



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Jul 4 – Jul 10, 2015
Lesson #2: **Biblical Missionaries**

SABBATH – Abraham: The First Missionary

Many get this idea that in some way the circumcision of Abraham had something to do with him being righteous before God. This is totally false as Abraham was saved by faith and not by any act or works.

(Genesis 15:6) And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for **righteousness**.

God had promised Abraham a son from his own loins and Abraham was about 84 years old and Abraham trusted God at this time and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

Now about 15 years later, after Abraham was justified by faith, he was circumcised. He was 99 years old at this time.

(Genesis 17:24) And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

So very clearly the external act of circumcision did not save or justify Abraham as God justified him before he was circumcised.

Like Abraham, those of faith will be justified.

(Galatians 3:6, 7) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Who were all the promises in the Old Testament made to?

(Galatians 3:16, 26-29) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

To Abraham and his... seeds? No, it just says Abraham and his "seed" (singular).
The seed is Jesus, but now what about us?

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Here's the key verse:

29 And **if** ye be Christ's, **then** are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Those who join Christ and are justified by faith just like Abraham was, they will be heirs to all the promises of the Old Testament. The words "if" and "then" make this a conditional promise.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – July 11, 2015

A Quick Summary:

1. The promises were made to Abraham and his seed.
2. And the seed is who or whom? Is it Israel? No, the seed is Christ.

When anyone accepts Christ and is baptized and joins with Him, then all the promises that are made to Jesus are also made to the believer.

SUNDAY – The Call of Abraham

Very highly recommended reading for this lesson is Patriarch's and Prophets, chapter 11, The Call of Abraham. Some excerpt will be provided.

(PP, 126) Abraham's unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. To him, faith was "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Verse 1. Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead. "By faith he became a sojourner in the land of promise, as in a land not his own, dwelling in tents, with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise." Hebrews 11:9, R.V.

How many of us resist the idea of country living as instructed by the Lord through Ellen G. White?

(The Adventist Home, p. 136) It is not God's will that His people shall settle in the cities, where there is constant turmoil and confusion. Their children should be spared this, for the whole system is demoralized by the hurry and rush and noise.--Country Living, p. 30.

(The Adventist Home, p. 139) The time has come when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it that may be cultivated.--Country Living, p. 24.

(The Adventist Home, p. 141) Do not consider it a privation when you are called to leave the cities and move out into the country places. Here there await rich blessings for those who will grasp them.--Country Living, p. 14.

As we can see country living will strengthen and build faith and character whereas the city has too many evil influences that will deaden our faith. But there is another big reason why we should move our families to the country: The Mark of the Beast issue.

(The Adventist Home, p. 141) Again and again **the Lord has instructed** that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, **where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one.** We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.--Country Living, pp. 9, 10.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – July 11, 2015

How many would be willing to be as Abraham and leave our homes and jobs for a rural and country setting that God will choose? We come up with so many excuses such as: “How will I make a living?” and “My children will have no friends to be around.” How about “I’ve been at my job for a long time and if I leave I’ll lose my retirement.” While these “appear” to be valid points, they are nothing more than evidences of our lack of faith in God. We should be aiming for the country life as soon as possible. Heaven is to be our home not this earth. It’s time we stop preparing for old age on this earth without preparing for the crisis that is about to hit the world.

(PP, 129) ...[Abraham] would not allow circumstances to shake his faith in God's word.

Note: There is a nice compilation on the subject of country living found in Last Day Events, starting on page 94.

A must read!

(PP, 129-130) The Lord in His providence had brought this trial upon Abraham to teach him lessons of submission, patience, and faith-- lessons that were to be placed on record for the benefit of all who should afterward be called to endure affliction. God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. He permitted affliction to come upon Job, but He did not forsake him. He allowed the beloved John to be exiled to lonely Patmos, but the Son of God met him there, and his vision was filled with scenes of immortal glory. God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others. "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil." Jeremiah 29:11. The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.

God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service. He shows them their own weakness, and teaches them to lean upon Him; for He is their only help and safeguard. Thus His object is attained. They are educated, trained, and disciplined, prepared to fulfill the grand purpose for which their powers were given them. When God calls them to action, they are ready, and heavenly angels can unite with them in the work to be accomplished on the earth.



MONDAY – Abraham’s Testimony to the Kings

It is without any doubt that any victory Abraham had was only because of his implicit faith in God. God honors that faith and gave Abraham the victory.

The day is just upon us when God’s people will have to stand before the rulers of this world and bear testimony to the truth. God will give us the courage and the words to speak. In other words he will give us the victory.

(Psalm 119:46) I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

(Maranatha, p. 252) The time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. **Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world's great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures.**

(Matthew 10:17, 18) But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And **ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake**, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

(The Great Controversy, p. 591) Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

(Maranatha, p. 252) You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith. **Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused, and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed.** Let no one imagine that he has no need to study, because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you.

(1888 Materials, p. 534) We do not go deep enough in our search for truth. **Every soul who believes present truth will be brought where he will be required to give a reason of the hope that is in him.** The people of God will be called upon to stand before kings, princes, rulers, and great men of the earth, and they must know that they do know what is truth. They must be converted men and women. God can teach you more in one moment by his Holy Spirit than you could learn from the great men of the earth. The universe is looking upon the controversy that is going on upon the earth. At an infinite cost, God has provided



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – July 11, 2015

for every man an opportunity to know that which will make him wise unto salvation. How eagerly do angels look to see who will avail himself of this opportunity!

How will we be a witness of the truth to kings and rulers when we refuse to study God's word like it was a hidden treasure? It is only by hearing and reading his word (along with prayer and obedience to everything revealed to us) can we build the needed faith to stand. We need "the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12), this is the same faith Abraham developed. He was actually going to sacrifice his only son – that's how strong his faith in God's word was.

TUESDAY – Exemplar of Faith

Highlighted for discussion is Hebrews 11:8-19. Verse 10 and 16 are key verses:

(10) For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

(16) But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

We must constantly, as we go through life, keep this ever in mind. We have become so comfortable that a move to go somewhere else, on the command of the Lord, is something unthought-of and out of the question. Let's face it we love this earth and are making plans as if Jesus isn't going to return.

(Child Guidance, p. 225) This act of faith in Abraham (the almost sacrifice of Isaac) is recorded for our benefit. It teaches us the great lesson of confidence in the requirements of God, however close and cutting they may be; and it teaches children perfect submission to their parents and to God. By Abraham's obedience we are taught that nothing is too precious for us to give to God.

(Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 145) This great act of faith is penciled on the pages of sacred history to shine forth upon the world as an illustrious example to the end of time. Abraham did not plead that his old age should excuse him from obeying God. He did not say: "My hairs are gray, the vigor of my manhood is gone; who will comfort my waning life when Isaac is no more? How can an aged father spill the blood of an only son?" No; God had spoken, and man must obey without questioning, murmuring, or fainting by the way.

We need the faith of Abraham in our churches today, to lighten the darkness that gathers around them, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God's love and dwarfing spiritual growth. Age will never excuse us from obeying God. Our faith should be prolific of good works, for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing. But He requires of us an entire surrender of the faculties. The mind and heart, the whole being, must be given to Him, or we fall short of becoming true Christians.



WEDNESDAY – Abraham, the Wanderer

The lesson brings out the point that Abraham did not believe (have faith in) God when God said to him that he would have a son with Sarah. And we know the story of course. But in light of Abraham's unfaithfulness, he was truly sincere. He repented and God still used him tremendously.

Let us never allow our past to bring us down and think that God wants nothing to do with us because we committed a certain terrible sin. The Devil will bring these things up, no doubt. But if we have confessed, repented and forsaken these sins God has forgiven those sins.

(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The (almost) sacrifice of Isaac

This story is found in Genesis 22. We must realize this is a typological symbolic story. Abraham plays the role of God the Father. And Isaac plays the role of the Son.

(Genesis 22:12) And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, **thine only son** from me.

The Hebrew word for "thine only" is yachiyd, and it means "only begotten son." Hebrews 11:17 makes very clear this point:

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up **his only begotten son**,

Wasn't Jesus the only begotten of the Father? (See John 1:14)

Mount Moriah was the very place where the Temple was built and the sacrifices were made. This was the last place David conquered. The Devil hung onto mount Moriah for dear life because the Devil knew that this would be the place that Solomon's Temple would be built. He knew that Abraham had offered his son at the very spot.

There are very interesting details and parallels to the story of the (almost) sacrifice of Isaac:

Isaac (the son) carries the wood but his father carries the fire and the knife. Later on Jesus bears the wood but He falls under the judgment of His Father.

The journey, the suffering of the father and the son, takes 3 days (Gen 22:4), and then on the third day Abraham receives Isaac resurrected. Some would say that he didn't die (and this is true) but the Bible says he received him in "figure" – meaning resurrected from the dead. From Abraham's point of view Isaac resurrected from the dead there on mount Moriah. Notice Hebrews 11:19:

Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – July 11, 2015

Also - when Abraham got to the bottom of the mountain he said to his other sons who were following "Wait here, I'll go up alone with my son." On Mt. Calvary the Father and the Son suffered alone.

In the story of Isaac it says they looked from afar. (Gen 22:4, 5), and in the New Testament it says the women looked from afar. (Matt. 27:55)

Then you have the submission of Isaac. Chances are Isaac could have out run his old dad but when Abraham says "Son, you are the sacrifice." What does Isaac say? He says "Father, The Lord's will be done."

What about when God the Father says to Christ "You are the sacrifice."? Jesus says "Not my will be done, but yours." and submissively places Himself in the hands of His Father.

The Wanderer

Wherever we go we should ever be on the lookout for souls that are open to the gospel.

(The Desire of Ages, p. 27) Yet God had chosen Israel. He had called them to preserve among men the knowledge of His law, and of the symbols and prophecies that pointed to the Saviour. He desired them to be as wells of salvation to the world. What Abraham was in the land of his sojourn, what Joseph was in Egypt, and Daniel in the courts of Babylon, the Hebrew people were to be among the nations. They were to reveal God to men.

THURSDAY – Abraham: A Missionary in His Own House

(Amos 3:3) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

(Mark 3:25) And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Abraham was the priest of his home. His disposition and character was an influence on those in his household. But what can the priest of the house do when the family (or family members) is/are not interested to have worship, Bible studies, etc... and are actually disruptive. This can also go the other way where the husband is the problem. This must be a terrible ordeal to go through. The time is coming when many Seventh-day Adventist families are going to split.

(Matthew 10:34-38) Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – July 11, 2015

The gospel message brings unity but at the same time it will divide. When the mark of the beast issues comes to fruition families will be at variance with each another. The blame game will start just as it did in the Garden of Eden when they sinned.

There is an abundance of material in *The Adventist Home* on the family. Look in the Table of Contents and go to a specific section on a specific subject – you will be blessed.

The Three Angels Messages will be the message that splits humanity on one side or the other. In Revelation 14:6-12 is the gospel message with the Three Angel's Messages going to every nation, tongue and people of planet earth. When this is done, what is the very next event to take place?

(Revelation 14:14) And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

It is the Second Coming of Jesus to reap the earth because he has a sharp sickle in his hand. Jesus wouldn't reap an unripen earth would he? Certainly not!

But this is not the only harvest the Three Angel's Messages produce:

(Revelation 14:17-19) And **another angel** came out of the temple which is in heaven, he **also having a sharp sickle**. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

This is the harvest of the wicked because they are cast into the winepress of the wrath of God. The harvest in verse 14 is the gathering together of the righteous.

(Matthew 24:30, 31) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

There is a reason why we do not hear the Three Angels Message from our pulpits, our publications, etc... Satan knows that to silence it will delay his destruction. Jesus will not return until all earth-dwellers hear the message.

Let us prepare now and receive the messages in their fullness. Let us pray for those who seem to be at odds with the message. We must do this as the crisis is just upon us. Let's not kid ourselves.