

Keepers of the Flame

Summary Points-Episode V

1. Ellen and her twin sister, Elizabeth, were born in Gorham, Maine, on November 26, 1827.
2. The girls were among 8 children born to Robert and Eunice Harmon.
3. When she was 9, a schoolmate threw a stone, which broke her nose and left her in a coma for three weeks.
4. She was unable to concentrate, and her hand trembled. Therefore, she dropped out of school.
5. In March, 1840, she heard William Miller preach on the soon coming of Jesus.
6. In June, 1842, she was baptized into the Methodist church.
7. In September, 1843, the Harmones were expelled from the Methodist church for accepting Miller's Advent Message.
8. Ellen stated that 1844 was the happiest year of her life, followed by bitter disappointment, after the October 22 experience.
9. In December, 1844, when most of the Adventists had given up, Ellen received her first vision, the first of some 2000 that she would receive during her lifetime.
10. During visions, she was unconscious of her surroundings, and did not breathe. Visions ranged from very short duration to as long as four hours.
11. Some were given in public settings, while others were experienced while in prayer or at other private settings. She repeated the word "Glory" three times at the beginning, and if she gestured with her arms, other people were unable to move them. Her eyes were open and looking upward. It should be noted that she did not always experience these physical phenomenon.
12. During the first 30 years of her ministry, she was more likely to have visions, while during the last 40 years, she was more likely to have dreams.
13. Ellen was visiting her friend, Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes, and having worship with three other young women, when she was given her first vision.
14. In her vision, she described seeing her fellow Adventists walking along a straight and narrow path, which was illuminated from behind by a great light. An angel told her that this light represented the "Midnight Cry" of the Millerite movement. This light prevented the people from stumbling. Ahead was Jesus leading them to the Holy City. As long as the people kept their eyes upon Jesus, they were safe. She also viewed the Second Coming and the Resurrection. She even witnessed the journey to the New Jerusalem and saw many of its wonders. This vision demonstrated the relevance of the Millerite movement.
15. In her second vision, one week later, she was called by God to be His messenger, and she accepted.
16. William Foy heard her speak and confirmed that the Lord had given him the same message.
17. In February, 1845, she was given the vision regarding the Heavenly Sanctuary, confirming Hiram Edson's interpretation of the "Cleansing of the Sanctuary" as referring to the Heavenly Sanctuary.
18. Ellen's vision in 1846 confirmed the teachings of Joseph Bates regarding the sanctity of the seventh-day Sabbath.
19. The gift of prophecy is not given as a substitute for Bible study, but rather to confirm what other people had discovered through the study of the scriptures.
21. On August 30, 1846 Ellen and James White were married, and they soon began keeping the Sabbath.
22. In April, 1847 during a visit the Stockbridge Howland's home, Ellen received a vision of the Most Holy place with the Fourth commandment highlighted, confirming their belief in the Sabbath.
23. From April, 1848 to December, 1850, twenty week-end Sabbath Conferences were held. During this time they were studying the Bible, and only when they could proceed no further, would Ellen receive another vision to help direct them.
24. In November, 1848, she received the vision regarding the publishing work, shown as "streaks of light, which would go around the world."
25. In 1849, James White began to publish the Present Truth, later to be known as the Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, now known as the Adventist Review.