A. The prophetic manifestation in the antediluvian period

- During the first generations of humanity, the descendants of Seth called on the name of God, but the descendants of Cain did not (Gen. 4:16, 26). By the seventh generation, there was a marked contrast between the two groups: Lamech was violent and polygamous; but Enoch walked with God (Gen. 4:19, 23; Gen. 5:22).
- From that moment on, everything rapidly degenerated. The sons of God (descendants of Seth) married the daughters of men (descendants of Cain), and turned away from God until "every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:1-5).
- For this reason, God decided to destroy sinful humanity (Gen. 6:6-7). But, before doing so, he gave them an opportunity to turn away from sin and be saved through his prophet: Noah, a preacher of righteousness (Gen. 6:8, 11-14; 2 Pet. 2:5).

B. The prophetic manifestation during the period of the judges

- After the death of Joshua and the elders who succeeded him, the people of Israel became corrupt and God had to withdraw his protection from them (Judges 2:7, 11-15).
- During that period, God helped his people in two ways: He sent them prophets to call them to repentance. (Judges 6:8-10); and he sent them judges to save them (Judges 2:16). In Deborah, both roles were combined (Judges 4:4).
- Deborah conveyed God's command to General Barak: to liberate Israel from Jabin by defeating Sisera. (Judges 4:6-7). This was militarily impossible, but Deborah did not hesitate to deliver the message, and she persuaded Barak to accept the mission and lead the people (Judges 4:8-10).
- After Israel's impressive victory, Deborah and Barak directed the people's attention to the true Liberator, the one who had granted them the victory. To do this, they sang together a song of praise to God for their great deliverance (Judges 5:1-2).

C. The prophetic manifestation during the period of the kings

- Despite divine efforts, the period of the judges was characterized by a continuous relapse into sin (Judges 2:18-19). The establishment of the Davidic monarchy seemed to curb this trend, but before long Israel was divided, and its kings (especially in the northern kingdom) led the people into apostasy.
- In the time of King Ahab, Elijah was the only prophet of God, while Jezebel supported 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah (1 Kings 18:19).
- When Elijah asked the people to repent, they did not answer (1 Kings 18:21). After a great miracle, the people finally accepted God (1 Kings 18:39).
- Like the modern-day Elijah, our mission is to call to repentance a world that denies God.

D. The prophetic manifestation during the period of exile

- God sent many prophets to the northern kingdom—Israel—but they did not repent. Finally, he had to allow the Assyrians to exile them (2 Kings 17:5-6).
- The southern kingdom –Judah– had remained more or less faithful to God, but, because of their sins, they too had to be taken into exile in Babylon (2Ch. 36:20).
- From the beginning of the national apostasy during the period of the judges to the Babylonian exile, eight centuries passed. How patient God is with the sinner! (Neh. 9:30).
- But even in exile, God did not forget his people. There, too, he sent prophets like Ezekiel and Daniel. When the people turned back to God, he brought them back to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:22-23).

E. The prophetic manifestation for the end times

- Jesus revealed to John the history of the successor to the people of Israel as God's chosen people: the Christian church (Rev. 1:1). This history shows a church that, like Israel, also apostatized, and it also shows the group of believers who will remain faithful until the end times.
- Interspersed with visions of judgment and destruction, Revelation gives us words of hope to encourage God's sons and daughters to remain faithful.
- John wrote that, when Jesus returns, the overcomers will have a place in the New Jerusalem, capital of a New Earth, where we will live eternally without suffering sickness, death, or pain (Rev. 21:1-7).
- In these last days, God has also sent us a prophetess to expand our knowledge of the events that are to come, and to help and guide us in our Christian life.

ANNEX: HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF ELLEN G. WHITE

Ellen G. White's prophetic ministry spanned more than 60 years. Through her, God sent various visions and messages that gradually changed according to the needs that arose in the nascent Seventh-day Adventist Church.

- 1844-1863. She encouraged and comforted believers after the great disappointment
- ± 1863-1869. She promoted pro-health reform
- ± 1870-1879. She helped develop the Adventist educational system
- ± 1880-1900. She balanced Adventist theology on justification
- ± 1901-1903. She participated in the reorganization of the denominational structure