LESSON 5 | FRIDAY

Ellen G. White on Revelation and Inspiration

QUESTION SCRIPTURE WORD STUDY KEY POINT

LESSON FOCUS: Ellen G. White described inspiration as God's work through human messengers while consistently affirming the supreme authority of Scripture.

I. Marks of Prophetic Ministry

- Qualities and functions of prophets.
- Characteristics of prophets.
- Prophets speak the Word of God.
- Prophets direct attention away from themselves.
- Inspired predictions coming to pass help demonstrate veracity and authenticity.

II. Why Seventh-day Adventists Accept Ellen G. White

- Because she fulfills these holy requirements -
- Ellen G. White was a prophet who spoke the Word of God and was sent for such a time as this.
- She understood and placed above all the power, veracity, and authority of Scripture.

III. Inspiration Works Through Human Messengers

> “It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man’s words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. . . . The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God.” - Selected Messages, book 1, p. 21.

- Ellen White never considered her writings to be equal to or above the Word of God.
- Seventh-day Adventists do not believe that Ellen White’s writings are equal to or above the Word of God.
- Anyone who teaches or practices otherwise is speaking falsely about the Seventh-day Adventist position.

IV. Modes of Inspiration in Her Experience

- Ellen White understood the power and purpose of communicating with God and being divinely inspired.
- She dedicated her life to putting into writing - and sometimes into spoken words - what God gave her to relay.
- As such, she functioned as a spokesperson for God.
- God used many ways to produce an understanding of His message in the mind of His messenger.
- These included picture representations, words, and thoughts that engaged the prophet’s senses.
- Ellen G. White’s experience was similar to that of Bible writers.

V. Inspired Counsel and Ordinary Communication

- Ellen G. White explicitly distinguished ordinary human communication from material given under special inspiration.

  “There are times when common things must be stated,” she advised, “common thoughts must occupy the mind, common letters must be written and information given that has passed from one to another of the workers. Such words, such information, are not given under the special inspiration of the Spirit of God.” - Selected Messages, book 1, p. 39.

VI. Key Principles

- A prophet is a human messenger used by God.
- Inspiration does not erase the human personality.
- The authority of the message comes from God.

KEY POINT: Ellen White's writings must never replace or stand above Scripture.

- Understanding the distinction between inspired counsel and ordinary communication helps us read her writings responsibly.