

# Spirit of Prophecy 2 of 4

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 2, 1973

A wonderful prophecy that reaches down to our time, Malachi 4:5–6:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” Malachi 4:5–6.

Before Jesus comes, Elijah must come. And he comes so that God may give us a blessing instead of sin bringing us a curse.

Notice that he is spoken of here as Elijah the prophet. Elijah was one of the greatest prophets that God ever sent to His people. Here is a prophecy that he is to return and do a work in getting people ready for the coming of the Lord.

Now notice that this work deals especially with the home:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” Malachi 4:5–6.

This is God’s answer to the generation gap. Preparation for the coming of the Lord includes a welding together, a blending together, a bringing together of all of God’s people, old or young, parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, all of us together blended in one. We’re going to live together in Heaven; God wants us to enter into that unity here on earth. And notice, God sends Elijah the prophet to accomplish this.

Now, this prophecy was fulfilled, first of all, in the life and work of John the Baptist. Let us go to the seventeenth chapter of Matthew, where Jesus Himself tells us this. You see, when Jesus was here and giving His message, some of the religious leaders said, “Oh this can’t be the Messiah because Elijah has to come before Christ can appear.” And they pointed to this prophecy in Malachi that we’ve just read. And so, one day the disciples asked Jesus about this. And I want you to notice what Christ’s answer was:

“And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias [that is Elijah] must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias

is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of” Matthew 17:10–13.

Whom?

“John the Baptist” Matthew 17:13.

So notice, the religious leaders of that time were *still* looking for Elijah, and lo he’d come! Who was it? John the Baptist. He *fulfilled* this prophecy that Elijah would come and restore all things and make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

But notice many people didn’t recognize him when he came. I wonder if it could be that God would send a similar messenger today, and that messenger should be unrecognized. Could that happen? Definitely! Definitely!

Now let us go to the eleventh chapter of Matthew where I want you to notice what Christ said about this messenger, John the Baptist, that fulfilled the prophecy that Elijah would come and get the people ready for Christ. Christ is discussing with the multitude that was listening to Him the position and work of John the Baptist:

“But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and *more* than a prophet” Matthew 11:9.

Is it possible for a man to do a work, while it includes the prophetic gift, to do a work that is even more important than the work of a prophet? Jesus says it *is*. This is the work that John the Baptist did.

“But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist” Matthew 11:9–11.

You see friends; he stood in the top ranks of all those that God had used from the days of Adam on down to the days of Jesus. There was not a greater, Jesus said than John the Baptist. A prophet? Yes. But more than a prophet. He was a messenger, a special messenger with a special message.

Turn now to Luke the first chapter, and I want you to see how this is emphasized in the instructions given to his father just before he was born. You remember this tells about the aged priest, Zacharias, ministering in the temple in Jerusalem, offering the incense, and suddenly an angel appeared to him. It was the angel, Gabriel. (I am going to tell you more about that angel this afternoon, the *wonderful* work of this *wonderful* angel, the highest angel in Heaven.) And here he stands now, by the altar of incense speaking to this aged priest, Zacharias.

He says, "Zacharias, you and your wife, even though you are both past the age of childbearing, you're going to have a son. His name is going to be John. He's going to be *great* in the sight of the Lord."

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" Luke 1:15–17.

You see, the prophecy that Elijah would come and make a people ready for the coming of Christ was fulfilled by John the Baptist. This is what the angel said before he was born. This is what Christ said after John appeared and did his work. All the witnesses agree.

Now dear friend, notice this: What John did before the first appearing of Jesus, somebody's going to do down here before the second appearing of Jesus; because *this* is the great thing that the prophecy of Malachi was talking about. You remember we read there:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD" Malachi 4:5.

When Jesus came the first time, that wasn't the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Christ did His work there quietly, gently, meekly, lovingly. When He comes the *second* time with power and great glory, with ten million-million angels, coming as the lightning, coming to bring destruction to all the wicked, and reward and rescue to his people: this is the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And *all* that was done by John in making ready a people for Christ's *first* coming must be done on a wider stage, on a grander scale *today*, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

That is what this people have been raised up for, my friends—to do that work. And as back there, God sent His angel, the angel Gabriel, the highest angel in glory down to this world to give instruction concerning the birth of that child John, concerning his training, concerning his diet, concerning his education, and concerning the *work* that he was to do in making ready a people prepared for the Lord, so God has sent His special message through a special messenger *today* that a similar work of preparing a people for the coming of Jesus, might be done.

Now last evening, we were introducing this and I told you how that all through the Bible, Jesus has been speaking to His people through prophets. You remember, we read in Revelation 19:10, the testimony of Jesus is what? The spirit of prophecy. Then the spirit of prophecy is whose testimony? The testimony of Jesus. I open this Bible and I read in Isaiah. Who am I listening to? Isaiah? Yes. He is the human agent through which the visions came and the book was written. But who am I listening to as I read the book of Isaiah? I'm listening to Jesus. Is that right? Yes. Christ is speaking to me through those pages.

I turn over to the New Testament and I read this wonderful vision of John there on the Isle of Patmos. But who is speaking? Ah my friends, that book is rightly called:

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass” Revelation 1:1.

Now I want you to turn to the last page of the New Testament. We were on the last page of the Old Testament a few moments ago. Turn to Revelation 22:16. Who is speaking? How do you know? He says so:

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

Who’s speaking? I Jesus. Does He have a testimony? Yes. Who did He send it by?

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

The same angel that was sent from glory, down to Jerusalem, to speak to Zacharias and to give him the instruction as to the birth of John, his training, his development as a messenger for God; that same angel Jesus sends to His church today. And that message is the testimony of Jesus. It’s brought by the angel, but it doesn’t originate with the angel.

Did you ever get a message by telegram? Often now it comes over the telephone, but when I was a boy, it came more often by a messenger boy from Western Union knocking at the door, or ringing the doorbell. There would be that boy, there was his bicycle and he would come now with this telegram and he hands it to us. What are we thinking about; the messenger boy or the telegram? We’re thinking about the telegram, aren’t we?

But oh friends, it is a wonderful thing—don’t miss this—that Jesus thinks this message to His church is so important that He employs as His messenger the highest angel in glory, Gabriel that stands in the presence of God.

If the president had a message to deliver to you, and he should take the one next to him in rank and send him *personally* to your home with that message, wouldn’t you feel honored? Wouldn’t you think the message was important? And so my dear friends, thank God, in the remnant church, Jesus has thought of us, of our needs to make ready a people prepared for the Lord, and He has sent His angel from 1844 right on down through, with messages to the remnant church.

And through the visions and the writings of Ellen G. White, we have been given a flood of light upon the Bible. As I mentioned to you last night, in this inspired library we have a divine commentary upon the Bible. And notice, it is not to take the place of the Bible. That isn’t the point at all. It is to help us to *understand* the Bible.

Somebody may say, "Well I can understand the Bible without that." Very well, my dear friend, I must tell you, "I need glasses. I need glasses." When I put these glasses on I can read the Bible better, literally. Now the glasses do not add anything to the truth here on the page, right? But they make it easier for me to see it. And so these thousands of inspired pages are like a magnifying glass on the Bible. And what is it for? To help me to more easily see and appreciate the precious truths contained in His Word.

Now one of the tests of the prophetic gift is that it agrees with the law of God and the Word of God. And if we were to find in these books that which contradicts the Bible, that which leads away from the Bible, that which would lead individuals today to look to the human agents that wrote these books instead of to God and His Word, *then* my friends, we would know that we were dealing with a false prophet, a false prophet!

But instead, from page to page, from chapter to chapter, from volume to volume, we discern more and more that we are listening to that same voice of Jesus, which spoke through Moses and Elijah, through John and Peter and Paul—the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

This morning, I would like you to think of its special use in accomplishing the mission of Elijah to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And what did we read that was? To turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their father, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

You are aware, I'm sure, that there has *never* been a time in all the history of the ages, from Eden on down, when there's been such a gap between parents and children. And so we hear talk of the generation gap. And it's *real*, friends. Maybe it oughtn't to be there, but it's there. Am I correct? Yes. Well, what is God going to do about that?

What is God going to do in *this* generation to bring together, to draw together, to *hold* together the hearts of parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters? What's He going to do? Oh, God says, "I am going to send you a special message by a special messenger *today*, like Elijah did, back at Mt. Carmel, like John the Baptist did by the Jordan. Down here in these last days, I will send you a special messenger, a prophet, yes, and *more* than a prophet. My messenger to prepare My way before Me."

Why? Ah friends, do we need it. We need it so much. And listen. Those who listened to Elijah, back there at Mt. Carmel, were led from Baal to the true God. Those who listened to John the Baptist, down by the Jordan, were led away from the traditions and customs of that time and led to accept Christ as the true Messiah, accept Him as Savior. Today, those who will listen to this special message, those who will take time to read what this special messenger has written, will find their hearts drawn close to God and close to one another.

May I call your attention this morning to this fact? That of *all* the subjects dealt with in these tens of thousands of pages, none is more prominent, none is mentioned more frequently, none is repeated more often than this subject of the

home, the home. And why? Because, as I read here in this wonderful volume *The Ministry of Healing*:

“The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are “the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household” *Ministry of Healing*, page 349.

Dear ones, when Jesus comes, oh what a wonderful thing it’s going to be for parents to be able to look up into the Savior’s face and say:

“Behold, I and the children whom God hath given me”  
Isaiah 8:18.

What do you say?

Can you bear the thought of leaving a single loved one here in this dark world? Can you endure the thought that one of the lambs of the flock should be missing when the Chief Shepherd appears? Ah, dear ones, this is the time when the Devil is doing everything he can to separate. But what God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

God has joined together the husband and the wife. God has joined together the hearts of parents and children. The Devil is in the separating business, the dividing business. But Jesus has sent His special message with a special messenger, and if we read these books and follow them, friends, we can be among those signs and wonders concerning which Christ said through Isaiah:

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel” Isaiah 8:18.

Let me tell you, a home today where love and peace and unity reigns is indeed a sign and wonder. Do you agree with me? There’re not very many! But *your* home can be that kind of home. Your marriage can be successful. Your work as parents and children together can be successful. Where is the recipe? In these books.

But of course, no recipe produces a dinner. It has to be put into action in the kitchen. Am I right? Yes. A recipe is to follow. A recipe is to implement. Here we have a divine instruction.

But may I tell you, this is more than a recipe because when God speaks to us in the Bible and through the Spirit of Prophecy, there is in the very word itself the power to carry out what is written if we’ll accept it.

I pick up this book, the *Adventist Home*. Here we have a wonderful volume of over five hundred pages dealing with the duties of husbands and wives, parents toward their children, and all that. On page 198, I want you to notice this *far-reaching* statement; how we’re to have success in rearing our children for God, how

we're to have success in accomplishing this work of bringing up our boys and girls to know and love God and obey Him and keep His commandments:

“The best way to educate children to respect their father and mother, is to give them the opportunity of seeing the father offering kindly attentions to the mother and the mother rendering respect and reverence to the father. It is by beholding love in their parents that children are led to obey the fifth commandment and to heed the injunction, ‘Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right’”  
*Adventist Home*, pages 198–199.

How do children learn to be obedient through love? By seeing their parents obedient to God through love and loving one another. That's simple. How do children learn to eat? By watching their parents. How do children learn to talk? Listening to their parents talk. They even come to use the same emphasis, the same pronunciation, don't they? Sure. How do children learn obedience? Through love. By seeing love in the home.

And that's what these books are all about, my friends. But I'll tell you, there's not much on TV that will teach us that. There's not much on the radio that'll lead us in this direction. There's not much in the daily newspapers or the popular magazines that will instruct us in the way of life, the way of love.

The people of this world are chasing phantoms, running first after this thing, and then the other. Listen. The people who heard John the Baptist went out there by the river Jordan apart from the noisy city, and there they heard the spirit of prophecy.

Today my friends, you can make your home a place where Jesus is speaking through the Spirit of Prophecy and as we follow this instruction we can have a little heaven on earth to go to Heaven in.

May I read this again? It is so wonderful:

“The best way to educate children to respect their father and mother, is to give them the opportunity of seeing the father offering kindly attentions to the mother and the mother rendering respect and reverence to the father. It is by beholding love in their parents that children are led to obey the fifth commandment and to heed the injunction, ‘Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right’”  
*Adventist Home*, pages 198–199.

And so this entire volume, *The Adventist Home*, is given us that we may learn these precious lessons.

Then we have another volume, *Child Guidance*. Nearly six hundred pages of priceless instruction on how children may be guided by their parents. You know, about the time this book came out, my wife and I adopted a little girl—a dear little

thing. How we loved her! How we love her still. She's grown up now and has two children of her own. But looking back to that time, I remember she came in one day and I was reading this book. It had just come out, *Child Guidance*. And she said, "Daddy what do those words say?"

And I said, "Child Guidance."

"Oh," she said, "You want to know how to guide me, don't you?"

I said, "That's it."

And oh friends, I'm so thankful for this inspired instruction. Listen. Don't you know that the parents of John, Zacharias and Elizabeth, treasured every word that that angel brought from Heaven on how to train John and get him ready for his work?

Wouldn't you if an angel brought that message to you from Heaven? Friend, an angel *has* brought that message to us from Heaven. Here it is, in *Ministry of Healing*, in *Education*, in *Adventist Home*, in *Child Guidance* and in these nine volumes of the *Testimonies* and throughout *all* the other books. It would be hard to find a single volume of all these dozens and scores, that does not treat somewhere of the duties of husband and wife, parents and children.

I think of these nine *Volumes* of the *Testimonies*. Oh, what masterpieces they are of character analysis. And as you glance down through the table of contents, notice how again and again precious instructions are dealing with this. I'm picking up Volume 2 here. Notice as I pick out a few: "Everyday Religion," "Reform at Home," a chapter for young people, a chapter on true love. This is just the first 150 pages of the book, all that many chapters dealing with young people.

Then I notice as we go a little further: Here's one called "A Birthday Letter" written to a young man, "Letter to an Orphan Boy," "Duties of the Husband and the Wife," "Danger of Confiding Family Troubles," "Duty to Orphans," "True Love at Home," "To an Indulged Daughter," "To a Minister's Wife," "Christian Recreation" All of these in just one volume, dear friends!

Then I pick up *Volume 1*. Let me just glance through that and point out some of these: "Parental Responsibility," "Young Sabbathkeepers," "Duty to Children," "Family Religion," "Unity," "Parents and Children," "Dangers of the Young," "The Minister's Wife," "Address to the Young," "Recreation for Christians." All of this in just one volume!

And so we might go through the other books, dear friends. Have we been given light? Ah, what are we doing with this precious light?

Now let me tell you, friends, the secret to all of this is found in a little statement here—back to this book, *Adventist Home*, page 179. Here's the secret of unity in the church, in the home, between husbands and wives, between parents and children, all the way around:



“To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ. Picture a large circle, from the edge of which are many lines all running to the center” *Adventist Home*, page 179.

Do you get the picture? A big wheel.

“The nearer these lines approach to the *center*, the nearer they are to one another. Thus it is in the Christian life. The closer we come to Christ, the nearer we shall be to one another” *Adventist Home*, page 179.

That’s why, friends, I love to read these books. Do you know what happens to me? Let me tell you about my personal experience.

Many a time as I opened these books, especially these volumes of the *Testimonies*, I find a letter written to Brother G, or Brother H, or Brother I, and I find something here for this Brother I. I find that I can put my name right in there and it fits like a glove on the hand. And I marvel that something written over a hundred years ago to a man in Michigan or Texas can fit so well the needs of *this* man, down here today. *This* is the mark of the Holy Spirit, my friends.

And so, I’m so thankful this morning for what I see Jesus doing in the lives of men and women, boys and girls, as this message of Elijah is allowed to do its work. Really friends, we don’t have to be bound up with all the troubles and problems of this world. True, we have to live on this planet, but as Jesus did two thousand years ago, while our feet walk the paths of earth, our hearts can be at home in Heaven.

We can live Heaven’s life on earth if we will listen to Heaven, if we will take time day by day to read these books and then let our lives be the translations of these books into love and sympathy and kindly action at home, and in the church, and in the community.

May I ask, friends: This day is a day set apart especially as a family day throughout the churches. And as I think of it, I wonder. I wonder if we’d like to consecrate our lives to Jesus. I wonder if we would like to give Him our lives that we may move into this experience of being fully united with Him and one another. That’s what all this is for. We can have heaven on earth to go to Heaven in.

Would you like to do that? Is there somebody here this morning that would like to kneel down where you are and say, “God make me a better husband and father. God make me a better wife and mother. God make me a better obedient child”?

Dear boys and girls, we were looking a little while ago at this wonderful story of how the Sabbath came, but the Sabbath is the sign of obedience to the whole law. And what’s the commandment that comes right after the Fourth Commandment? What is it? The Fifth Commandment. Will all the boys and girls say it with me?

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee”  
Exodus 20:12.

Boys and girls, if you and I fail to be obedient and kind to father and mother, here in God's house today, wouldn't this be the time for us to ask Jesus to forgive us? And then as soon as we can, ask father and mother to forgive us? I had to do that more than once when I was a little boy, and when I was in my teens and later. But oh it feels so good to get close to father and mother when there has been any separation, doesn't it? It feels so good.

So dear ones this morning, whether we're parents or children, or brothers or sisters, or friends, if this morning we'd like to dedicate our lives fully to Jesus; that His precious blood may forgive us where we've failed, and that we may press close to Him and one another, let's kneel together now. If anybody can't kneel, you can bow your head.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee that You love us so much that You've sent us so much light. We thank Thee that the Savior who lives for us to show us how to live, and died for us that our sins might be forgiven, is pleading for us in Heaven this morning and that He's sent His angel in these latter days to give us these glorious revelations down here in our own language, in our own time, that we might have the Word of God magnified.

We thank Thee especially today for this emphasis on family love, family life. We're sorry Lord where we've allowed selfishness to come in and put barriers where there should be unity. God, forgive us. Oh Lord, as husbands and wives, unite us close together by the miracle of Thy love. As parents and children, draw us close, close together.

Where there's been selfishness, take it away. Where there's been hatred, or malice, or scolding, or disobedience, forgive us. And Lord, in the church, take away every coldness, every barrier. And Lord, we pray for the visitors here this morning that may not be members of the church. May they feel that there's a welcome and that Jesus is inviting them to enter this circle of light that is joined in getting ready a people prepared for the Lord. So take us all just now, and we thank Thee. We know You do. In Jesus' name, amen.

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