

# Questions About the Dreams & Visions of Ellen White

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Ellen G. White claimed to have seen Jesus in numerous visions, dreams, and personal spiritual experiences throughout her life. Her encounters with Jesus and other heavenly beings are foundational to her prophetic claims and to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Based on her own writings, here are some of her most notable experiences of seeing Jesus:

An early, comforting dream: When she was about 15 years old and struggling with feelings of unworthiness, White had a dream in which she was led into a room and saw Jesus. He smiled and, placing his hand on her head, said, "Fear not". This personal, supernatural dream profoundly comforted her.

Her first prophetic vision: In December 1844, shortly after the Great Disappointment, White had her first prophetic vision. She saw the "Advent people" traveling on a narrow path toward the city of God. In this vision, Jesus was seen walking just ahead of them, leading them toward heaven.

The Second Coming of Christ: As described in her book *Early Writings*, White was given a vision of Christ's return, where she saw him coming on a great white cloud, "wrapped in flames of fire." She described his "lovely person" and how his eyes, "as a flame of fire," searched his children.

The heavenly sanctuary: In a February 1845 vision, White was shown the heavenly sanctuary. She saw the Father and the Son on a throne and described Jesus's "lovely person." She observed Jesus, as the High Priest, standing before his Father, interceding for his people.

## Answer:

Thank you for this thoughtful and well-documented overview of Ellen G. White's visionary experiences. Your summary reflects key moments that have shaped both her prophetic ministry and the theological framework of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church. Here's a response that puts these experiences into a biblical and doctrinal context:

### **Response: What Do Ellen G. White's Visions of Jesus Mean?**

Yes, Ellen G. White **undeniably claimed to have seen Jesus** in numerous visions and dreams throughout her life—each experience leaving a profound spiritual and theological impact on her ministry and message. Her encounters align closely with the biblical model of prophetic callings throughout Scripture.

Let's break this down clearly and respectfully.

#### **1. Her Experiences Mirror the Biblical Pattern of Prophets**

From Moses to Isaiah, Daniel to John the Revelator, **many biblical prophets were given supernatural visions** of heaven and divine beings—including the pre-incarnate Christ or God on His throne:

- **Isaiah 6:1–5** – Isaiah saw “the Lord sitting on a throne... and the train of His robe filled the temple.”
- **Daniel 7:9–14** – Daniel sees the “Ancient of Days” and the “Son of Man” coming in the clouds.
- **Revelation 1:12–18** – John sees the glorified Christ with eyes like fire, a voice like many waters, and a face shining like the sun.

Ellen White's visionary experiences fit within this same **biblical tradition of God revealing heavenly realities to His messengers**.

#### **2. She Never Claimed Divinity or Apostolic Authority**

Even though Ellen White saw Jesus, she **never claimed to be an Apostle or to add to the canon of Scripture**. She was consistent in saying her role was **not to replace the Bible**, but to lead people back to it:

**“Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light.”**

— *Review and Herald*, Jan. 20, 1903

This quote clarifies her role: not as the foundation, but as a light pointing back to Scripture and Christ. Her visions and dreams were intended to **strengthen the church**, warn of danger, and encourage faithfulness—not to elevate herself.

### 3. Her Most Notable Visions of Jesus:

You rightly highlight a few key experiences:

#### ✓ Comforting Dream at Age 15

- Jesus speaks to her personally, saying “**Fear not**”—a powerful echo of Luke 1:30 and John 14:1.

#### ✓ First Vision (1844)

- She sees **Jesus walking with His people** on the narrow path—symbolic of His guidance in a dark, post-disappointment world.

#### ✓ Vision of the Second Coming

- Found in *Early Writings*, she describes Christ’s return in language reminiscent of **Matthew 24:30**, **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**, and **Revelation 19:11–16**.

#### ✓ Heavenly Sanctuary (Feb 1845)

- Her insights into Christ’s **heavenly priestly ministry** are grounded in **Hebrews 8–10**, where Jesus is described as our High Priest interceding in the heavenly sanctuary.

### 4. Prophetic Role — Not Apostolic

While **Apostles were chosen to lay the foundation of the early church** (Ephesians 2:20), Ellen White saw herself as a **messenger**, not as one with apostolic authority. Her role aligns more with **the prophetic gift mentioned in Acts 2:17**:

**“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy...”**

In that sense, her visions of Jesus were **confirmations of a prophetic gift**, not a declaration of new foundational doctrine or apostolic status.

### In Summary:

Biblical Prophets	Ellen White
Saw God or Jesus in visions	✓ Yes
Called to speak to God's people	✓ Yes
Added to biblical canon	✗ No
Pointed people back to Scripture	✓ Yes
Claimed apostolic status	✗ No
Saw Jesus in heavenly ministry	✓ Yes (e.g., heavenly sanctuary)

### Final Thought

Ellen White's visions of Jesus—such as seeing Him in the clouds, interceding in the heavenly sanctuary, or comforting her in youth—are **rich with spiritual meaning and biblical harmony**. They don't place her above Scripture or into apostolic succession, but they **affirm her prophetic calling** in a time when God is preparing a people for Christ's return.

**“Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” — 2 Chronicles 20:20**