

# Ellen White and Her Prophetic Gift

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Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James' Version of the Bible.

### **About the Author:**

Doug Baker holds a Master of Arts degree in History and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Biblical Studies. He was an educator for 39 years, including a full professor of History, Philosophy, and World Religions for Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, where he taught fulltime for more than 26 of those years. He also served as the president and director of Builders of Faith, a radio-turned Internet Christian ministry for nearly 30 years, and as the pastor of a local congregation in Oklahoma for 8 years. His hobbies include research and writing. He is the author of several other books as listed below:

*The American Journey: Pre-Columbus to 1877* (with Susan Hutchins)

*The American Journey: Reconstruction to the Present* (with Susan Hutchins)

*Bible Answers*

*The Case for Christianity*

*A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*

*Countdown to Armageddon: How to Survive the Prophetic End Game*

*Jesus and His Teachings*

*A Quest for Ultimate Reality: Does God Exist?*

*A Search for Ultimate Truths: A Philosophical and Historical Journey*

*Unlocking Revelation's Secrets: A Commentary on the Book of Revelation*

Dedicated to Dr. Scott Baker,  
cousin and precious “son” in Jesus

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## PREFACE

I grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist family and accepted the prophetic gift of Ellen White without really thinking about it. Certainly, I never undertook a systematic study of her life and writings apart from a college course in the Spirit of Prophecy. Just about the time I obtained my second college degree in 1980 the church was rocked with the Desmond Ford controversy over the investigative judgment and Ellen White. Although that controversy did not shake my faith in her writings, it did raise important questions, and thus doubts, that I knew needed to be fully answered in my own mind. The most important of these questions are as follows:

- Did Ellen White’s serious injury as a child cause her to “see” visions that she only thought were from God?
- Was Ellen White really a plagiarist?
- Was she hypocritical and dishonest in seeking to hide certain practices involving her diet that were in violation of what she recommended to others?
- What is the precise nature of inspiration and revelation as it operates through prophets?
- Are there degrees of inspiration and/or of revelation?
- Does God supervise a non-canonical prophet in any less rigorous way than He did the Bible writers?
- What is the relationship of her prophetic gift to the Bible?
- Do her writings constitute the last word of what any given Bible text means?
- Could Ellen White ever be wrong about an interpretation of Scripture?
- How did her prophetic gift measure up to that of the Bible prophets who wrote the Scriptures?
- Should her writings be limited to the realm of devotion and pastoral counseling?

This book is an attempt to explain the answers to those questions that I discovered after a thorough personal investigation.

I want to thank my wife Linda for her patient endurance while I was working on this project.

Dear reader, I pray that you will be encouraged to trust in that precious gift that the Lord gave the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to appreciate Ellen White’s writings as never before.

Doug Baker, D.Min.

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