LESSON 5



The Gift of *Prophecy*

REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

MEMORY TEXTS:

Revelation 1:1, 2

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass: and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John;

2 who bare witness of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, even of all things that he saw.

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REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

GOD THE FATHER



JESUS



ANGEL



JOHN



CHURCHES



GOD'S SERVANTS AROUND THE WORLD

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REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

The Great Controversy, p. 598

The language of the Bible should be explained according to its **OBVIOUS MEANING**, unless a **symbol** or **figure** is employed.

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REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

John 10:30

30 **I and the Father are one.**

Acts 1:7

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know times or seasons, which **the Father hath set within his own authority**.

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REVELATION AND INSPIRATION

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness;
19 because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them.
20 For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, **being perceived through the things that are made**, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse:

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SUNDAY – General and Special Revelation

GENERAL or NATURAL REVELATION

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SUNDAY – General and Special Revelation

Steps to Christ, p. 10

“God is love” is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green —all testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God and to His desire to make His children happy.

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SPECIAL REVELATION

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SUNDAY – General and Special Revelation

1. Read Hebrews 1:1 and 2. Why is God so interested in speaking to us? What is He telling us through Jesus and the prophets?

Hebrews 1:1, 2

1 God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners,

2 hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds;

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SUNDAY – General and Special Revelation

John 3:16, 17

16 For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.
17 For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but **that the world should be saved through him**.

1 Peter 1:10-12

10 **Concerning which salvation the prophets sought and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace** that should come unto you:
11 searching what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did point unto, **when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that should follow them**.
12 To whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto you, did they minister these things, which now have been announced unto you through them that preached the gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven; which things angels desire to look into.

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SUNDAY – General and Special Revelation

1. Read Hebrews 1:1 and 2. Why is God so interested in speaking to us? What is He telling us through Jesus and the prophets?

A:

1) God wants to speak to us because He loves us and wants what is best for us.

2) He spoke through Jesus and the prophets about salvation by grace.

Hebrews 1:1, 2

1 God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners,

2 hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds;

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

2. Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and James 1:17. What important message should we take from these verses?

A: Every good gift and every perfect gift comes from God. This includes the Holy Scriptures, which are inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

15 and that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise
unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 **Every scripture inspired of God** is
also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in
righteousness: 17 that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good

James 1:17

17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father** of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

REVELATION

INSPIRATION

ENLIGHTENMENT

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

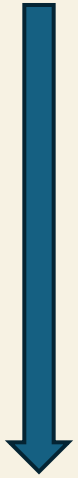
2 Timothy 3:16

16 **Every scripture inspired of God** is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness:

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

REVELATION



It is the message that comes from God and that He makes known to human beings.

MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

2 Corinthians 12:1

1 I must needs glory, though it is not expedient; but I will come to **visions** and **revelations** of the Lord.

Galatians 1:12

12 For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

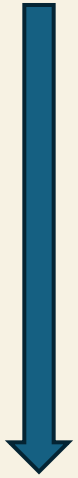
1 Corinthians 14:29, 30

29 And let the **prophets** speak by two or three, and let the others discern.
30 But if a **revelation** be made to another sitting by, let the first keep silence.

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

INSPIRATION



It is the special work of the Holy Spirit in the minds of those who have been chosen to convey God's message.

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MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16

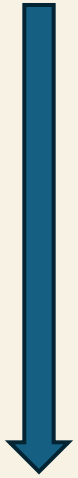
16 Every scripture **inspired of God** is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness:

Θεόπνευστος

(theopneustos)

MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

ENLIGHTENMENT



It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the minds of those who receive God's message.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

MONDAY – The Process of Inspiration

Ephesians 1:18

18 having **the eyes of your heart enlightened**, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

2 Corinthians 4:6

6 Seeing it is God, that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the **light of the knowledge** of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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TUESDAY – Oral Messages

3. Read 2 Peter 1:18-21. What assurance do we have that the oral messages delivered by God's prophets were as inspired and reliable as the written ones?

A: The certainty is that the prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit when they spoke in God's name.

2 Peter 1:18-21

18 and this voice we ourselves heard borne out of heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts: 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. 21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but **[holy] men SPAKE from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit**.

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TUESDAY – Oral Messages

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 339

The terrors of Sinai were to represent to the people the scenes of the judgment. The sound of a trumpet summoned Israel to meet with God. The voice of the Archangel and the trump of God shall summon, from the whole earth, both the living and the dead to the presence of their Judge. **The Father and the Son, attended by a multitude of angels, were present upon the mount.** At the great judgment day Christ will come "in the glory of His Father with His angels." Matthew 16:27. He shall then sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations.

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, p. 45

It was Christ who, amid thunder and flame, had proclaimed the law upon Mount Sinai. The glory of God, like devouring fire, rested upon its summit, and the mountain quaked at the presence of the Lord. The hosts of Israel, lying prostrate upon the earth, had listened in awe to the sacred precepts of the law. What a contrast to the scene upon the mount of the Beatitudes!

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TUESDAY – Oral Messages

THREE TIMES WHEN GOD'S VOICE WAS HEARD:

1) The Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16, 17)
Jesus, John the Baptist, and those present heard.

2) Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5)
Peter, James, and John heard.

3) Crucifixion Week – The Greeks Seek Jesus (John 12:28-30)
The crowd close to Jesus, but with different levels of understanding.

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TUESDAY – Oral Messages

PROPHETS WHO DID NOT WRITE ANY BOOK OF THE BIBLE

Enoch

Noah

Abraham

Elijah

Elisha

John the Baptist

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TUESDAY – Oral Messages

THE GREAT PROPHET – Deuteronomy 18

JESUS

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WEDNESDAY – Written Messages

4. Read Exodus 17:14; John 20:30, 31; 1 Corinthians 10:11; and Revelation 1:19. What are some of the reasons God asked His prophets to write down the messages that He gave them?

Exodus 17:14

14 and Jehovah said unto Moses, **Write this for a memorial in a book**, and rehearse it in the ears of
Joshua: that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

John 20:30, 31

30 Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this
book:
31 **but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God; and that
believing ye may have life in his name.

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WEDNESDAY – Written Messages

4. Read Exodus 17:14; John 20:30, 31; 1 Corinthians 10:11; and Revelation 1:19. What are some of the reasons God asked His prophets to write down the messages that He gave them?

A: To preserve the message for future generations, encouraging faith and serving as a warning.

1 Corinthians 10:11

11 Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they **were written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

Revelation 1:19

19 **Write therefore the things which thou sawest**, and the things which are, and the things which shall come to pass hereafter;

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THURSDAY – Drama, Symbols, Parables

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**.

Psalm 78:2

2 I will open my mouth in a **parable**; I will utter **dark sayings** of old,

Ezekiel 17:2

2 Son of man, put forth a **riddle**, and speak a **parable** unto the house of Israel;

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THURSDAY – Drama, Symbols, Parables

5. Read Ezekiel 4:1-8. Why do you think God not only spoke verbally but also dramatized some of His messages?

THURSDAY – Drama, Symbols, Parables

Ezekiel 4:1-8

1 Thou also, son of man, **take thee a tile**, and lay it before thee, and **portray upon it a city, even Jerusalem**:
2 **and lay siege against it, and build forts against it, and cast up a mound against it; set camps also against it, and plant battering rams against it round about.**
3 And take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face toward it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. **This shall be a sign** to the house of Israel.
4 **Moreover lie thou upon thy left side**, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it; according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it, thou shalt bear their iniquity.
5 For I have appointed the years of their iniquity to be unto thee a number of days, even **three hundred and ninety days**: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.
6 And again, when thou hast accomplished these, **thou shalt lie on thy right side**, and shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah: **forty days, each day for a year, have I appointed it unto thee**.
7 And thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, with thine arm uncovered; and thou shalt prophesy against it.
8 And, behold, I lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to the other, till thou hast accomplished the days of thy siege.

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THURSDAY – Drama, Symbols, Parables

5. Read Ezekiel 4:1-8. Why do you think God not only spoke verbally but also dramatized some of His messages?

A: Because a scene like that had a greater impact on the people and helped them to understand the spiritual truths being taught in a more vivid way.

FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

1) **The nature of inspiration;**

2) **The way inspiration works;**

3) **The existence (or not) of uninspired texts by Ellen G. White.**

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FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

LEVELS OF INSPIRATION DOES NOT EXIST

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FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

Why is Ellen G. White's ministry judged by the Bible, but the Bible is not judged by Ellen G. White's writings?

Answer:

Because of two special qualities of the Bible:

a) **PRIORITY** (or precedence);

b) **WIDE ACCEPTANCE**.

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FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

PRECEDENCE of the Bible

Isaiah 8:20

20 **To the law and to the testimony!** if they speak not according to this word, surely there is no morning for them.

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 – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

PRECEDENCE of the Bible

Luke 24:44

44 And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me**.

Acts 17:11

11 Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with **all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so**.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

INSPIRATION IS NOT A DICTATION

FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 67
Weak and trembling, I arose at three o'clock in the morning to write to you. God was speaking through clay. **You might say that this communication was only a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God**, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me.

In these **LETTERS** which I write, in the **TESTIMONIES** I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. **I do not write one ARTICLE in the paper expressing merely my own ideas.** They are what God has opened before me in vision—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 29
It is true concerning the **articles in our papers** and in the **many volumes of my BOOKS**.

ADVENTISM ALIVE

FRIDAY – Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

Luke 6:46

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?