



The Shepherd's Rod[®]

Bible and Spirit of Prophecy *New Light: The Unfolding of Truth* Introduction

Seventh-day Adventists have ever asked the question: *Is there more light to be revealed to the people of God for these last days?* We can be certain that more light was to come to the Adventist church after the death of Ellen G. White. Her writings have ever illuminated and guided the church step-by-step for many years but since her death in 1915 many were left wondering if God had more light to reveal to His people. This candid investigation into the writings of the *Spirit of Prophecy* will sufficiently answer the question if more light was to be revealed to the people of God for these last days.

Opening Prayer Thought

“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth; but it is impossible for him to hold under his power one soul who honestly desires, at whatever cost, to know the truth. Christ is the truth, and the ‘light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.’ [John 1:9.] The Spirit of truth has been sent, to guide men into all truth. And upon the authority of the Son of God it is declared, ‘Seek, and ye shall find.’ ‘If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.’”—*The Great Controversy (1888 ed.)*, pg. 528

New Light: *The Unfolding of Truth*

Is there anymore truth to be revealed for the people of God? What is Satan’s determined purpose?

“There is yet much precious truth to be revealed to the people in this time of peril and darkness, but it is Satan’s determined purpose to prevent the light of truth from shining into the hearts of men. If we would have the light that has been provided for us, we should show our desire for it by diligently searching the word of God.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pg. 25

Answer:

- “*There is yet much precious truth to be revealed...*”

- *“...Satan’s determined purpose is to prevent the light of truth from shining in the hearts of men.”*

Can anyone take the position that there is no more truth to be revealed? Are all of our expositions of scripture without an error? Can I afford to reject truth? What shall be put to the test and why?

“There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation. We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart. There are those who oppose everything that is not in accordance with their own ideas, and by so doing they endanger their eternal interest as verily as did the Jewish nation in their rejection of Christ. The Lord designs that our opinions shall be put to the test, that we may see the necessity of closely examining the living oracles to see whether or not we are in the faith.”—*Review and Herald*, December 20, 1892, par. 1

Answer:

- *“There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error.”*
- *“We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart.”*
- *“The Lord designs that our opinions shall be put to the test, that we may see the necessity of closely examining the living oracles to see whether or not we are in the faith.”*

What is to be revealed to the humble seeker? What is God’s word to be freed from and what must we do when the truth is revealed?

“The prophet of God declares that in the last days knowledge shall be increased. There are new truths to be revealed to the humble seeker. The teachings of God’s word are to be freed from the errors and superstition with which they have been encumbered. Doctrines that are not sanctioned by the Scriptures have been widely taught, and many have honestly accepted them; but when the truth is revealed, it becomes the duty of every one to accept it.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, pg. 186

Answer:

- *“There are new truths to be revealed to the humble seeker.”*

- *“The teachings of God's word are to be freed from the errors and superstition with which they have been encumbered.”*
- *“...when the truth is revealed, it becomes the duty of every one to accept it.”*

Should we think for a moment that there is no more light for the people of God? Does it matter from whom the light is sent? Why does the Lord send light?

"We should all know what is being taught among us; for if it is truth, we need it....No matter by whom light is sent, we should open our hearts to receive it with the meekness of Christ....O, may we act as men who want light!" "The Lord sends light to us to prove what manner of spirit we are of. We are not to deceive ourselves." "We must not for a moment think that there is no more light, no more truth, to be given us."—*Gospel Workers*, pgs. 301, 302 and 310

Answer:

- *“We must not for a moment think that there is no more light, no more truth, to be given us.”*
- *“No matter by whom light is sent, we should open our hearts to receive it with the meekness of Christ....O, may we act as men who want light!”*
- *“The Lord sends light to us to prove what manner of spirit we are of.”*

What should we do if God brings us into connection with those who have received new truth?

“If God brings them in connection with his servants who have received new truth, substantiated by the Word of God, they should accept it with joy. Truth is onward. Truth is upward.”—*Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 3, pg. 331

Answer:

- *“...they should accept it [new truth] with joy.”*

Who are the only ones who will receive greater light?

“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall nor discern or receive it.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pg. 507

Answer:

- *“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light...”*

What will be revealed to him that is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ?

"New light will ever be revealed on the Word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness. Let no one come to the conclusion that no more truth is to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the Word of God. Many gems are *yet* scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pg. 34

Answer:

- *"New light will ever be revealed on the Word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness."*

What will happen to God's people if they do not move from light to greater light?

"God's people must go on from light to a greater light, or they will become, as did the Pharisees, unwilling to receive additional light. They will find themselves in the condition represented by withered, dried-up bottles. In their religious faith they will be unmovable, inflexible, like the withered fig tree dried up by the roots."—*The Signs of the Times*, September 19, 1892, par. 7

Answer:

- *"...they will become, as did the Pharisees, unwilling to receive additional light."*

Is it possible for us to know how this additional light will come?

"Another angel was to come from heaven with a message, and the whole earth was to be lightened with his glory. It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come. It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived. It is not at all untimely or contrary to the ways and works of God to send light to His people in unexpected ways."—*Letters and Manuscripts*, Vol. 6, Lt 22, 1889, par. 28

Answer:

- *"It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come."*

Is there a new development of truth in every age? Is this new truth independent of the old and by what means can we understand the new?

"In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new. ... But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old. He who

rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pg. 127

Answer:

- *“In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation.”*
- *“The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it.”*
- *“It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new.”*

Will new truth contradict the old? How does it affect the old?

“That which was truth in the beginning is truth now. Although new and important truths appropriate for succeeding generations have been opened to the understanding, the present revealings do not contradict those of the past. Every new truth understood only makes more significant the old.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 2, 1886, par. 6

Answer:

- *“Although new and important truths appropriate for succeeding generations have been opened to the understanding, the present revealings do not contradict those of the past. Every new truth understood only makes more significant the old.”*

How is truth treated? What will happen when it’s examined closely?

“The truth will be criticized, and scorned, and derided; but the closer it is examined and tested, the brighter it will shine.”—*The Review and Herald August 20, 1903, paragraph 7*

Answer:

- *“The Truth will be criticized, scorned, and derided...”*
- *“...the closer it is examined and tested, the brighter it will shine.”*

Does new truth meet with hatred and opposition? What will happen to those that are blessed by it?

"Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried."—*The Great Controversy*, pg. 609

Answer:

- *“Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried.”*

Has any man obtained a full understanding of the plan of redemption?

“No truth is more clearly taught in the Bible than that God by his Holy Spirit especially directs his servants on earth in the great movements for the carrying forward of the work of salvation. Men are instruments in the hand of God, employed by him to accomplish his purposes of grace and mercy. Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, adapted to the necessities of his time, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do. But no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption, or even to a perfect appreciation of the divine purpose in the work for his own time. Men do not fully understand what God would accomplish by the work which he gives them to do; they do not comprehend, in all its bearings, the message which they utter in his name.”—*The Great Controversy (1888 ed.)*, pg. 343

Answer:

- *“...no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption...”*

Will the plan of redemption be fully understood?

“The plan of redemption will not be fully understood, even when the ransomed see as they are seen and know as they are known; but through the eternal ages new truth will continually unfold to the wondering and delighted mind. Though the griefs and pains and temptations of earth are ended and the cause removed, the people of God will ever have a distinct, intelligent knowledge of what their salvation has cost.”—*The Great Controversy (1911 ed.)*, pg. 651

Answer:

- *“The plan of redemption will not be fully understood...”*

Are we ever to feel that there is no more truth to be unfolded?

“We are never to feel that there is no more truth to be unfolded to us. The history of the past few years has taught us that the words which Jesus spoke to his disciples are appropriate to us. He said: ‘I have many things to say unto you; but ye cannot bear them now.’”—*Signs of the Times*, October 29, 1894, par. 4

Answer:

- *“We are never to feel that there is no more truth to be unfolded to us.”*

How often does the truth unfold? How are we sanctified?

“New truth is constantly unfolding; at every step, new and clearer light is shining upon the pathway of God’s people, that they may go onward and upward. We are to be sanctified through obedience to the truth. For want of this Bible sanctification, the soul of many a professed Christian has become a desecrated shrine, the haunt of hollow formalism, of selfishness and hypocrisy, pride and passion.”—*Signs of the Times*, March 16, 1882, Art. A, par. 7

Answer:

- *“New truth is constantly unfolding; at every step, new and clearer light is shining upon the pathway of God’s people, that they may go onward and upward.”*
- *“We are to be sanctified through obedience to the truth.”*

What have the majority done in contrast to the few?

“Though a few faithful men arose, from time to time, to proclaim new truth and expose long-cherished error, the majority, like the Jews in Christ’s day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived.”—*The Great Controversy* (1911 edition), pgs. 297, 298

Answer:

- *“...the majority, like the Jews in Christ’s day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived.”*

Will I be accountable if I have believed error? When will all be tested?

“God has given His Word for all to investigate, that they may learn the way to life. None need err if they will submit to the conditions of salvation laid down in the Word of God. Probation is granted to all, that all may form characters for eternal life. An opportunity will be given to all to decide for life or death. Men will be judged according to the measure of light given them. None will be accountable for their darkness and their errors if the light has not been brought to them. They have not sinned in not accepting what has not been given them. All will be tested before Jesus leaves His position in the Most Holy Place.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, pg. 691

Answer:

- *“None will be accountable for their darkness and their errors if the light has not been brought to them.”*
- *“All will be tested before Jesus leaves His position in the Most Holy Place.”*

Does our standing before God depend upon how much truth we know? Who is in a more favorable condition?

“Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession.”—*Desire of Ages*, pg. 239

Answer:

- “Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have.”
- “...even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light...”

What warning is given in respect to truth?

“But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon men, and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible for themselves, or weighing evidence, have confidence in the leading men, and accept the decisions they make, and thus many will reject the very messages God sends to his people, if these leading brethren do not accept them.”—*Gospel Workers (1892/1893 ed.)*, pg. 126

Answer:

- “*But beware of rejecting that which is truth.*”

What are Seventh-day Adventists in danger of doing?

"Even Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of closing their eyes to truth as it is in Jesus, because it contradicts something which they have taken for granted as truth, but which the Holy Spirit teaches is not truth."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pg. 70

Answer:

- *Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of closing their eyes to truth...*

What do I have to learn and unlearn? Are our doctrines as a people infallible?

“We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. God and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed.”—*The Review and Herald, July 26, 1892*, par. 7

Answer:

- “We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.”
- “God and heaven alone are infallible.”

Will God give additional light? What will happen to “old truths”?

“God will give additional light, and old truths will be recovered, and replaced in the frame-work of truth; and wherever the laborers go, they will triumph. As Christ’s ambassadors, they are to search the Scriptures, to seek for the truths that have been hidden beneath the rubbish of error.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890, Art. B, par. 19

Answer:

- “God will give additional light, and old truths will be recovered, and replaced in the frame-work of truth...”
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Is additional light now shining and unto when will it shine? Are we responsible for the light of past generations and for additional light now shining?

“We have all the light which they had, and additional light is continually shining, and will shine more and more unto the perfect day. This generation is responsible, not only for all the light that God has imparted to past generations through his Spirit and word, but for the more abundant light now shining. We cannot be accepted and honored of God in rendering the same service and doing the same works that our fathers did. In order to be blessed of God as they were blessed, we must be faithful in improving the increased light, as they were faithful in improving the light that God gave them. Our heavenly Father requires of his people devotion and obedience according to the light and truth given them, and his claims are right and just. He will accept nothing less than he claims; all his righteous demands must be fully met, or they will remain in force against the transgressor.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 5, 1886, par. 3

Answer:

- “...additional light is continually shining, and will shine more and more unto the perfect day.”
- “This generation is responsible, not only for all the light that God has imparted to past generations through his Spirit and word, but for the more abundant light now shining.”

What will happen to me if I reject additional light?

“He whose heart is not open to receive the bright beams of light from the Sun of Righteousness, will meet with terrible loss; for the light that is in him will become darkness, because of the rejection of additional light, and he will walk in darkness, and lead others out of the path of peace and joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost. He who is thus blinded will cease to grow in grace. The Lord Jesus is waiting to give the light of life to those who are in darkness, in order that they may show forth the praises of Him that hath called them out of darkness into His

marvelous light. If the rejectors of the Lord Jesus Christ could have seen what would be the result of turning away from the world's Redeemer, of cherishing their own ideas and exalting themselves in their own wisdom, what a picture would they have beheld!"—*The Signs of the Times*, November 6, 1893, par. 5

Answer:

- *"...for the light that is in him will become darkness, because of the rejection of additional light"*

Is there to be special light for God's people as they near the closing scenes of this world's History? If so, how would this light come?

"I stated...that there was to be special light for God's people as they neared the closing scenes of this earth's history. Another angel was to come from heaven with a message, and the whole earth was to be lightened with his glory. It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come. It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived. It is not at all unlikely, or contrary to the ways and works of God, to send light to His people in unexpected ways."—*Letter 22, 1889*

Answer:

- *"I stated...that there was to be special light for God's people as they neared the closing scenes of this earth's history."*
- *"It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived."*

How will truths long been in obscurity be revealed? How may His word appear?

"Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth; for God will glorify His word, that it may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pg. 25

Answer:

- *"Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth..."*
- *"...His word...may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it."*

Why do people reject light and truth? Does God give sufficient evidence for all to believe?

"They had leaned to their own understanding, rejecting light and truth until they were the ones who were in strong delusion, believing falsehoods as truth. None are compelled to believe. God gives sufficient evidence that all may decide upon the weight of evidence, but He never has nor

never will remove all chance for doubt, never will force faith. In His Word is a correct line of duty. Principles are laid down which apply to every variety of case. None need to err unless they are better pleased to follow their own perverted imagination than the light of God's revealed Word.”—*Letter 12*, 1869, par. 20

Answer:

- *“They had leaned to their own understanding, rejecting light and truth until they were the ones who were in strong delusion, believing falsehoods as truth.”*
- *“God gives sufficient evidence that all may decide upon the weight of evidence, but He never has nor never will remove all chance for doubt, never will force faith.”*

Who are we in contempt when we do not receive and act upon light from God’s appointed agencies? What does additional light come to do?

“When light comes to the soul through God’s appointed agencies, and it is not received and acted upon, there is manifest a contempt of God, and stubborn resistance increases as additional light comes to convince of error, and manifest truth.”—*The Youth Instructor*, November 30, 1893, par. 4

Answer:

- *“...there is manifest a contempt of God...”*
- *“...additional light comes to convince of error, and manifest truth...”*

What will happen to those who continue to reject light and evidence?

“If men continue to resist light and evidence, they will exhaust God’s forbearance and mercy and then will come the ministry of wrath. The love of God is immeasurable to those who repent, but His justice is firm and uncompromising to those who abuse His longsuffering love.”—*Letters and Manuscripts — Volume 14 (1899), Ms 77, 1899*

Answer:

- *“If men continue to resist light and evidence, they will exhaust God’s forbearance and mercy and then will come the ministry of wrath.”*

Summary

- *“There is yet much precious truth to be revealed...”*
- *“...Satan’s determined purpose is to prevent the light of truth from shining in the hearts of men.”*

- *“There is no excuse for any one in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error.”*
- *“We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart.”*
- *“The Lord designs that our opinions shall be put to the test, that we may see the necessity of closely examining the living oracles to see whether or not we are in the faith.”*
- *“There are new truths to be revealed to the humble seeker.”*
- *“The teachings of God's word are to be freed from the errors and superstition with which they have been encumbered.”*
- *“...when the truth is revealed, it becomes the duty of every one to accept it.”*
- *“We must not for a moment think that there is no more light, no more truth, to be given us.”*
- *“No matter by whom light is sent, we should open our hearts to receive it with the meekness of Christ....O, may we act as men who want light!”*
- *“The Lord sends light to us to prove what manner of spirit we are of.”*
- *“...they should accept it [new truth] with joy.”*
- *“Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light...”*
- *“New light will ever be revealed on the Word of God to him who is in living connection with the Sun of Righteousness.”*
- *“...they will become, as did the Pharisees, unwilling to receive additional light.”*
- *“It would be impossible for us to state just how this additional light would come.”*
- *“In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation.”*
- *“The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it.”*
- *“It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new.”*

- *“Although new and important truths appropriate for succeeding generations have been opened to the understanding, the present revealings do not contradict those of the past. Every new truth understood only makes more significant the old.”*
- *“The Truth will be criticized, scorned, and derided...”*
- *“...the closer it is examined and tested, the brighter it will shine.”*
- *“Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried.”*
- *“...no man, however honored of Heaven, has ever attained to a full understanding of the great plan of redemption...”*
- *“The plan of redemption will not be fully understood...”*
- *“We are never to feel that there is no more truth to be unfolded to us.”*
- *“New truth is constantly unfolding; at every step, new and clearer light is shining upon the pathway of God’s people, that they may go onward and upward.”*
- *“We are to be sanctified through obedience to the truth.”*
- *“...the majority, like the Jews in Christ’s day or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers had believed and to live as they had lived.”*
- *“None will be accountable for their darkness and their errors if the light has not been brought to them.”*
- *“All will be tested before Jesus leaves His position in the Most Holy Place.”*
- *“Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have.”*
- *“...even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light...”*
- *“But beware of rejecting that which is truth.”*
- *Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of closing their eyes to truth...”*
- *“We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.”*
- *“God and heaven alone are infallible.”*

- *“God will give additional light, and old truths will be recovered, and replaced in the frame-work of truth...”*
- *“...additional light is continually shining, and will shine more and more unto the perfect day.”*
- *“This generation is responsible, not only for all the light that God has imparted to past generations through his Spirit and word, but for the more abundant light now shining.”*
- *“...for the light that is in him will become darkness, because of the rejection of additional light”*
- *“I stated...that there was to be special light for God’s people as they neared the closing scenes of this earth’s history.*
- *“It might come in a very unexpected manner, in a way that would not agree with the ideas that many have conceived.”*
- *“Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth...”*
- *“...His word...may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it.”*
- *“They had leaned to their own understanding, rejecting light and truth until they were the ones who were in strong delusion, believing falsehoods as truth.”*
- *“God gives sufficient evidence that all may decide upon the weight of evidence, but He never has nor never will remove all chance for doubt, never will force faith.”*
- *“...there is manifest a contempt of God...”*
- *“...additional light comes to convince of error, and manifest truth...”*
- *“If men continue to resist light and evidence, they will exhaust God’s forbearance and mercy and then will come the ministry of wrath.”*