23:16, 17

16 Thus saith Jehovah of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they teach you vanity; they speak a **vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of Jehovah**. 17 **They say continually unto them that despise me, Jehovah hath said, Ye shall have peace**; and unto every one that walketh in the stubbornness of his own heart they say, **No evil shall come upon you.**

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THURSDAY – False Prophets

Matthew 7:13, 14

13 Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. 14 For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.

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THURSDAY – False Prophets

Jeremiah 28:8, 9

8 The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied against many countries, and against great kingdoms, of war, and of evil, and of pestilence. 9 The prophet that prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that Jehovah hath truly sent him.

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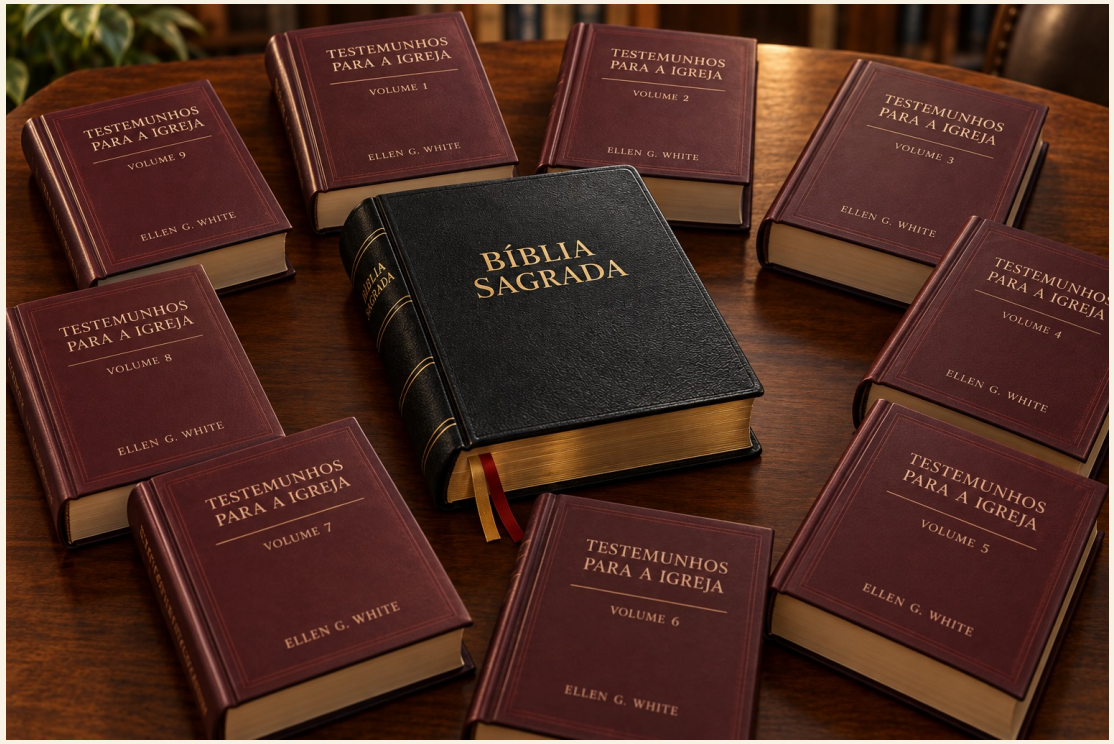
FRIDAY – Not Perfect but Willing



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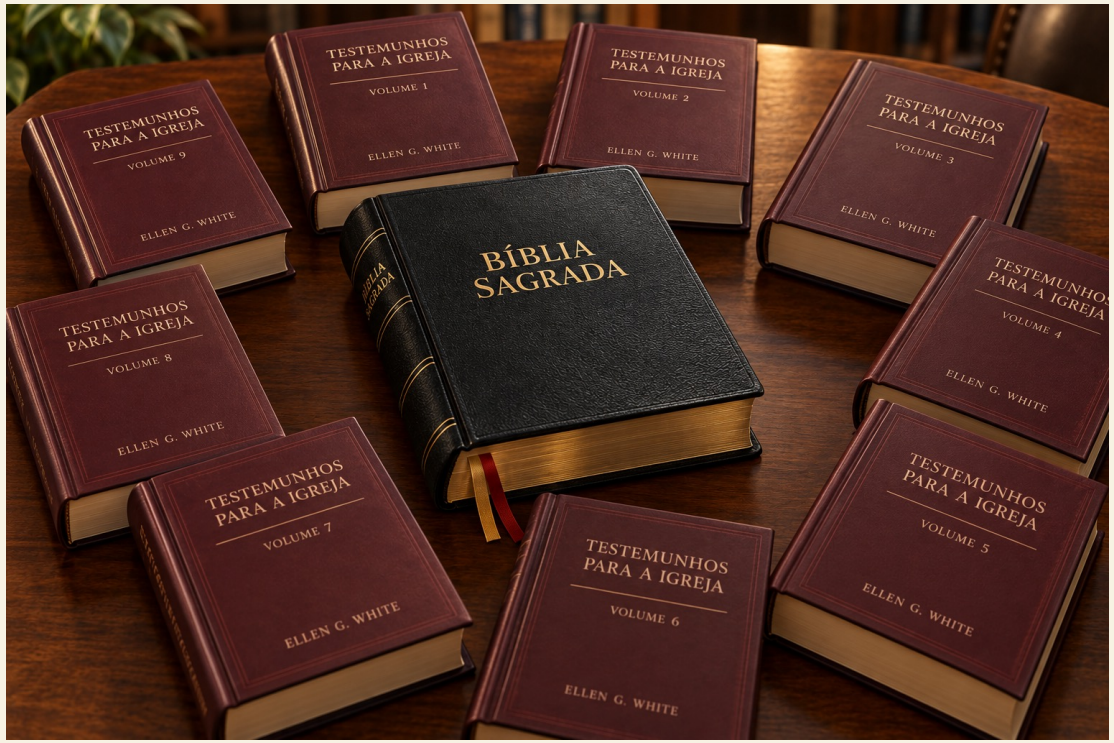
FRIDAY – Not Perfect but Willing



Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 605
I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several *Testimonies for the Church*, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for other cases situated similarly to themselves. God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. Isaiah 28:10. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies.

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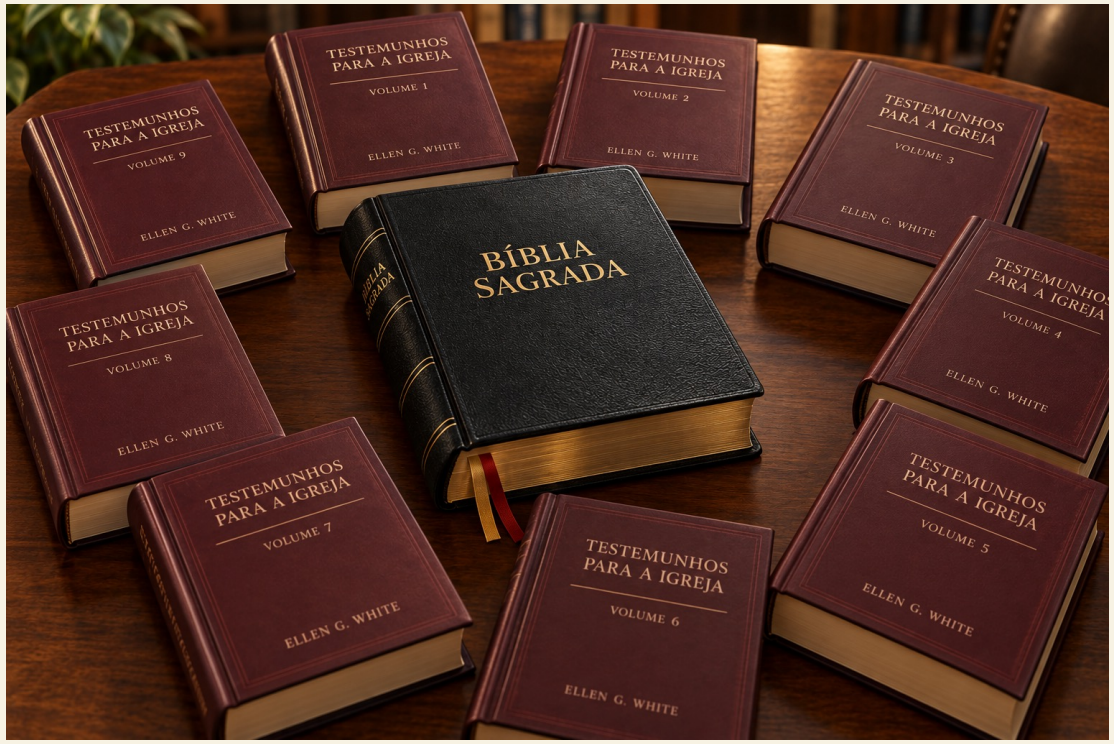
FRIDAY – Not Perfect but Willing



Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 605
You are not familiar with the Scriptures. **If you had made God's word your study, with a desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not have needed the Testimonies.** It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey, and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings.

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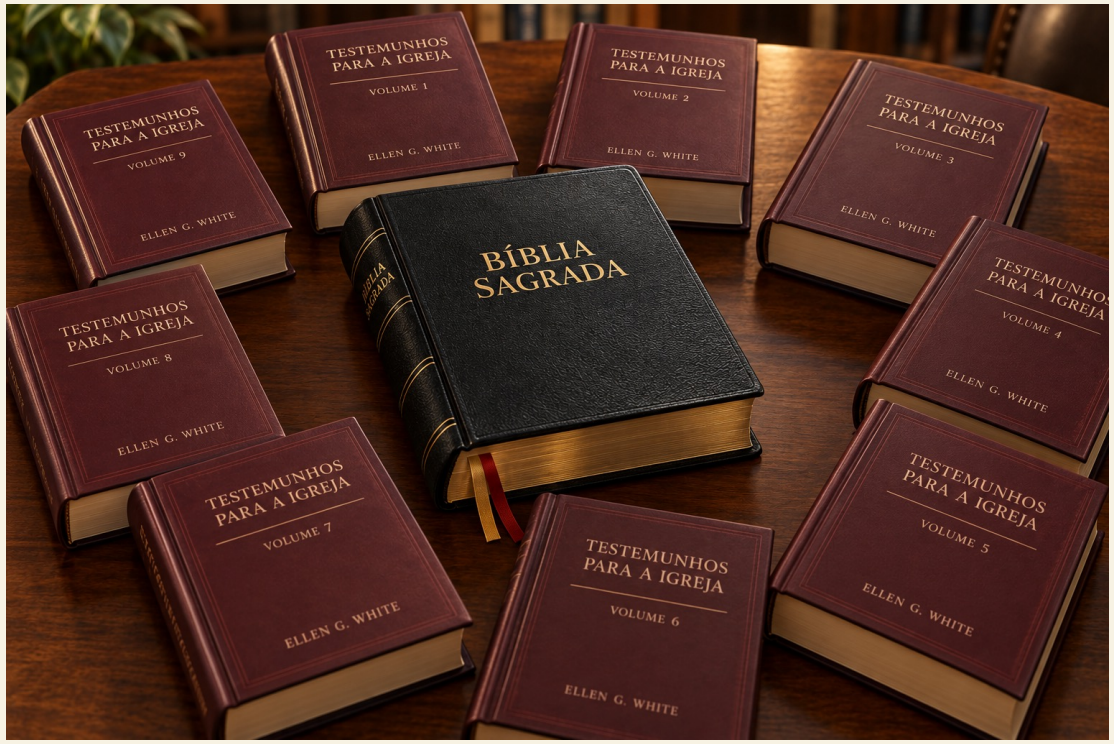
FRIDAY – Not Perfect but Willing



Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 605
The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the importance of the truth of His word. The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word; yet but few of you are obedient to the light given.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

FRIDAY – Not Perfect but Willing



Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, p. 605
Additional truth is not brought out; but God has **through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given** and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse.

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