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Latter Rain – THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY
 Revelation 19:10
 262 Sweet, Sweet Spirit
 269 Come, Holy Spirit

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A few weeks back... we looked at 1 Corinthians 14... our main focus was... the topic of tongues

The Corinthians... obviously had an... issue with tongues

However while downplaying tongues... and correcting its abuses... Paul up-played another gift

And that was Prophecy... as he says here... desire Spiritual gifts... but especially that... you prophesy

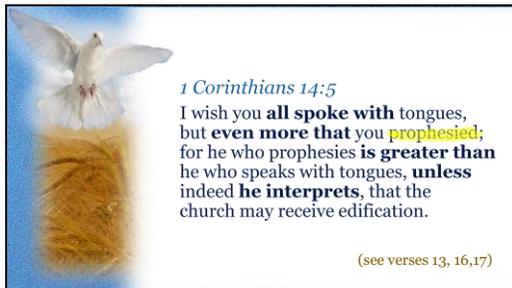
Now most people... associate prophecy with... foretelling the future
 However...

Paul gives it... a broader definition... that it actually... most often entails

To Prophecy is... to speak Edification... Exhortation... and comfort

Paul also said:

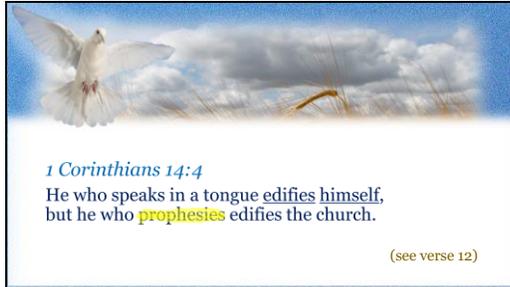
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That to prophecy... is greater than... to speak in tongues

Why is that?

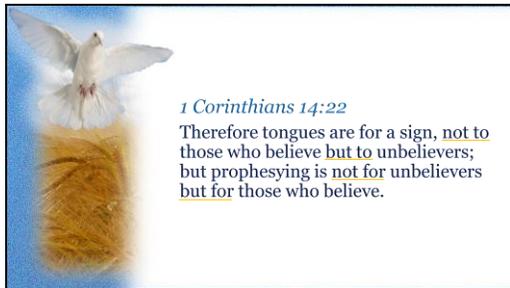
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Because when one prophesies... the church is edified... exhorted... and comforted (vs 2)

This is why Paul... further differentiates saying:

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Tongues **is a sign** to unbelievers... because I am able... to share the gospel... with them in... a comprehensible language

Tongues **is NOT a sign** to believers... as a foreign language... it is incomprehensible... and thus worthless!

Prophecy... **is a sign** for believers... because they already... believe the gospel... and need further... edification... exhortation... and comfort

Prophecy... **is NOT a sign** for unbelievers... because they don't believe... in God or His ways... and may think... you're simply a kook

To foretell the future... to give warning of future events... and deceptions is important

However Prophecy entails far more... think of Elijah... Isaiah... Jeremiah... and yes Paul

These men... although sometimes... foretelling future events... mostly spoke words of... edification... exhortation... and comfort

For the purpose... of the present... nurturing of the... flock they tended... and yes even us... Christ's Church

Two questions come to mind:

1. Does the Church... still need edification... exhortation... and comfort?

- Since Jesus and the apostles... warn us against false prophets... how are we to distinguish... between false and... true Prophets?

Lets look at the first of these:

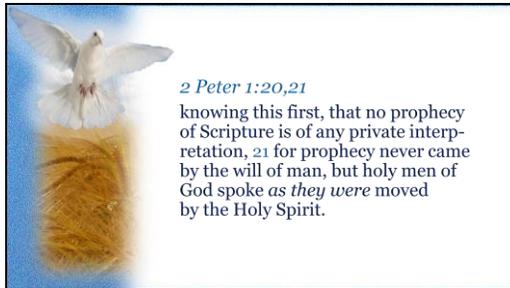
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As we work on... this question lets... first lay a foundation

Speaking of Prophets... the apostle Peter said:

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In the previous verse 19... Peter said.. "we have the prophetic word confirmed"

How is that?

Because the OT prophecies... concerning Jesus' first coming... had come to pass

Both confirming... the Prophets of old... meanwhile validating Jesus... as the long awaited Messiah

Peter says next... "which you do well to heed... as a light that shines... in a dark place... until the day dawns... and the morning star... rises in your hearts"

To what is Peter referring?

Is it the fulfilled prophecies?

I think not... I think it is both... the yet unfulfilled warnings... as well as the... edification and exhortations of old

But note here... that Peter says: "no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation"

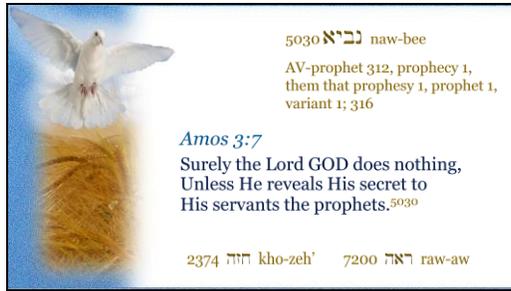
But the fulfilment... of those prophecies... affirms that: "holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit."

Now if they prophesied... by the Holy Spirit... it would stand to reason...

That the HS... is then... the Spirit of Prophecy

Amos also tells us:

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God is transparent enough... that He let's us know... what He is going... to do anything... without edification... exhortation... and warning

Now Amos was... a nawbee... root meaning - to announce...one who proclaims a message

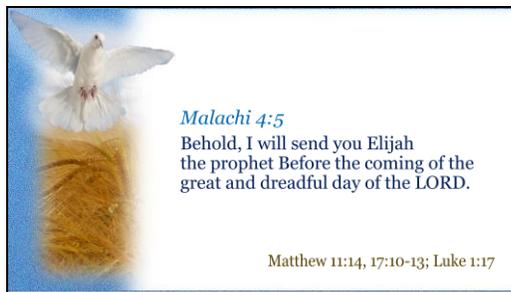
The other two OT words... 2374 חזה kho-zeh' and 7200 ראה raw-aw'... mean one who sees...

Amos was a... contemporary of Isaiah... pre-Babylonian captivity... almost 800 years... before Christ

Perhaps depicting the... dreams and vision... through which God... often chooses to communicate

However Malachi who wrote:

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Malachi was a... contemporary of Nehemiah

Think about this... after writing these words... there would be 400 years... of silence from God 400 years of no Prophets... or prophecies... utter silence

Yet God had promised... He would do nothing... "Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets"

Jesus lets us know in Matthew... that it was John the Baptist...

What did the Jews... have to go on all... those long years of silence?

However...the intimation of both... Malachi's last chapter... and Jesus words

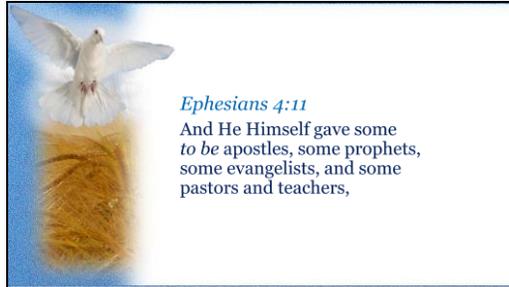
The promises... and principles... of the OT Prophets.

Is that this is... to be repeated... just prior to... Jesus' second appearing

Who was... Malachi prophesying... in this 2nd... to last verse of the OT?

Now in the NT:

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Now some maintain... that this gift... ended with the... apostolic age

However... one need only to ask... is there still a need for... evangelist... pastors... teachers? Of Course!

So why would... Prophets then cease?

One might retort... Do we still have apostles?

Prophecy... as we already studied... was not only... one of the gifts... but a preeminent gift

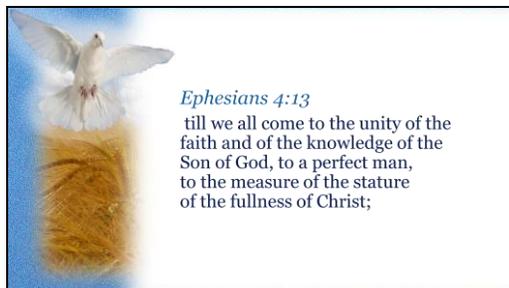
After 400 years of silence... obvious God determined... a need for prophecy once more

Well the Gr... 652 ἀπόστολος ap-os'-tol-os means...a messenger... or he that is sent forth

In this vain... it is closely related to the OT... 5030 naw-bee... one who proclaims a message... a Prophet

So yes... we still have apostles... they just aren't called... by that term Two verses later... Paul tells us... how long these gifts... would prevail:

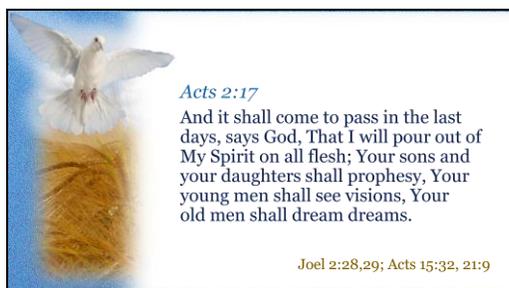
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Isn't this why... we still need... evangelist... pastors... teachers?

So... Prophecy would prevail... and if that is not sufficient... we read:

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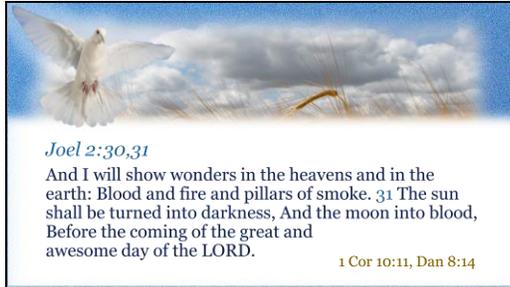
Now Peter is here... quoting the OT Prophet... Joel chapter 2

Peter was... correct in doing so... because Acts 2... was the exhibition of the Former Rain

However the same... will be true of... the Later Rain

In fact... the basic context... of Joel 2... is the 2nd coming:

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Now we understand... that these events... did not happen... in Peter's day

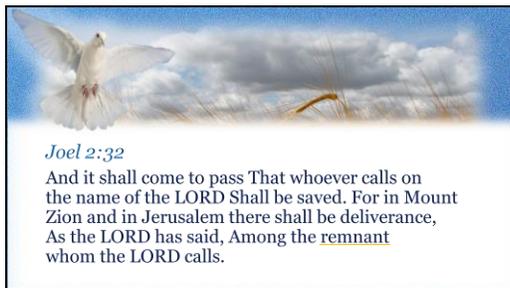
But in these... last days... these events... along with the Propheesied... Lisbon earthquake

Foretold the ending... of the Longest time Prophecy... the 2300 days

But look what Joel says next:

This is the time... of the Antitypical - Day of Atonement... a bigger lesson study for later

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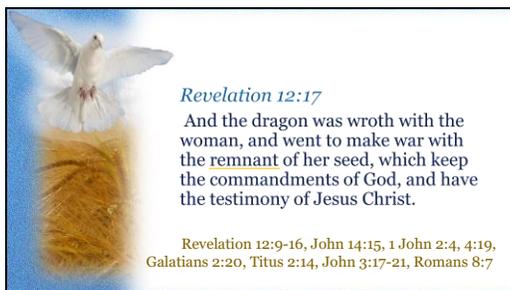


We understand not only these event... but even this term remnant... to refer to God last day people

How do we draw this conclusion?

From the last... of the NT Prophets:

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Who is this dragon? ...Verse 9 tells us ...it is the devil... who deceives the whole world

Who is this woman? ... it is Christ's church ...in the wilderness

Who was the devil to make war with? ...the remnant of the woman's seed

Who are they?Those who:

1. Keep the commandments of God and
2. Have the testimony of Jesus.

Jesus said... "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Joh 14:15
This is the... only acceptable motive... for keeping the commandments

And the Apostle of Love... John the revelator said...

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4

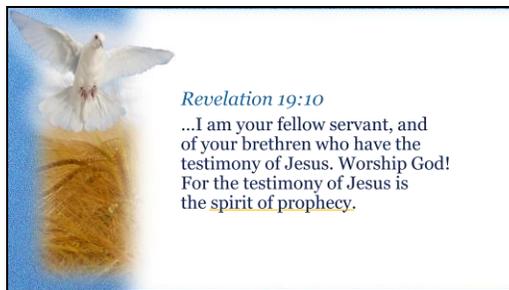
God's end time... remnant people... will Keep His commandments... because they Love God... because he first loved them... and gave himself for them

They not only keep his commandments... but have the testimony of Jesus

What does this mean?

Well... In chapter 19... John falls down... at the feet of... an Angel who... tells him not to... do that because:

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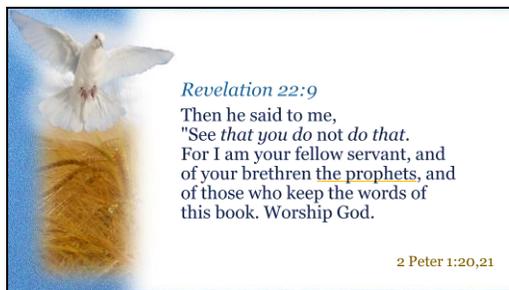


There it is the testimony of Jesus... is the spirit of prophecy

What is this spirit of prophecy?

Let's compare an... almost identical passage:

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Guess what John did... in the previous verse?

Fell down again at the feet of an Angel... slow learner 😊

In the previous passage... the Angel self-defines as... "fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus"

Which is defined as... the spirit of prophesy

And here he self-defines as... the prophets...

Who are the prophets... those who are... led and inspired by... the spirit of prophesy

Which Peter defined earlier as... The Holy Spirit...makes sense

This leads us back to our questions

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The answer is of course... that is why God... gave spiritual gifts... to His church

That is why... we still have... evangelists... pastors... teachers... and yes prophets

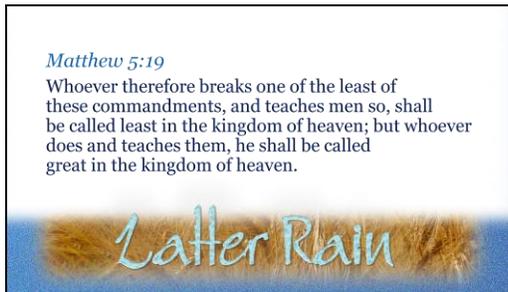
And scripture teaches that... God's last day... remnant people... will

1. Keep His commandment in love and
2. Have the testimony of Jesus... the spirit of prophecy... in their midst

Now Adventist... unabashedly teach and keep... all of God commandments... including the seventh day Sabbath

Jesus said:

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Certainly the sabbath... is considered least... by most of Christianity... if considered at all

Now Adventist... unabashedly also realize... that the spirit of prophecy... has worked in our midst... as a people as well

The spirit of prophecy... is not a set of books... it is not a person... or contained in any one person

It never has been... it never will be... the spirit of prophecy... i.e. the Holy Spirit

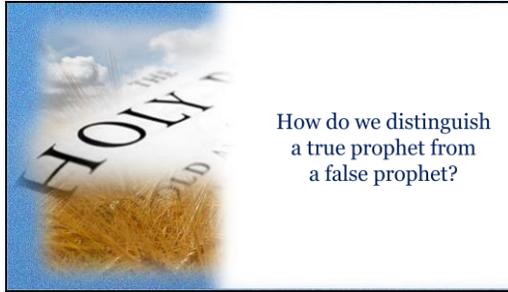
Worked with Enoch... Noah... Abraham... Moses...and all the OT writers... and many who... never wrote a word

As far as we know... like Nathan the Prophet... and Stephen the deacon

We unabashedly... recognize that gift... in Ellen G. White

And this leads us to our second question.

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And this is an important question... Ellen was a contemporary... with others who... claimed to be... Prophets of God

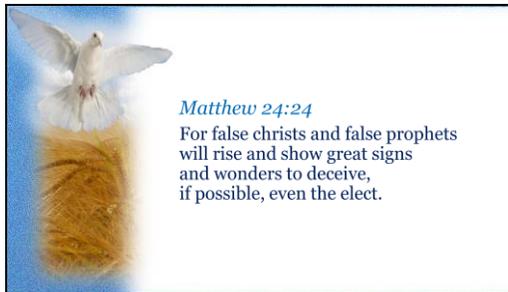
Joseph Smith... of the Mormons

Mary baker Eddy... Scientology and other

How do we know... whether they or Ellen... were or were not... led by God?

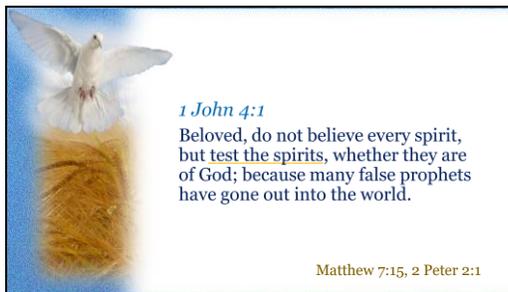
Jesus himself warned... concerning the last days:

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John chimes in:

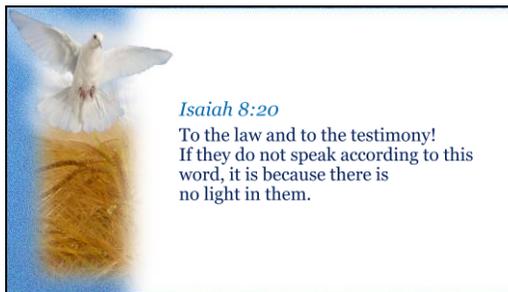
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Isaiah himself... was subject to the scrutiny... of the words of the Prophets... before him

If he contradicted Moses... for example... it would be proof... that he was led... by a false spirit

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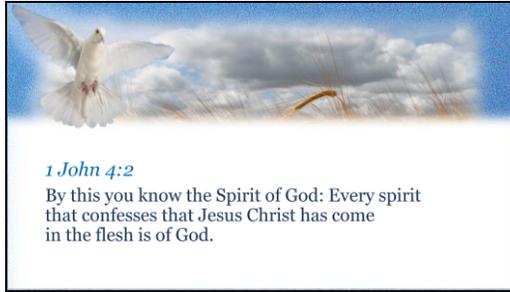
And like wise with Paul... or John... or Jesus himself... for that matter... were all subject to the prophets

The word... the Testimony of Jesus... the spirit of prophecy... is the standard of faith

Those that teach... contrary to the scripture... have no light in them

John also tells us:

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Thus the opposite... is also true... those who downplay... Jesus' coming... His humanity... or even His divinity

Are guided by a false spirit.

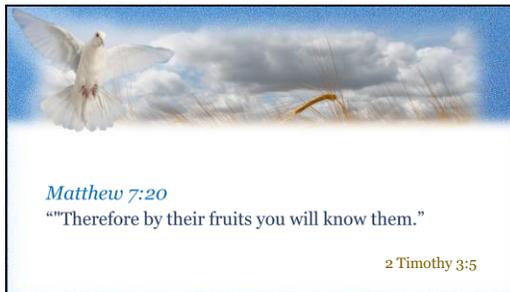
Those who teach men... not to follow Him... or even not... to keep His commandment

the Holy Spirit... that inspired Moses... and John alike

Have a spirit... that is not the... Spirit of truth...

Jesus told us:

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How do they... live their life... is a litmus test... Jesus said

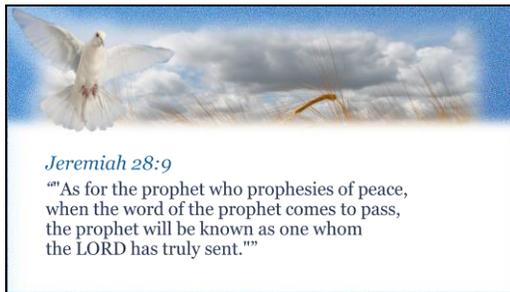
Are they bearing... the fruit of the spirit? ...or the fruit of the flesh?

Paul told us... "that in the last days perilous times will come"

Men would be loves of self... "having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" 2Ti 3:5

The last test... of truth and connection... is this:

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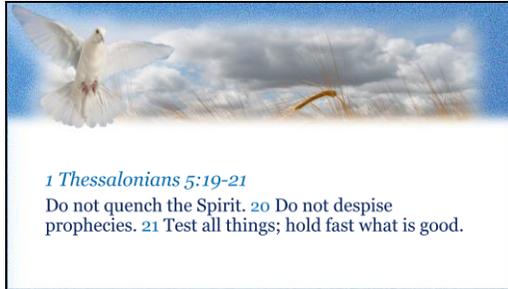
This is of course... is speaking of a prophet... in the context of foretelling But remember usually the role of a Prophet... consist of... edification... exhortation... and comfort Ellen White... wrote little in the vain of... foretelling's

Most of her writings... were of the nature of... edification... exhortation... and comfort In fact she always... claimed to be... the lesser light... pointing to the greater light And said if we... would study the scriptures as we ought... we would not need... her writings at all

In this vain... the main testimony of Jesus... is the Holy Scriptures...

Lets end with Paul's council:

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What wise council this is:

To point to the Bible... and to lift up Jesus... was the constant thread... spun through all... Ellen White wrote

Her writing clearly... help us as a people... to improve our homes... our schools... our Hospitals... our Health... and our Missions

But most of all... anyone who has... spent any time... in her writings... knows that she loved Jesus

And what she wanted... more than anything... was for us to love Him too

Why? Because... this is what the Holy Spirit... wants for us all... to Love God... with all our heart.... all our minds... and all our strength.

This is the work... of the Latter Rain!

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