

Summary: SDA Fundamental 18: Prophecy

Read Before: "Prophets are for profit" by Allan Lindsay

Aim: Prophecies in the Bible help us to see the Bible is true and to know what will happen in the future. Study of prophecy started the SDA church and Ellen White was an important person in the beginning.

Do you ever wish you could know what would happen in the future? How would it make your life easier? What would you do differently?

Who does know what is going to happen in the future? (God – Isaiah 46:10 "Only I can tell you the future before it even happens.")

The Bible tells us that God knows the future, and that God will tell His plans to His prophets, so they can tell His people. (Amos 3:7 - Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.)

And so we have many prophecies recorded in the Bible; some have happened already, and others that have not happened yet.

Prophecy is very important to us. Can you think of any reasons?

1. We can look at the prophecies that have already happened as proof that the Bible is true.
2. We can look at the prophecies about the future and know what is going to happen.
3. The Seventh-day Adventist church was formed because Christians were studying the prophecies of the Bible, including Daniels prophecy which said something would happen in 1844 – they thought Jesus would come, but it was something else that happened, and when they realised they were wrong some of them went back to studying the Bible - these were the first Seventh-day Adventists.
4. Ellen White was a modern day prophet and an import person in our Churches history.

God gave Ellen White visions of things that happened in the past, things that were about to happen, and things that haven't happened yet. Sometimes she was given advice for church members or for the church leaders. God used Ellen White to guide our church to build publishing companies, schools, colleges and hospitals. He also directed us to support missionaries, and to have a world wide organisation of the church. As a result, there are now Adventists all over the world. Ellen White also promoted healthy living; and she wrote about avoiding smoking and alcohol, when even the doctors back then didn't know these things were harmful.

Discuss some of the following, depending on the group:

Would your life be different if you weren't a Seventh-day Adventist or didn't come to a SDA church?

Would you eat or drink or do different things?

Would you be doing something different on Sabbath?

Do you think your parents would be different?

How would you feel if you didn't know about Jesus second coming, and if you believed that when you die that's it?
If you didn't know about the end of the world, how might you feel when you see bad things happen?

Optional: How do we know if a prophet is really from God or not?

Read Isaiah 8:20 – What they teach fits with what is written in the Bible

1 John 4:1-3^{NLT} talks more about true and false prophets:

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. ²This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet^[a] acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. ³But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

Conclusion: I am glad that God gave us the prophecies in the Bible, so we can have proof that the Bible is true, and so we can know what is going to happen in the future.