



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Oct 24 – Oct 30, 2015
Lesson #5: **Jeremiah**

SABBATH – More woes for the Prophet

(Memory Text) **Jeremiah 20:7** “O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.”

Jeremiah did what God had ordained him to do. He trusted God without question but after he gave the message to the people, because they rejected and despised him and his message, and because it was so severe, and he felt so lonely that he actually started to wonder if God had deceived him. We should never feel that God has tricked us into doing something (God is not in the business of tricking) or abandoned us in any way.

(Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 136) When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. **At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.** The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.

The ministry of reproof and warning, and bearing the straight testimony can be a lonely work

(My Life Today, p. 320) **Those who in harmony with God, and through faith in Him, receive strength to resist wrong, and stand in defense of the right, will always have severe conflicts and will frequently have to stand almost alone.** But precious victories will be theirs while they make God their dependence. His grace will be their strength....It will require moral courage to do God's work unflinchingly. Those who do this can give no place to self-love, to selfish considerations, ambition, love of ease, or desire to shun the cross.... Shall we obey His voice, or shall we listen to the soothing voice of the evil one, and be rocked to a fatal slumber just on the eve of eternal realities?

(The Review and Herald, April 19, 1870) It is the strength of the entire being that God requires. He requires of you a separation from the world and the things of the world. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” It is separation from the love of the world that is required, and what is given you in its place? “I will be a father unto you.” **Do you have to separate in your affections from friends? Does the truth require you to stand alone in your position to serve God because others around you are not willing to yield to the claims that Christ has upon them? Does it require a separation in feeling from them? Yes, and this is the cross which you must bear, which leads many to say, I cannot yield to the claims of the truth.** But says Christ, If anyone love father, or mother, or brother, or sister, more than Me, he is not worthy of Me. Whosoever will come after Me and will be My disciple, let him take up his cross and follow Me. Here is the cross of self-denial and sacrifice, to separate in your affections here from those who will not yield to the claims of truth. Is this too great a sacrifice to make for Him who sacrificed all for you?



SUNDAY – Godless Priests and Prophets

God warns his people and will send very severe and harsh warnings too. He does this only because he loves us.

(Revelation 3:19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

(Hebrews 12:5, 6) ...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

The lesson brings out some of the evils that the church in Jeremiah's day were guilty of

(Jeremiah 23:14) I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: **they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness; they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.**

Israel was guilty of the following evils:

1. adultery
2. walking in lies
3. strengthening the hands of those promoting bad practices in the church
4. they are like Sodom and Gomorrah

We talked last week on why history repeats itself (Eccl. 1:9). Are we, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, today, repeating what the church did in Jeremiah's day?

1. "Adultery" --- By joining with the Conference of Catholic Bishops (and other religions) on an official level with Faith Counts (www.faithcounts.com), partnering with the White House to promote the First Lady's health initiative, and joining with the United Nations and pledging to take on Pope Francis's initiatives (Sustainable Development, climate change, etc...)... <http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story3269-adra-tackles-global-woes-with-7-days-of-prayer-for-everyone>
<http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story2513-adventist-church-president-holds-first-meeting-with-un-chief>

...and while abandoning the Three Angels Messages we are committing spiritual adultery. We have to call it like it is. How can God be pleased with his church in this manner?

We will come up with all kinds of philosophical and nice sounding reasons why these are good ideas...

<http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story3088-why-adventists-participate-in-un-and-ecumenical-meetings#.Vh-Ce6Denit.mailto>

...but the fact remains God has never allowed his people to do such things and why would he change now!

Jesus is our example

(The Desire of Ages, p. 509) The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses,—extortion, intolerance, and grinding



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cruelty. Yet **the Saviour attempted no civil reforms**. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. **He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments**. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because **the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures**. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.

Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit.

2. "walking in lies" --- The message to Laodicea tells us that we are walking in a lie: we think we are all right when Jesus says we are not (Rev. 3:17)
3. "strengthening the hands of the wicked" --- This need not much comment. Sin is allowed to go without being reproved in many churches. The world's music is promoted in the church while silencing the voice that says the music is not God's music. When authors from Babylon (Rick Warren, Max Lucado, Bill Hybels, etc...) are read from the pulpits with the intent to feed the flock the hands of the wicked are strengthened. The Florida Conference banning Doug Batchelor all because he did not support Women's Ordination strengthens the hands of the wicked. Allowing open and practicing gays to serve in positions in the church while silencing or banishing from the church those who oppose it is strengthening the hand of the wicked. These are but just a few examples.
4. "they are like Sodom and Gomorrah" --- Do we not see a big push for LGBT equality in the church? This is but one aspect.

Now read the other example of evil deeds committed by Israel in Jer. 5:26-31 and ponder on whether we are repeating the errors of ancient Israel.

MONDAY – Jeremiah in the Stocks

The truth has never been popular. The majority are never God's people. Sadly the majority of those who make up God's church has always rejected the truth in whole or in part.

There is not one prophet in the entire Bible that wasn't scorned, rejected and despised. With that in mind it should not surprise us when we see Seventh-day Adventists treat Ellen White in the same manner. She is in "good" company with all the other prophets. Many will say they believe she was a prophet but yet at the same time will reject counsel given that may pertain to music, diet, victory over sin, etc...

Likewise the same treatment comes upon those in the church today who speak the words of the prophets. Most people don't want to hear it. So in the same manner as members rejecting Ellen White as they did the prophets of old it should not surprise us when any of us, who speak the same message the prophets gave, will be treated unkindly too by our own brethren. Our response should be to rejoice.



Our Savior said in the greatest sermon ever preached...

(Matthew 5:10-12) Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:** for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

They did it to the prophets of old, they did it to Jesus, they did it to the early Christian church and they will not stop there – they will do it to those who believe God's word and obey it today.

(The Desire of Ages, p. 356) 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.

As the hymn penned by Uriah Smith says "O Brother, Be Faithful."

TUESDAY – A Fire in His Bones

We see Jeremiah having feelings of despair and alienation. It is not a great feeling to speak out in this manner to your brethren – esp. when they reject the message.

Ellen White hesitated on many occasion about giving the message to the people. She did not want to give the rebuke. But she knew she must do the Lord's work and deliver the message.

Only those who give the warning with a truly caring heart will receive the Seal of God.

(Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 266 - Who are standing in the counsel of God at this time? Is it those who virtually excuse wrongs among the professed people of God and who murmur in their hearts, if not openly, against those who would reprove sin? Is it those who take their stand against them and sympathize with those who commit wrong? No, indeed! Unless they repent, and leave the work of Satan in oppressing those who have the burden of the work and in holding up the hands of sinners in Zion, they will never receive the mark of God's sealing approval. They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked, represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons. **Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done" in the church.** Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they



are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel.

Sometimes we feel like giving up like the prophet Jeremiah did (and other prophets) but we must have a burden for souls including our own people. We live by faith and not by sight or feeling. We live by the principles of God.

What if Jesus gave up before he went to the cross?

WEDNESDAY – “Cursed Be the Day”

When engaged in this work of the ministry of reproof it is almost guaranteed to hear from someone “Who are you to judge?” or “When you’re perfect then you can come and tell me what I’m doing wrong.”

The experiences of the prophets help us in this area as we see their human frailties and God want to use them. He wants to use us as sinful as we may have been. God is looking for sincere, honest, and willing hearts that will trust in all the Lord says.

The experience of Peter in denying Jesus three times and even cursing to try and prove to the people he wasn’t with Jesus. He went on to be a mighty worker for the Lord. It was not in his own strength but in the strength of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

(Our High Calling, p. 307) Many today stand where Peter stood when in self-confidence he declared that he would not deny his Lord. And because of their self-sufficiency, they fall an easy prey to Satan’s devices. **Those who realize their weakness trust in a power higher than self. And while they look to God, Satan has no power against them. But those who trust in self are easily defeated.** Let us remember that if we do not heed the cautions that God gives us, a fall is before us. Christ will not save from wounds the one who places himself unbidden on the enemy’s ground. He lets the self-sufficient one, who acts as if he knew more than his Lord, go on in his supposed strength. Then comes suffering and a crippled life or perhaps defeat and death.

In the warfare the enemy takes advantage of the weakest points in the defense of those he is attacking. Here he makes his fiercest assaults. **The Christian should have no weak points in his defense.** He should be barricaded by the support that the Scriptures give to the one who is doing God’s will. The tempted soul will bear away the victory if he follows the example of Him who met the tempter with the word, “It is written.” He can stand securely in the protection of a “Thus saith the Lord.”

It is very important to dwell heavily on the promises of God. Put them to memory as we will have to hang our faith on those promises.



THURSDAY – Plans Against the Prophet

Jeremiah 18:1-10 are highlighted for discussion. Two questions are asked:

1. What important principles about prophetic interpretation do we find here?
2. In those same verses, what crucial spiritual principles do we find as well?

And the lesson goes on to make the following comment:

In these verses, too, we can see the conditionality of many prophecies: God says that He will do something, which is often to bring punishment. But if the people repent, He will not do what He said He would do. What He will do is conditional, depending upon how the people respond. Why would God do anything else? He would not admonish the people to turn from their evil ways and then still bring punishment upon them if they repented and turned from their evil ways. In such cases, He won't punish, and He explicitly says so in these texts.

Last month (September 2015) Jon Paulien (Dean of Theology at Loma Linda) gave a lecture called “Revelation 13 and the Papacy.” In this presentation he argued that it would be best for us not to include the prophecies about the Roman Church in our evangelistic campaigns saying it does more harm than good. I don't agree with this but he has a right to his opinion.

This video can be seen by going to Youtube and typing in “Revelation 13 and the Papacy Jon Paulien”

Well as the presentation went on his real intent came through. Near the beginning of the video Jon Paulien made sure to remind everybody that these prophecies of Revelation 13 are not included in the 28 Fundamentals – he repeated it twice. And he also said these are not necessary to be a good Adventist. Obviously my suspicion is raised.

Nearer to the end of his presentation was a question and answer session and during this session Mr. Paulien pulled out the text quoted here in the lesson. He read Jeremiah 18:7-10. Then what follows out of his mouth is the true aim of his presentation: to cast doubt about the Papacy as the Antichrist. He goes on to say that he sees Pope Francis as different and that he can tell the Lord is with him and then says that these prophecies in Revelation can be conditional in the light of Jeremiah 18. This is not the case.

The first reason – while there are conditional prophecies in the Bible, there is no indication Revelation 13 is. If it is conditional and the Roman Church has changed and repented this means there is no Mark of the Beast now. This also means that Ellen white wrote The Great Controversy for nothing. By the way Jon Paulien also made mention of the 700,000 copies of the book that were mailed out to Philadelphia just prior to the Papal visit by Remnant Publications and Project Restore, and he said it was the “fringes” of Adventism that mailed them out.

We need to hold on to Jesus and His truth (The Three Angel's Messages) like never before because our greatest enemies will be our own brethren. Just this week alone seventh-day Adventists are in the news and their beliefs are being discussed because of Donald Trump's remarks about Ben Carson's faith of being an Adventist.

(Last Day Events, p. 180) When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the



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most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.

Many Seventh-day Adventists will be among those who will join with Babylon and persecute their own brethren when the Sunday issue comes...

(The Great Controversy, p. 608) As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them. In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone.