LESSON 02A **SUMMARY** –
THE CALL OF A PROPHET
OCTOBER 9, 2026 - **FRIDAY - ELLEN WHITE**

Called to Prophetic Ministry

1. God Calls Prophets for Specific Times

God raises up prophets at particular moments to deliver messages needed by His people. Seventh-day Adventists believe Ellen G. White demonstrated a modern manifestation of the prophetic gift, functioning like a non-canonical prophet—authoritative in ministry but not adding to the Bible.

Key thought: When God's people face confusion or crisis, God provides timely guidance.

2. The Great Disappointment Created a Crisis of Faith

Advent believers understood Daniel 8:14—"Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed"—to mean that Jesus would return to earth in 1844.

Although William Miller did not initially set an exact date, his followers eventually identified October 22, 1844, as the anticipated date. Thousands eagerly prepared to meet Jesus. However, Christ did not return, resulting in the devastating experience known as the **Great Disappointment**.

Key thought: Their expectation was sincere, but their interpretation of the event was mistaken.

3. God Gave a Message of Hope

In December 1844, just weeks after the disappointment, 17-year-old Ellen Harmon received her first vision. Its purpose was not to condemn the disappointed believers but to encourage them that God had not abandoned them.

The vision pictured Advent believers traveling on a path toward the heavenly Jerusalem. Their safety depended on keeping their eyes fixed upon Jesus, who was leading them toward the city.

“If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus…they were safe.”

Key thought: When disappointment confuses our understanding, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

4. God Was Leading a New Movement

The vision assured the believers of several important truths:

- Jesus was still with them.
- Jesus was still their Savior.
- Jesus was still coming again.
- Jesus was still leading them toward the heavenly city.

The date had passed, but God’s purpose had not failed. Out of the confusion and disappointment, God began forming a movement committed to studying Scripture and proclaiming Christ’s return.

Key thought: What appears to be the end may become the beginning of God’s greater purpose.

5. Accepting God’s Call Required Courage

Ellen Harmon was only 17 years old when she was called to prophetic ministry. She was physically weak, inexperienced, and afraid to become God’s messenger. She understood that prophetic ministry was neither easy nor prestigious.

Like many biblical prophets, she had to decide whether she would allow fear and inadequacy to control her or submit herself to God’s call.

Key thought: God does not call us because we are naturally strong; He strengthens us when we respond in faith.

Conclusion

Ellen White’s call teaches us that God can bring **hope out of disappointment, direction out of confusion, and purpose out of pain**. The central message of her first vision remains relevant today:

Do not abandon the journey. Do not surrender your hope. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus—He is still leading His people toward the heavenly city.