

The Testimony of Jesus

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Study by W. D. Frazee—March 2,

Seventh-day Adventists are people of the Bible. Very seldom does a Seventh-day Adventist minister confine himself to just one text in a sermon. Usually it is more of a Bible study.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4.

We live by what? We live by bread, but not by bread alone. What else do we need besides bread? The Word of God. How much of the Word of God do we need? All of it.

Do you really think we need all of it? Suppose I just like certain things. Are there people who are ready to throw out the whole Old Testament? Yes. There are whole churches that will tell you nothing in the Old Testament today. Of course, it is interesting history and it shows how God worked back there, but as far as binding us, leading us, or commanding us, or directing us, nothing of the Old Testament.

Do you believe that? No. We believe what Jesus says here that every word from the Scripture is for us. Now, of course, we know that there are certain ceremonial laws given in the Old Testament that Jesus through the Bible makes very clear were for a certain time. But as far as the inspiration of those words is concerning, and as far as the lessons which come from those ceremonies, they are for us even more than the people to whom they were given. Aren't they? Yes.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Now turning to the New Testament. What do we call the book that closes the New Testament? The Revelation of Jesus Christ. Are there people that say, “Well, I can't get anything out of the book of Revelation. It is just a sealed book.” Are there? Why, yes. Millions of people. They think the book of Revelation is not for them. And yet, Jesus put a special blessing in that book. The very book that many, many people pass by and leave on the shelf, God directs our attention to especially.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified *it* by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the word of

God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw" Revelation 1:1-2.

What is the next word?

"Blessed..."

Who is blessed?

"Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand" *Ibid*, verse 3.

Do we need the book of Revelation? Why, yes. Elder Richards of the Voice of Prophecy tells about a ministry of another denomination who said that he wished the book of Revelation wasn't in the Bible. If it wasn't for the book of Revelation we wouldn't be troubled with all these Seventh-day Adventists.

Well, I think he had something. Is the book of Revelation some how responsible for Seventh-day Adventists being here? Can you open the book of Revelation and point to chapter and verse and say, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears?" When you turn to Revelation 14, verses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and when you come down to that twelfth verse -

"Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

Who is that verse talking about? It is talking about the remnant church. And again, Revelation 12:17.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

Who is the dragon? The Devil, the ninth verse says. Who is this woman? That is the church. She has some children, the remnant of her seed. What does the remnant mean? The last. So here is the last church in this world. They have two marks. They keep what? The commandments of God. And they have something. What is it? The testimony of Jesus Christ.

Do they really have the testimony of Jesus Christ? Oh friends, it is a wonderful thing to open this book and read this scripture and be able to say, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." The Bible becomes a living book, an up to the minute statement of fact. We are reading, not merely about things in far off ages, the Bible is accurate concerning its history, but oh its prophecies that reach down through the future down to our time and on beyond. Isn't it wonderful, friends? I am glad that you and I are called to be people of the book. And let us remember that we need every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

We need the Old Testament and the New Testament. We need the Psalms and the Proverbs. We need Daniel and Revelation. We need Matthew and Mark, and Luke, and John. We need all of it.

Now in this book of Revelation which contains the special blessing, I find my test this morning. Revelation 3:20. It is very interesting to notice the setting of this text. You remember that John was exiled out there on the isle of Patmos. The Romans thought that they would get rid of him. They put him over there on that rocky Island. But there Jesus visited him. He came to him on the Sabbath day and gave him these wonderful visions. The very first thing that Jesus gave him was the messages to the seven churches. Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Now there were seven actual churches in Asia Minor by those names. Those letters were sent to those. But, of course, in writing them down for the church universal, John was giving us a picture as Jesus gave it to him of the seven great periods of the Christian church from the days of the apostles on down to the end of time. And the seventh of course is the last.

What is the seventh one? Laodicea. Now if we are the people of Revelation 12:17, the remnant that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus, then we must be in this closing period of the church represented by the Laodiceans. And it is to these people that this message we are about to read is given. The whole message is of tremendous importance, but I pick out this morning this one verse as our test.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:...”

Who is speaking? Jesus.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

I want to ask you something, friends, does it make any difference whether Jesus is inside or outside? Oh yes, it makes all the difference in the world. It makes a great deal of difference to us whether Jesus is outside or inside. And you know it makes a world of difference to Him. When we think how He left the Father’s house and came all the way to Bethlehem, to Nazareth, to Calvary that He might reach us, we see His intense desire to be where we are, and to have us where He is.

But before we can accompany Him to the Father’s house and share with Him those mansions there, He must share our homes and hearts here. Before we live with Him above, He must live with us below. And so He comes knocking.

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

Now I would like to have us meditate this morning especially on this expression “If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in.” Do you hear the voice of Jesus? Well how does Jesus speak? What is His voice? Just how would He speak to me? That is the question that I want us to ponder over this morning. How does Jesus speak?

Let’s turn to 1 Peter the first chapter.

“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow” 1 Peter 1:10-11.

Who does Peter say the Spirit of Christ was in? In the prophet. And what does it say that the Spirit of Christ in the prophets did? It testified.

“The Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand” 1 Peter 1:11.

What does testify mean? Why it means to give a testimony. To give a witness. To speak. Most of us at one time or another have been in a court room. We have seen the witnesses summoned. We have heard them speak. The court reporter writes it down. And what the witness speaks, that is his testimony. Is that right?

Now Jesus is testifying. The Spirit of Jesus in the prophets is testifying. Did Jesus speak through Moses? Did Jesus speak through Samuel and David? Did Jesus speak through Peter and Paul? Oh yes. That is why when we read the Bible, we are reading the Word of God, the testimony of Jesus.

Is this Bible the testimony of Jesus? Yes. Now let’s go to John the fifth chapter and the thirty-ninth verse. We will see that Jesus Himself recognized this and called attention to it.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which...”

Which do what?

“...testify of me” John 5:39.

Now not merely about Jesus, but they are from Jesus. They testify of Him. They speak about Him accurately and truly because they come from His mind and heart. As we have already seen, it was the Spirit of Christ in the prophets which inspired them to testify what they did. And really, friends, how could Daniel have foretold the future of himself? How could Moses have foretold the future history of the Jewish nation just by his own wisdom? No. It was the Spirit of Jesus in Moses

and Daniel and all the prophets that enabled them to speak what they did and write what they did.

So when the prophets spoke to the people back there it was the voice of whom? The voice of Jesus. It was the voice of Jesus. Let me ask you something, did they always recognize it? Did the people always recognize that when the prophet spoke that was the voice of Jesus? Oh no.

I want to tell you something very interesting this morning, friends, the great problem that people have had all down through the ages has not been so much with the past prophets as with the present prophets. Let me illustrate. When Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt on the way to Canaan, did he have any trouble with them? Did they have any trouble with him? Did the people of Israel rebel out there in the desert? Again and again. Didn't they? Yes.

Do you hear any of them complaining about Abraham? No. That was four hundred years past. They were doubtless all very loyal to Abraham. Their problem was with whom? With Moses. Their problem was with Moses.

You remember Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. They stood up and said, "Moses, you take too much on you. Has God spoken only by Moses? He can speak by us too." But you remember God took care of that problem. The earth opened up and swallowed up Dathan and Abiram. God had His ways of vindicating His servants.

But now Moses finally died. You know dear friends, those people who had made so much problem for Moses while he lived, as time went on they revered Moses. They thought a great deal of Moses.

We come on down to the time of Jeremiah. Here is a prophet that God is using to try to keep the people from being utterly swallowed up in the Babylonian captivity. But because Jeremiah took the writings of Moses and applied them to the present situation, the king and the nobles and many of the people didn't like it. Do you know where they put Jeremiah? In prison. They put him down in a pit.

The prophet of God? But they were all very loyal to Moses. So they thought. Moses wasn't troubling them. Jeremiah was. We could illustrate that with many examples in the Old Testament. More than once the king put the prophet in prison because he didn't want to hear his condemnation of his sins. I repeat, God's problem, in many, many cases, has been to get the church to listen to the present prophet.

Now we come on down to the New Testament. I want you to notice something very interesting here. Let's go to Hebrews the first chapter, beginning with the first verse. Hebrews 1:1,2.

"God, who at sundry times..."

That means at different times.

“...and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son,...” Hebrews 1:1.

Heaven had sent prophet after prophet after prophet from Enoch, and Moses, on down. Generation after generation. But friends, again and again they had rejected those messages. But finally, God says, I will send My Son. I will send My son.

Now when Jesus Himself came and spoke to the Jewish nation and the Jewish church face to face, they could see Him and hear His voice, did they all accept Him? Did they? Do you know what they did, friends? They said, We will listen to Moses, but we won't listen to this man. That is right. Let's turn and read it. John 9:29. I hope you will ponder this verse, friends, because it has a world of meaning in it for us. This is what the Pharisees and the scribes said about Jesus.

“We know that God spake unto Moses: *as for this fellow*, we know not from whence he is” John 9:29.

We will listen to Moses. What Moses says, we will accept. But what Jesus says, No, we won't listen to that. Isn't that a strange thing? Yet, who was really speaking through Moses? Jesus. Who spoke through Jeremiah? Jesus. We read it. But when He comes in person, in the flesh and knocks at the door, They say, No, we don't know You. We have got Moses hear on the shelf. We will read Moses. You go on.

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not” John 1:11.

But my point is, they rejected Him all the while asserting their loyalty to the old prophets that Jesus had sent. Do you see what I mean, friends?

Now this same Jesus that spoke in the Old Testament times through Moses and Daniel and David and Samuel and the other prophets, He came and spoke in the flesh, and then He went back to heaven. Since then He has never spoken any more? Or has He?

How did John write this? How did Peter write in the New Testament? How did Paul write in the New Testament? Did they just get an idea some day to write a book? Oh no. We read it from Revelation chapter 1.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, ... and He sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record” Revelation 1:1, 2.

Did Jesus speak after He went back to heaven just like He had spoken before He came to earth? Did He send His angel? What was the angel's name that He sent to Daniel? Gabriel. You can read it there in Daniel eight and nine. What was the angel's name that came in the New Testament there in the Luke the first chapter? Gabriel.

Now turn to the last page of the Bible. Revelation 22:16. Oh, let's see who it is that sends this angel, and let's see what he is sent for.

"I Jesus..."

Who is speaking? Jesus.

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches" Revelation 22:16.

Who is speaking through that angel? Jesus. Whose message does he bring? Jesus. Well then when we read what the prophet rights down that the angel brought from heaven, whose message are we getting? Jesus. That is why the real name of the book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now in Revelation the twenty-second chapter and the eighth and ninth verses I want you to notice how John was impressed with this whole thing.

"And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not..." Revelation 22:8, 9.

Don't worship me, John -

"...for I am thy fellowservant,..."

What is a "fellowservant"? One who serves with somebody else.

"...I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God"
Revelation 22:8-9.

John was one of the what as this says? Prophets. He was the angel. The angel gave him the message and he wrote it out for the church.

Now I want you to notice another verse just back over the page almost like the one we have just read. But I want you to see how it differs.

"And I fell at his feet to worship him"

Twice, you see, he fell down to worship the angel's feet.

"...And he..."

That is Gabriel.

“...and he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” Revelation 19:10.

Now watch. In Revelation twenty-two he says, “I am ... of your brethren the prophets.” I am serving with your brethren the prophets, and I am serving with you. Here he says, I am a fellowservant with your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus.

Now watch. The prophets then are the people that have what? The testimony of Jesus. That is right. Does everybody in the church see the angel? Back there when Moses spoke to the people, that was one thing that bothered some of them. Moses went up there in the mountain, he would talk with God, and then he would come back and tell them. They said, “Moses, you think you are somebody. You think you can tell us what to do. Can’t God talk to us as well as you?” But did they have to listen to Moses? Yes.

Now don’t misunderstand me, friends. God does have some things to tell every one of us personally from day to day. Doesn’t He? Yes. There is no verse in the Bible that is going to tell us exactly what hour to get up in the morning, or exactly what hour to have our meals. Is that right? We will need some individual guidance about a thousand things.

But no amount of personal guidance can take the place of or come between us and the message that Jesus sends from heaven through the prophets because that is the testimony of Jesus, or as it is called here, the spirit of prophecy.

Now what did our text say?

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

I want to ask you something here, my friends. Suppose that Jesus were to come literally in the flesh like He did nearly two thousand years ago? Suppose He comes up to our front door and He knocks at the door. He says, Listen, I have a message for you. Will you let Me in? And I say, “Why Jesus, I have the Bible. I study the Bible every day. I don’t need any more message from You.”

Will He come in? Will He? No. He won’t come in. Why? Because I don’t do what? I don’t open the door. I don’t open the door.

Now, friends, this is a most vital point. I plead with your hearts. Oh, give me your ears. Give me your thinking for a few minutes while we reason on this. Did Jesus, when He went back to heaven, and sent His angel to Peter and to Paul and John, was that all? Would He ever send that angel again? What is the meaning of those verse we read in Revelation 12:17?

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

It means to have a prophet. Suppose I go out here to the Catholic church and I say, “I would like to ask you some questions. Do you have a prophet?”

“No. We don’t have any prophets.”

Suppose I go to the Methodist church and I knock. “Do you have a prophet?”

“No. We don’t have a prophet.”

Suppose I go to the Baptist church and I knock. “Do you have a prophet?”

“No. We don’t have a prophet. That is all back there in Bible times.”

I ask you, friends, is there any church in the world that has a prophet? Well if there is, who is speaking through that prophet? Jesus is speaking. And if Jesus is not speaking through the prophet, it isn’t a prophet. Isn’t that right? Because the prophet as we have seen from verse after verse this morning is one that sees the angel, receives the message from Jesus, and writes it out for the church.

So, I repeat, unless the church has somebody in it that has seen the angel and written out the message from heaven, there is no prophet. And where no vision is, the people what? Perish.

“Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he”
Proverbs 29:18.

But now watch. Somebody may say, “Well, I think that was alright back there. But I don’t see any point in it today.” Let’s go to Acts the second chapter. It seems to me that if Jesus were knocking at the door today in the flesh and I should turn from Him saying, “I have the Bible. That is all I need.” Jesus might say, “Do you have the Bible? Do you have all of it? Do you read all of it? Do you believe all of it? Then if you do, do you believe those verses in the Bible that say that I am going to come in a special way to the remnant church? Do you believe that part of the Bible?”

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy” Acts 2:18.

When does the scripture say this prophecy is to be fulfilled? In the last days. Have we come to the last days? Then as sure as God is truth there should be a fulfillment of this scripture. Not merely something that happened two and three thousand years ago, friends.

“It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit ... and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy” Acts 2:18.

But when they prophesy, when Jesus speaks through His appointed agency in these latter days, will we listen? Or will we like the Jews in the days of Jesus say, “We know that God spoke through Moses, we will listen to the prophets that are dead and gone, but anybody living and talking today, no, we don’t know what that is. Leave us alone.”

Oh friends, Jesus has come to Laodicea. He is knocking at the door. He says, “I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice,” if any one will recognize that I am speaking to this church at this hour, “and open the door,” and let Me in, “I will come in to him, and will sup with him.” Revelation 3:20. You know I was meditating on this verse and I thought friends, I wonder if it is because of what we have on the table for supper sometimes that we hesitate to let Him in.

“I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

Would we be embarrassed if Jesus came for supper, or for breakfast, or for dinner? Would be embarrassed if Jesus should come in while we had the TV running or the radio? Or is what we are listening to on the radio or watching on the TV something that Jesus would feel perfectly at home with, and we would feel perfectly at home having him come in? Are those fair questions? Are they on the point? Very much on the point.

Let me tell you something, the reason they put Jeremiah in the pit, he applied the prophecies of Moses to their present situation and condemned their current sin. And the great difficulty with the Spirit of Prophecy in the church today is that it cuts across our natural inclinations and desires. If all there was to the Spirit of Prophecy was the beautiful and sublime statements concerning the life of Jesus it wouldn’t trouble people to accept it or reject it. No.

The thing that makes the Spirit of Prophecy a cross is that through these wonderful revelations in these latter days Jesus has seen fit to talk to us about current problems, present day sins, and to tell us how to apply the principles of the Bible to this time.

I want to read you something from the *Review* that just came this week. This is an editorial. This is the issue of March 30, 1967. Just the day before yesterday. From the editorial on page 12 I read this statement.

“While Seventh-day Adventists do not consider the writings of Ellen G. White to be a modern addition to the canon of Scripture, we do recognize in them the same quality and degree of inspiration as that of the Bible writers, and consider their teaching authority to be equal to that of the Bible for Seventh-day Adventists” *Review*
March 30, 1967

Now He goes on and makes clear that we do not consider the writings of the present day prophet to be of teaching authority for the world outside that doesn't know anything about them. But for Seventh-day Adventists, for people who keep the commandments of God and claim that they are a part of the church that has the testimony of Jesus, I ask you friends, how can we claim to be a part of a church that has the testimony of Jesus, and not listen to that voice?

Is it the testimony of Jesus, or is it just what that woman wrote? Which is it? Does it make any difference? Why, my friends, it makes all the difference in the world. If Jesus is knocking at our door through the writings of the prophet, I want to hear His voice and open the door. Don't you? And if it isn't Jesus speaking, friends, I will have to be honest with you, I am in the wrong church. I am in the wrong church if Jesus isn't speaking through the Spirit of Prophecy because this church from its rise over a hundred years ago has been led by the writings of this prophet.

You say, “Well, I want a church where Jesus leads.” Precisely. That is the one I want. And Jesus is leading through the writings of the prophet. Believe me, friends, we need something more than just the feelings of my heart and yours as to what Jesus says. We need a message which has unmistakable, miraculous proof that it is a vision from heaven.

Now I am not seeking this morning to go into all the proof that these writings of the latter day prophet are the testimony of Jesus, I simply, friends, bring you this fact. According to the Bible, Jesus speaks through the spirit of prophecy. According to the Bible there will be a church in the last days where God's Spirit is poured upon His people and there will be prophets who have visions and bring the message of Jesus. And so I leave it with your hearts.

Is this the truth? Are we people of the Bible? Do we believe the Bible and the Bible alone? Yes. How much of it? All of it. Do we believe Moses? Oh yes. No problem about that. Do we believe Jeremiah? Yes. That is all right. Do we believe Peter and Paul? Yes. Do we believe the book of Revelation that says that in these latter days there will be a church that keeps all of God's commandments and has the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophecy? Then if somebody comes and says, “Well, you claim to be this? Indeed, has Jesus really testified to your church?” Oh, let us be able and willing with loving hearts, with enthusiastic spirits to bring out these precious volumes and let people share them because, dear friends, these things are indeed speaking to hearts that are open.

Now this closing word. Who is it that is knocking at the door? Jesus. Who is it that is speaking? Jesus.

“If any man hear My voice, and open the door Revelation 3:20.

I will say this, friends, if we recognize the voice, we will open the door. There are some countries where it is dangerous to open the door until you know who is on the other side of the door. There are places where after night especially people bar the doors and if anybody knocks they say, “Who is there?” And the one outside will give his name, and the people inside, if they know his voice, they open the door.

Ah friends, even Jesus is not recognized by everybody. And when Jesus speaks, there are those who do not open the door. Let us pray God that He will give us ears to hear, and senses that discern the voice of Jesus. I invite you, friends, as never before, however settled you may think you have been on the subject we have studied this morning, I invite you as never before, take the Bible, take the writings of the prophet in these latter days, study them together on your knees before God for we are going into a storm when every house that isn't settled on a firm foundation is going to be blown over. Don't forget it.

We need every word of God. We need Moses and Jeremiah. We need Peter and Paul. And we need what Jesus in His love and mercy has sent to the remnant church. Shall we bow our heads?

Dear precious Lord, seal to our hearts the message from Thy word that we have heard this morning. Grant that we may recognize the dear voice of Jesus, Thy Son, as He speaks through His testimony, the Spirit of Prophecy. And grant that each of us will be so established in these precious truths that we shall stand when all the world is swept away. We pray it for each one in Jesus' name. Amen.

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