



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Sep 25 – Oct 2, 2015
Lesson #1: **Jeremiah**

SABBATH – The Prophetic Calling of Jeremiah

(Memory Text) **Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

God has ordained all of us, like Jeremiah, for service to him even before we were conceived. God has given every one of us a special talent – a gift – to use for God to represent him and his kingdom.

(Ephesians 4:8-11) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

No matter what your gift it is for the edifying of the body – the church. Some think that because they cannot preach or teach that they are really not doing something in the church. This is not true. You may have a gift of greeting people on Sabbath morning, and you do it in such a way that no one else in the church is as effective as welcoming people. ALL the talents are necessary.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-12, 27-31) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

...

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?



31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Not all have the same gifts. But when we all work together we are one body working for the same Master --- Jesus.

SUNDAY – The Prophets

The definition of a prophet according to dictionary.com:

A person who speaks for God or a deity, or by divine inspiration. A person who foretells or predicts what is to come:

The prophets speak for God. They are to give encouragement, comfort and guidance. They also will rebuke the church when needed and tell the church to repent and return to the Lord.

A gift imparted by the Holy Spirit

This prophetic calling is called the spirit of prophecy. The reason it is called the spirit of prophecy is because prophecy is one of the gifts imparted by the Holy Spirit.

(1 Peter 1:10, 11) Of which salvation (meaning salvation in Christ) the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them** did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

So why is it called the spirit of prophecy? It's because the prophets received the information by the Spirit of Christ (because the Spirit of Christ was in the prophets). It is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Zechariah 7:12) Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.

That word "by" means "through."

(2 Peter 1:20, 21) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.

It is called the spirit of prophecy because it was the Spirit who gave the information to the prophet. And it is Christ who possesses the Spirit. The Holy Spirit does what Jesus wants.

So what happens when we reject the message of the prophet? You not only reject Christ but we commit the unpardonable sin --- blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.



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What's happening with all these people who reject the Spirit of Prophecy through the writings of Ellen White? You're not rejecting her words – you're rejecting Christ and the Holy Spirit

Lesson from criticizing a prophet

Was Moses a prophet and did he have the spirit of prophecy? Yes, and what happened when Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses? Miriam got leprosy.

What about when the kids were making fun of Elisha? He turned and cursed them in the name of the Lord.

It's a very serious thing to reject a prophet of the Lord. When they rejected Samuel - God said don't worry about it - they're not rejecting you they're rejecting me.

This is why the following phrase is repeated to all the seven churches:

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...

Ellen White on the spirit of prophecy

(Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 367) It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets "prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.

How does the Holy Spirit accomplish the revealing of God's purpose to the prophet? He does it through the ministration of the angels.

(Hebrews 1:7) And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels **spirits**, and his ministers a **flame of fire**.

The word "spirit" is the word for wind. So the angels are compared to wind and fire. It's interesting that at Pentecost there was a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire.

This is a point that we rarely think of or even talk about – that the angels are instrumental in giving the message to the prophets.

Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy make it clear that the Holy Spirit imparted the message to the prophet through the ministration of the angels. In other words it's through the angels that God remains in active communication with every part of his dominion.

Was Ellen White inspired by the Holy Spirit? Absolutely! But how was the message imparted to her? Doesn't she always talk about her angel or her guide? She says that she felt angels in the room while she was writing.



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It's the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the angels that's imparting the message to the prophets.

Prophets are for the church

Who is the gift of prophecy particularly given to? It is given to and for God's people. It's not given to the world at large. But it's given to God's people and God's people are to assimilate the message and then take it to the world.

(1 Corinthians 14:22) Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: **but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.**

The gift of tongues is to persuade unbelievers. What impressed the unbelievers on the Day of Pentecost? It was the fact they were speaking in another language – that was a sign it was from God. But the gift of prophesy – prophesying, Paul says is not for unbelievers. In other words it's not a sign. Prophesying is for believers. It's for the church.

The Reaction

How do people usually react to the message of the prophets?

(2 Chronicles 36:14-16) Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

How did Israel respond to the prophets of the Old Testament? It says they mocked them and they rejected them. Can you think of the name of just one prophet that the church loved?

(Isaiah 30:8-11) Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:

10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

So what does the church rejecting the prophet cause God to do? It causes him to leave the church. This is a very serious matter to reject the message of a prophet.

It should not surprise us today that so many of the church members from the top to the bottom either despise the writings of Ellen White, or they just ignore much of the counsel and dismiss it. Ellen White is in good company with all the prophets of the Bible. If everybody loved Ellen White then she would be a false prophet because the Bible says...



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(Luke 6:26) Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

We should expect there to be a lot of opposition to Ellen White from within our own ranks.

What else happens when the church doesn't pay attention to the gift of prophecy? Not only does God leave the church (according to Isaiah 30:8-11) but you have Laodicea – who is blind. And she's blind and in darkness because she doesn't listen to the prophetic voice.

Prophets were always despised by God's people. Again, name one prophet that the church loved? There is no prophet in the Bible that the people loved. The prophet tells the truth – tells it like it is (as God directs them to do so), and most people can't handle the truth.

So we should be sad – but not surprised – when the church today rejects and refuses to listen to Ellen G. White. By being rejected she is in good company with all the other prophets.

MONDAY – Jeremiah's Family Background

From the pen of Inspiration:

(Prophets and Kings, p. 407) A member of the Levitical priesthood, Jeremiah had been trained from childhood for holy service.

As in many cases God-fearing parents are key.

(Proverbs 22:6) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

It is so important that we raise our children with meticulous care in the ways of God. This not only goes for the home but for our churches and schools too.

(Lift Him Up, p. 270) It is the nicest work ever assumed by men and women to deal with youthful minds. The greatest care should be taken in the education of youth to so vary the manner of instruction as to call forth the high and noble powers of the mind. Parents and schoolteachers are certainly disqualified to properly educate children if they have not first learned the lesson of self-control, patience, forbearance, gentleness, and love. What an important position for parents, guardians, and teachers! There are very few who realize the most essential wants of the mind and how to direct the developing intellect, the growing thoughts and feelings of youth....

The problems, may times, lies in the teacher/parents ignorance in these matters.

(Child Guidance, p. 297) In order for parents and teachers to do this work, they must themselves understand "the way" the child should go.



Knowledge of books is not enough.

(Child Guidance, p. 297) This embraces more than merely having a knowledge of books. It takes in everything that is good, virtuous, righteous, and holy. It comprehends the practice of temperance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to God and to one another. In order to attain this object, the physical, mental, moral, and religious education of children must have attention.

TUESDAY – The Prophetic Calling of Jeremiah

As we already discussed in Sabbath's lesson, God ordained Jeremiah even before he was conceived. Does this teach "predestination" – as some would teach that God chooses to save some and not others? There are whole denominations that teach this. The main texts that are used to support this teaching are:

(Ephesians 1:4, 5) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

(Romans 8:29-30) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The fact is God has predestined every one of us – to be saved.

(1 Peter 1:19, 20) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
20 **Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Before the world was created the Father and the Son devised the plan of salvation. It was their intent that every person ever born would accept the free gift of salvation and receive eternal life.

(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

If all of us have been predestined to be saved and have been chosen by God even before we were conceived then we should not be fearful or reluctant to the work commissioned us to do. God will be with us not some of the way, or most of the way --- but all of the way.



(Prophets and Kings, p. 142) Never are they (God's people) to swerve from the path in which Jesus has bidden them walk. They are to go forward in faith, remembering that they are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. They are not to speak their own words, but words which One greater than the potentates of earth has bidden them speak. Their message is to be, "Thus saith the Lord." God calls for men like Elijah, Nathan, and John the Baptist—men who will bear His message with faithfulness, regardless of the consequences; men who will speak the truth bravely, though it call for the sacrifice of all they have.

God cannot use men who, in time of peril, when the strength, courage, and influence of all are needed, are afraid to take a firm stand for the right. He calls for men who will do faithful battle against wrong, warring against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. It is to such as these that He will speak the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:23

Let's start believing the promises of Jesus.

(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

WEDNESDAY – Reluctant Prophets

Those who are called to do a special work, you will find, don't feel capable. And the truth be told they aren't capable except the Lord will make them capable. Jeremiah (Jer. 1:6), Isaiah (Isa. 6:5, and Moses (Ex. 4:10-15) all felt unworthy for the task God wanted them to perform.

(1 Corinthians 10:12) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Before Ellen White accepted the calling of prophetess to the remnant church there two other persons God called but refused.

William E. Foy – an African American who received several visions in 1842 on the beauties of Heaven and on the judgment and our need to prepare for it. At first he was hesitant to share the visions because of the prejudice against blacks but eventually started preaching about his visions. He created much interest but after the events of 1844 he did not receive any more visions.

Hazen Foss – a well-educated man who believed in the Second Coming of Jesus. His first vision (just before the events of 1844) was the vision of the journey of the Advent people to the city of God. This was the same vision given to William Foy. He was instructed by God to relate the vision to the people but refused because he feared opposition. God sent him another vision but Foss refused still to relate it to the people of God. And a finally a third vision was given where God told him he was released and that God would use the weakest of the weak who would do the work the Lord would give.



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One day Hazen Foss entered upon a meeting of believers and heard a young woman relating the scenes of the vision that he had received. This young lady, only 17 years of age, who was very sick and weak with tuberculosis, was Ellen Harmon – who later, after marrying James White, became Ellen G. White. Eyewitnesses say she had trouble even speaking at a normal tone.

God chose the weakest of the weak to relate his message to the people of God.

(Last Day Events, p. 44) Men may get up scheme after scheme and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White and has given her a message will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days.

I chose the above statement to set up some questions for you the reader: What are you doing with the Spirit of Prophecy? Do you really believe God has spoken through her?

We are at a tipping point of a crisis in the Seventh-day Adventist Church presently. The Pope has just come through and many influential Adventists are saying we should not open our mouths and that this part of the message is not crucial to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

Will you believe the philosophy of man or will you believe that God is speaking through the writings of Ellen G. White? The issue is man's words vs. God's words.

The Bible says about man:

(Colossians 2:8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

(Ephesians 5:6) Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

The Bible says about God's prophets:

(2 Chronicles 20:20) Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

(Proverbs 29:18) Where there is no vision, the people perish: