W e’re witnessing a phenomenal explosion of interest in psychic phenomena today. There’s a great fascination with the occult and astrology. More than 2000 of our leading newspapers carry astrology columns. Any bookstore offers scores of books on so-called supernatural revelations. Some have become bestsellers. Ruth Montgomery’s book, *The Gift of Prophecy*, on the life of Jeanne Dixon sold more than a million copies. *The Sleeping Prophet*, a book on the life of psychic Edgar Cayce, continues to generate phenomenal sales. As we approach history’s crisis hour, people seek answers outside themselves. But this desire carries certain risks: Some voices speak with great certainty—and lead people off a cliff. How do we know which ones to listen to? How can we be sure a prophet or a voice from beyond is genuine? Jesus warned: “false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. . . . Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” Matthew 24:24; 7:15. False prophets and astrologers and psychics are all around us today as a sign of the last generation. Satan has attempted to counterfeit the genuine gift of prophecy by raising up false prophets. The existence of a counterfeit indicates there must be a genuine. Ever see a counterfeit thirty-dollar bill? No counterfeiter bothers making thirty-dollar bills because there are no thirty-dollar bills in circulation! Counterfeiters imitate the real thing. And Jesus’ warning against false prophets in these last days implies there must be an authentic manifestation of the gift of prophecy. If not, He’d simply tell us never to listen to anyone claiming to be a prophet, for there’d be none. But instead of the gift of prophecy ceasing in Bible times, God actually predicts the manifestation of this gift in these last days! *Ephesians 4:8, 11-13* tells us that when Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave special “gifts to men.” Among those gifts was the gift of prophecy. It’s purpose, according to this passage, was to perfect a people and prepare a church for Christ’s Coming. And those gifts remain in God’s
The Bible predicts that the prophetic gift will be restored in the last days within God's true church. Revelation 12:17 says, "The dragon [Satan] was enraged with the woman [the church], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." We know what "the commandments of God" are, "the testimony of Jesus." They're heaven's messengers, part of God's channel of communication.

Prophets receive messages in two basic ways:

1. An angel brings them a vision while awake or a dream while asleep—Numbers 12:6; Revelation 1:1. Or (2) The Holy Spirit impresses their minds, revealing to them heaven's Truth. True prophets don't teach their own ideas—they're heaven's messengers, part of God's channel of communication.

1st TEST of a True Prophet:
Accuracy. A true prophet must be 100 percent accurate. Some prophecies are conditional—like Jonah's, their fulfillment depends on how people respond to them. But otherwise prophecies must be 100 percent accurate. A true prophet's predictions always come to pass. There's no guessing involved. Jeremiah 28:9: "When the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent." Even the leading psychics have a very poor record here. We could do better just guessing. But the true gift of prophecy is 100 percent accurate 100 percent of the time.

2nd TEST of a True Prophet:
Faithfulness to God and His Word. A true prophet always leads people to God and His teachings, never away. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 condemns those prophets who say, "Let us go after other gods . . . and let us serve them," you shall not listen to the words of that prophet. . . [He] shall be put to death." A true prophet's writings always agree with the Bible. Read the entire writings of Ellen White, and you'll not find a single contradiction to God's Word.

3rd TEST of a True Prophet:
A true prophet always exalts the law of God. He or she always calls people to obedience. Isaiah 8:20 points us "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." True prophets uphold God's moral principles. Bible prophets were raised up in periods of apostasy to call people back to God and His commandments. Elijah called Israel back from idolatry, back from sun worship. Nehemiah called for a reform in Sabbath keeping. John the Baptist challenged Herod to repent of his adultery. Every biblical prophet exalted God's law, and that's what Ellen White did in her speaking and her writing.

4th TEST of a True Prophet:
The true prophet's central focus should be Jesus. Christ should be exalted. Many so-called prophets today end up exalting themselves more than Jesus. What about Ellen White? Throughout her ministry, she magnified the name of Christ in a very marked way.

5th TEST of a True Prophet:
Physical phenomena. Three physical manifestations help us distinguish the genuine gift from the false: (A) True prophets experience visions with their eyes open—their eyes remain unblinkingly open throughout the vision. Numbers 24:3-4, 15-16. (B) In vision, true prophets have no physical strength. Daniel 10:8. (C) True prophets, while in vision, do not breathe. Daniel 10:17.
Our heavenly Father has so much He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers Learning Unlimited!

1. □ T □ F In sharp contrast to false prophets or phony psychics, one test of a true prophet is that his predictions, when they’re not conditional, always come to pass—his accuracy is 100%. (JEREMIAH 28:9)

2. “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His______________, so shall ye____________________.” (2 CHRONICLES 20:20, KJV)

3. □ T □ F No one could be considered a true prophet of God who didn’t write a portion of Scripture included in the Bible, God’s Word. (1 KINGS 1:10, 18:36; LUKE 1:67, 7:28; JUDE 14)

4. “Beloved, do not believe___________ spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many_________ prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 JOHN 4:1)

5. □ T □ F The Bible says we should not despise prophesying but that we should prove or test everything by God’s Word—then, if it checks out as good, we should hold it fast. (1 THESALONIANS 5:19-21)

6. The Bible says, “The dragon [Satan] was wroth [angry] with the woman [God’s church], and went to make war with the remnant [the last church in the last days] of her seed, which ______________ the _______________ of God, and have the _______________ of Jesus Christ.” (REVELATION 12:17)

7. God’s Word makes it quite clear that “the _______________ of Jesus is the _______________ of _______________.” (REVELATION 19:10)

8. □ T □ F The Bible records many instances of God using men as His prophetic messengers, but He never used any women in that way. (EXODUS 15:20, JUDGES 4:4, LUKE 2:36, ACTS 21:8-9)

Your Name: _______________________________________ Date ___________ __