



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of February 28 – March 6, 2015
Lesson: **Book of Proverbs, Lesson 10**

SABBATH – Behind the Mask

(Memory text) **Proverbs 25:6** – “Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:”

The kingdom of heaven expresses humbleness. The Creator of the universe, Jesus, became a humble, suffering servant, all because he wanted to save us sinners.

Luke 14:11

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Jesus' words in Luke 14 are contrary to the actions of the man of sin:

2 Thess. 2:4

Who opposeth and **exalteth himself above all that is called God**, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Sentinel, May 21, 1995

Perhaps the boldest thing, the most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. "The Day of the Lord" (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church's sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy." (*Sentinel, Pastor's page, Saint Catherine Catholic Church, Algonac, Michigan, May 21, 1995*)

The Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

Sunday is our mark of authority...the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact.

The Great Controversy, p. 446

The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments. Says Daniel, of the little horn, the papacy, 'He shall think to change the times and the law.' Dan. 7:25, Revised Version. And Paul styled the same power the 'man of sin' who was to exalt himself above God. One prophecy is a complement of the other. Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God. And whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be **a mark of allegiance to the pope** in the place of God.



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The pope has exalted himself, it says, above God. How can a power actually do this? It's by changing the fourth commandment – the Sabbath – to Sunday. Daniel 7:25 says he will “think to change times and laws.” The Sabbath points to Jesus as the Creator of this world. He is the true God, and therefore by this change the Devil has sought to destroy anything and everything that would exalt Jesus, and instead Satan seeks to, through the power of the Papacy, to exalt himself over God (Isa. 14:13).

Never should we think “we have arrived”. We are children of the most High God. Any righteous act we could ever do is like a filthy rag (Isa. 64:6). It is God who works in and through us (1 Cor. 12:6). All the glory goes to him (Rev. 14:7).

SUNDAY – THE MYSTERY OF GOD

The lesson starts out quoting a physicist David Deutsch. This man is an atheist and does not believe in God, and believes we evolved (see Wikipedia article David Deutsch). Why does the lesson quote such an author?

1888 Materials, p. 593

Brethren... We are not here to study infidel authors, to open our minds to the suggestions of the devil. We are here to get ready for the judgment, and we are right on the borders of the eternal world.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 440

In order to obtain an education, many think it essential to study the writings of infidel authors, because these works contain many bright gems of thought. But who was the originator of these gems of thought? It was God, and God only. He is the source of all light. Why then should we wade through the mass of error contained in the works of infidels for the sake of a few intellectual truths, when all truth is at our command?

Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 310

I am willing to be taught by Him who created the heavens and the earth, by Him who set the stars in their order in the firmament and appointed the sun and the moon to do their work. I need not go to infidel authors. I choose to be taught of God.

What is the “Mystery of God”?

“The mystery of God” is finished under the seventh trumpet and the prophets have declared this:

Revelation 10:7

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.



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What is “the mystery of God” that was announced by the prophet?

Romans 16:25, 26

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

But now is made manifest (or revealed), and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

The mystery that Paul is speaking of is the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every time the Apostle Paul uses the word "mystery" it's in the context of the preaching of the gospel. Get a Concordance and check it out for yourself. The "mystery" is salvation through Jesus Christ - that God would become flesh. And wasn't this announced by the prophetic scriptures? Absolutely, and is this the same thing we found in Revelation 10:7? Yes, notice...

Revelation 10:7

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

So if according to Paul the mystery of God is the preaching of the gospel - what must it mean here when it says the mystery of God should be finished? It means the preaching of the gospel is over and probation has closed. And when is it that “the mystery of God” (or the preaching of the gospel) is finished? It's under the period of the 7th Trumpet – when the angel begins to sound. So clearly the seventh trumpet is the close of probation and the return of Jesus.

MONDAY – THE FOOL AS WISE

Proverbs 26:11, 12 -- As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly. Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

What is a “dog” that returns to his vomit? Obviously he is a fool but let's look a little deeper. A dog can be wicked people (Ps. 22:16), or a sleepy, lazy, greedy, blind watchman that won't warn the people of danger and relies on their own wisdom (Isa. 56:10, 11), and a dog can be an evil worker (Phil. 3:2).

Peter sums it up for us and says a dog who returns to his vomit is a person who becomes a Christian and obeys the Lord and then goes back to his wicked ways (2 Peter 2:20-22).

The lesson question is asked: How often are you tempted to compromise on what you know are core values, core truths?



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Desire of Ages, p. 356

Jesus Himself never purchased peace by compromise. His heart overflowed with love for the whole human race, but He was never indulgent to their sins. He was too much their friend to remain silent while they were pursuing a course that would ruin their souls,—the souls He had purchased with His own blood. He labored that man should be true to himself, true to his higher and eternal interest. The servants of Christ are called to the same work, and they should beware lest, in seeking to prevent discord, they surrender the truth. They are to “follow after the things which make for peace” (Romans 14:19); but real peace can never be secured by compromising principle. And no man can be true to principle without exciting opposition. **A Christianity that is spiritual will be opposed by the children of disobedience.** But Jesus bade His disciples, “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.” Those who are true to God need not fear the power of men nor the enmity of Satan. In Christ their eternal life is secure. Their only fear should be lest they surrender the truth, and thus betray the trust with which God has honored them.

Acts of the Apostles, p. 565

The directions laid down in the word of God leave no room for compromise with evil. The Son of God was manifested that He might draw all men unto Himself. He came not to lull the world to sleep, but to point out the narrow path in which all must travel who reach at last the gates of the City of God. His children must follow where He has led the way; at whatever sacrifice of ease or selfish indulgence, at whatever cost of labor or suffering, they must maintain a constant battle with self.

Desire of Ages, p. 738

All who compromise with sin will gain only sorrow and ruin.

The Great Controversy, p. 45

After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children’s children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

Never for a moment should we compromise even in what we might consider to be a little thing. We would then give Satan a foothold into our lives.



TUESDAY – THE SLUGGARD

How many times have we refused an opportunity to witness, to warn, or even to comfort someone all because we just didn't want to get involved – or just being lazy? The kingdom of heaven gives us an example that none of us are not to sit around.

In Revelation 1:1 we have recorded the process of how the message of Revelation was given. It's very important to understand the process of inspiration. The Father gives it to Jesus. And isn't Jesus called the Word of God? (John 1:1) In other words Jesus is actually somebody else's Word – he is the Father's Word. Jesus said "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (John 5:30) and he also said that his words are not his own, but the Father's (John 14:10).

When Jesus spoke this world into existence He was implementing the plans of his Father. Jesus is the instrument of his Father. Then Jesus gives it to the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit gives it to the angels, and the angel gives it to John (or the prophet), and the prophet gives it to the churches. When the churches receive the message – what are they supposed to do with it? They are to assimilate it and then give it to the world.

So here is the process in the giving of the message:

Father >>> Jesus >>> Holy Spirit >>> angels >>> the prophets >>> the churches >>> to the world

Someone may say that Revelation 1:1 doesn't mention the Holy Spirit – and this is true. But we know the Holy Spirit is involved in the giving of the message to the churches because after each message to each of the seven churches it says "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." The Holy Spirit does what Jesus says so he must be next in the chain of command. And the Holy Spirit gives the message to the angels. This way everyone is active in heaven. This is a lesson for us.

The Holy Spirit and the angels

How does the Holy Spirit impart the information? The Holy Spirit doesn't directly give the message - it does it through the ministration of angels. We usually don't emphasize this point enough.

We read in 2 Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." But it was the Holy Spirit who told the angel who told the prophet. And this is why angels are called ministering spirits, because they are emissaries of the Holy Spirit like the Holy Spirit is the emissary of Jesus.

Angels are extremely important in the plan of salvation. They guide, they protect, and they bring truth, and these are all qualities of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit - through the angels - does these things.

Who gave the gift of tongues? It was when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they spoke with tongues. Was it the Holy Spirit directly? Or was it perhaps the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the angels?

On the day of Pentecost there were two natural phenomenon - or two elements of nature: (1) tongues of fire and (2) a mighty rushing wind. In Hebrews 1 we find some very interesting language about the angels.

Hebrews 1:7



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And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels **spirits**, and his ministers a **flame of fire**.

The word “spirits” is the Greek word “pneuma” which means wind or breath. So who was it that actually gave the gift of tongues? It was God through the Holy Spirit - but the Holy Spirit does it through the ministration of the angels. The Upper Room must have been loaded with angels.

Angels are very actively involved in the affairs of the church and the apostles, but they are really performing the work of the Holy Spirit.

What does it say in Genesis on who confused their tongues?

Genesis 11:6, 7

And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Go to, let **us** go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Take note that Genesis says "**us**" – meaning the Godhead. Now notice what the Spirit of Prophecy says about the Tower of Babel:

Spiritual Gifts, vol. 3, p. 97

They exalted themselves against God. But he would not permit them to complete their work. They had built their tower to a lofty height, **when the Lord sent two angels to confound them in their work.**

So was it God or was it two angels who confounded their language at the Tower of Babel? It was God **through** the ministration of the two angels.



WEDNESDAY – THE FRIEND AS ENEMY

Proverbs 27:5, 6 – “Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” And then the question is asked “When can rebuke be a sign of love?”

Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 128

...few know anything of the Spirit of God as a reprover...

God is love, but God is also justice. If we dwell only on the love side of God’s character we misrepresent his character and develop a false sense of who he is.

Leviticus 19:17

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

This makes it personal. We all have a duty to help, by warnings and reproofs, our brother or sister when they have fallen into sin. Sometimes when we fall into sin we can deceive ourselves into thinking we haven’t really done anything that terrible. This is one of the reasons why we need reproofs and warnings.

Hebrews 12:5

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 329

Reproofs always hurt human nature. Many are the souls that have been destroyed by the unwise sympathy of their brethren; for, because the brethren sympathized with them, they thought they must indeed have been abused, and that the reprover was all wrong and had a bad spirit. The only hope for sinners in Zion is to fully see and confess their wrongs, and put them away. Those who step in to destroy the edge of sharp reproof that God sends, saying that the reprover was partly wrong and the reproof was not just right, please the enemy. Any way that Satan can devise to make the reproofs of none effect will accomplish his design. Some will lay blame upon the one whom God has sent with a message of warning, saying, He is too severe; and in so doing they become responsible for the soul of the sinner whom God desired to save, and to whom, because He loved him, He sent correction, that he might humble his soul before God and put his sins from him. These false sympathizers will have an account to settle with the Master by-and-by for their work of death.

The Greek words for “rebuke” is “epitimao” (as used in 2 Tim. 4:2). The Strong’s definition is “1) to show honour to, to honour 2) to raise the price of”. That changes everything, doesn’t it? Our only motive for rebuking should only be motivated by love in the sense that we want to make someone a better person and follower of Jesus.



THURSDAY – THE ENEMY AS FRIEND

1 Peter 2:21, 22

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Guile was not a part of Christ's character, neither will it be of the 144,000 (Rev. 14:5).

What is guile? Dictionary.com defines guile as "insidious cunning in attaining a goal; crafty or artful deception; duplicity," and synonyms are trickery, artfulness, deception, cunning, and treachery. Isn't this a fitting description of Lucifer and his rebellion in heaven?

The Great Controversy, p. 497, 498

And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority....

He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing **sophistry** and **fraud** to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a **cloak of falsehood** he had gained an advantage....

They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. Satan had, at first, **concealed** his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God. He claimed to be seeking to promote the honor of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of heaven. While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had **artfully** made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction....

(p. 498) In His dealing with sin, God could employ only righteousness and truth. Satan could use what God could not-- **flattery and deceit**. He had sought to falsify the word of God and had misrepresented His plan of government before the angels, claiming that God was not "just" in laying laws and rules upon the inhabitants of heaven; that in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, He was seeking merely the exaltation of Himself.

Jesus had no guile in his mouth and if we are to reflect his character fully there won't be any in ours either. It seems God hates this sin more than any other.