

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide

Oct | Nov | Dec 2026

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY



NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS

Lesson 4 Study Notes[ABSG-4-2026]
October 17-23



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON STUDY NOTES

Fourth Quarter 2026 | Lesson 4
New Testament Prophets
October 17-23

Purpose

These notes are prepared to simplify and reinforce the weekly Sabbath School lesson for personal devotion, family worship, small-group study, and Sabbath School discussion.

They are designed to help readers engage with the weekly lesson in a clear, practical, and easy-to-understand way, while encouraging deeper study of the original sources.

Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. They are prepared with reference to the Bible, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the writings of Ellen G. White.

However, these notes are not an official publication of, nor endorsed by, the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Readers are encouraged to rely first on the Holy Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the writings of Ellen G. White, as the primary sources for their study and understanding.

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Questions, corrections, or suggestions?

We welcome your feedback as we continue to improve these study notes.

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Sounding the Advent Message

Lesson 4 [Oct 17-23]: Understanding the Memory Text

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all." — 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 (NKJV)

- In the church, some people teach, while others encourage, help, or care for those in need.
- God gives different gifts because His work needs different kinds of service.
- Our gifts may differ, but we serve the same God and share the same purpose.

"There are diversities of gifts..."

- God in His goodness gives each believer different abilities to serve Him and others.
- Some gifts are seen by many, while others are offered quietly where no one notices.
- No gift makes one believer more valuable than another, so use what God has placed in your hands.

"...but the same Spirit."

- Our different gifts come from the same Holy Spirit, who gives them with wisdom and love.
- There is no need to envy someone else's ability or feel forgotten because yours is different.
- Use your gift faithfully instead of wishing you had another person's gift.

"There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord."

- We may serve in different ways, but we all serve the same loving Jesus.
- One person may lead a Bible study, while another visits a lonely church member.
- Both acts of service are precious in His sight when they are done out of love.

"And there are diversities of activities..."

- **God** works through His people in many different ways to **meet the needs** around us.
- You may **encourage** someone today without ever **knowing** how much your **words carried them through**.
- **Serve** faithfully, even when you cannot **see** what God is **doing** through your efforts.

"...but it is the same God who works all in all."

- **God** works through **ordinary** people like you and me to **accomplish His purposes**.
- He can use your **words**, your skills, your time, and your kindness to **strengthen** another person's **faith**.
- Your **gift** is not just for your **benefit**, because it is also a **blessing to others**.

What This Means for You

- **Discover** how you can serve, and **look for needs** you can help meet with the **abilities** God has given you.
- **Stop** comparing yourself with others, because **God** can use you **just as you are**.
- **Appreciate** other people's service, because we **need one another** to **accomplish God's work**.
- **Serve** with love, and let your **gifts point people to God** rather than bring **praise** to yourself.

A Final Thought

- You do not have to **preach** from a **pulpit** to make a **difference for God**.
- You can serve Him by **comforting** the discouraged, helping someone in **need**, or **encouraging** another believer.
- Whatever your **gift**, use it **faithfully**, and **God** can **work through you** to **bless someone else's life**.

October 17: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- A **father** showed his son that his **old car** and his **current car** had the **same engine**.
- In the same way, the **Holy Spirit** inspired **prophets** in **both** the **Old and New Testaments**.
- Their **messages** point us to **Jesus** and God's **plan of salvation**.
- What did **New Testament prophets** do, and how did they **work with apostles**?
- How can we **recognize false prophets** and avoid being **deceived**?
- This week, we will explore these questions and learn why **Jesus** and the **Bible must guide our faith**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will **discover** why **Jesus** is the **promised Prophet**, the **Messiah**, and the **Creator** who **brings salvation**.

Monday: We will **learn** how apostles and prophets **served** the early church and why **Jesus** is **its foundation**.

Tuesday: We will **discover** how prophets **encouraged**, **comforted**, and **strengthened** believers.

Wednesday: We will **learn** about **women** who served as **prophets** and how **Paul prepared Timothy** and **Titus** for **ministry**.

Thursday: We will **examine Jesus' warning** about false prophets and **learn** how **God's Word**, **faith**, **truth**, and **prayer protect us** from **deception**.

God used **prophets** to **guide His people** and **point them to Jesus**. Let us **study** this week to understand their **work** and keep **Jesus** and **His Word** at the **center** of **our faith**.

October 18: Sunday - Jesus as Prophet

Read: Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22; Matthew 16:13–16; John 1:1–5

Summary

- **Moses** was Israel's greatest prophet, yet he **pointed** them to another **Prophet**.
- That Prophet was **Jesus**, and His role was to **speak God's words** and lead us to **life**.
- The people in Jesus' day **recognized** Him as a **prophet**, but they did not **understand** who He really was.
- They thought He was **John the Baptist**, **Elijah**, or **Jeremiah**, for they **saw** Him only as a prophet.
- **Peter** saw **further**, for he **recognized** Jesus as the **Messiah**, the **Son of the living God**.
- But **John** goes **even further**, for he tells us Jesus is the **Word** who was with God and **was God**.
- He is the **Creator**, for all things were **made** through Him.
- So the **Prophet** that Moses **promised** is not just a prophet, but the **Creator Himself**.
- He came to bring us **light** and **eternal life**, so **listen** to this Prophet and **follow Him**.

Question

- Do you **recognize** Jesus as **more than a prophet**?

Answer

- Yes, **Jesus** is the **Prophet** that Moses **promised**, but He is also the **Son of God**, the **Creator**, and the **Savior** who **died for me**.

Reflection

- What does it **mean** to me that the **Creator of the universe** died on the cross for my **sins**, and what does this **teach** me about **God's love**?

Takeaway

- The **cross shows** that God **loved you** before you ever loved Him, and the **Creator** died for you while you were still **far from Him**, so **trust His love** and **follow Him**.

October 19: Monday - Apostles and Prophets

Read: Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 3:5; Acts 15:32

Summary

- God chose apostles and prophets to reveal His message to His people.
- Their work helped establish the church, with Jesus Christ as its foundation and centre.
- God also gave the gift of prophecy to others besides the apostles, such as Judas and Silas, for He used different people to serve His purpose.
- Through His messengers, God revealed His plan of salvation and brought people together through Christ.
- The apostles' message centred on Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and promised return.
- God has preserved their testimony in the Bible, so we can learn the truth about Jesus and His saving work.
- Our beliefs about Jesus must therefore rest on Scripture rather than human opinions or traditions.
- As you study God's Word, you can know Jesus more clearly and place your faith in what He has done for you.

Question

- Why must the Bible have final authority in what we believe about Jesus?

Answer

- The Bible preserves the testimony of God's messengers and gives us a trustworthy foundation for understanding Jesus and His saving work.

Reflection

- Am I allowing God's Word to shape my beliefs, even when it challenges what I have always thought?

Takeaway

- Build your faith on God's Word, not human opinion, and let Scripture lead you to Jesus.

October 20: Tuesday - Functions of New Testament Prophets

Read: 1 Corinthians 14:3; Ephesians 4:11–13; Acts 15:32; Revelation 22:6

Summary

- **God** has not left His people without **help**, for He knows we need **encouragement**, **correction**, and **comfort**.
- He gives **spiritual gifts** to His **church**, and **prophecy** is **one of them**.
- **Prophets** do not mainly **predict** the future, for their work is to **build up**, **encourage**, and **strengthen**.
- They help **believers** grow in **faith**, **unity**, and the **knowledge** of Jesus.
- They may **correct** us when we go **astray**, but they also **comfort** us when we are **struggling** to hold on.
- Their **words** are **faithful** and **true** because they come from **God**.
- Yet we must **test** every message by **Scripture**, for not **every claim** to prophecy is true.
- So **receive** God's encouragement with **faith**, and **use** it to **strengthen others**.

Question

- What are the **main purposes** of prophetic ministry in the **New Testament**?

Answer

- **Prophetic ministry** helps **build up**, **encourage**, and **comfort** believers, guiding the **church** toward unity and spiritual **maturity** in Christ.

Reflection

- How can I **use God's Word** to **encourage** someone who is **struggling** in faith?

Takeaway

- **God** has not left you without **help**. Receive His **encouragement**, **test** every message by **Scripture**, and **use** what you learn to **strengthen others**.

October 21: Wednesday - Female Prophets and Young Pastoral Associates

Read: Luke 2:36–38; Acts 21:9; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:15

Summary

- **God** has always used both **women** and men to **carry out** His **work**.
- You may sometimes feel too **young**, too **old**, or too **inexperienced** to **make a difference**.
- You may look at others who seem more **gifted** and **wonder** what you have to **offer**.
- But **Anna** was **elderly**, yet she **served** God through **prayer** and **worship** and told others about **Jesus**.
- **Philip's four daughters** also **prophesied**, **showing** that the **prophetic gift** was given to **women** too.
- God also worked through young men like **Timothy** and **Titus**, whom **Paul trained** and **entrusted** with **responsibility**.
- Paul did not **dismiss** these young leaders because of their **age**, but **guided** them to grow in **faith**, **character**, and **service**.
- These **examples** show that God's work needs both **faithful servants** and people willing to **prepare** and guide others.
- The **church** grows stronger when people use their **gifts** and **experienced** believers help others **develop** theirs.
- So **consider** how your **abilities**, experience, and **opportunities** can **contribute** to God's work.

Question

- What do the examples of **female prophets** and **young pastoral associates** **teach** us about **serving God**?

Answer

- **God** uses people of **different** ages and backgrounds, and His work grows when they use their gifts **faithfully** and help others **prepare for service**.

Reflection

- What is my **role** in God's work, and how can I do **even more**?

Takeaway

- The **church** needs what you have to offer, **regardless** of your **age**, **gender**, or **background**. **Step forward** in faith, and let **God work through you**.

October 22: Thursday - False Prophets in the New Testament

Read: Matthew 24:23–24; Matthew 7:15–20; Ephesians 6:10–18

Summary

- Jesus warned that false prophets would come with convincing signs and wonders.
- Their deception would be persuasive enough to mislead even sincere believers.
- This reminds us that impressive experiences alone cannot prove that a message comes from God.
- Jesus teaches us to look beyond appearances and examine the fruits of those who claim to speak for Him.
- We must test everything by Scripture, for even persuasive messages can lead us astray.
- But God has not left us defenceless, for He calls us to put on His spiritual armour.
- This armour is truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the Word of God.
- Through prayer, we remain watchful without fear, for our safety lies in knowing Jesus.

Question

- How can we prepare ourselves to stand firm against spiritual deception?

Answer

- We can stand firm by relying on God's strength, studying His Word, practising its teachings, and praying for wisdom and discernment.

Reflection

- Am I building my faith on God's Word and daily dependence on Him, so that I can recognize and resist deception?

Takeaway

- Put on God's spiritual armour, stand firm in His Word, and do not let appearances lead you away from Jesus.

October 23: Friday - Keeping Jesus and His Word at the Center

Read: Steps to Christ, p. 69; Selected Messages, book 3, pp. 29–30; The Desire of Ages, p. 826

Summary

- You can know **many** things about **Jesus** and still need to **grow closer** to Him.
- **Growth** comes from **staying** connected to **Jesus** through **prayer**, **trust**, and **obedience**.
- **Ellen White** pointed people to **Jesus** because she knew He alone is the **source** and **finisher** of our **faith**.
- She also pointed people to the **Bible** and urged them to **build** their **faith** and **life** on it.
- Her **writings** were meant to **lead** people to **Scripture**, not to **replace** it or make them **depend** on her.
- **God's Word** **changes** us when we **receive** its **truth** and put it into **practice**.
- **Genuine** spiritual **teaching** brings us **closer** to **Jesus** and **agrees** with **Scripture**.
- When **Jesus** and His **Word** are at the **center**, our **faith grows** and our lives **reflect** His **love**.

Question

- Why must **Jesus** and the **Bible** **remain** at the **centre** of our **Christian experience**?

Answer

- **Jesus** is the **source** of our **spiritual life**, and the **Bible** **guides** our **faith** and **practice** so that we can **know** Him and **follow** His **truth**.

Reflection

- Am I simply **learning** about **Jesus** and **reading** His **Word**, or am I allowing both to **shape** the way I **live**?

Takeaway

- **Stay close** to **Jesus**, **live** by His **Word**, and let your life **reflect** His **love**.