



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of Nov 14 – Nov 20, 2015  
Lesson #8: **Jeremiah**

## SABBATH – Josiah’s Reforms

(Memory Text) **2 Kings 23:25** “And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.”

God speaks through his appointed agencies to warn, instruct and encourage his people. God gave words to Jeremiah and it is up to the hearer whether to obey or not. One of the kings of Judah, Josiah, turned to the Lord.

(Prophets and Kings, p. 384) Josiah nevertheless was true to the God of Israel. Warned by the errors of past generations, he chose to do right, instead of descending to the low level of sin and degradation to which his father and his grandfather had fallen. He “turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.” As one who was to occupy a position of trust, he resolved to obey the instruction that had been given for the guidance of Israel’s rulers, and his obedience made it possible for God to use him as a vessel unto honor.

(Review and Herald, January 31, 1888, par. 16) When Josiah heard the words of warning and condemnation because Israel had trampled upon the precepts of Heaven, he humbled himself. He wept before the Lord. He made a thorough work of repentance and reformation, and God accepted his efforts. The whole congregation of Israel entered into a solemn covenant to keep the commandments of Jehovah. **This is our work today. We must repent of the past evil of our doings, and seek God with all our hearts. We must believe that God means just what he says, and make no compromise with evil in any way. We should greatly humble ourselves before God, and consider any loss preferable to the loss of his favor.**

God sent his church, not a prophet, but a former General Conference President, who gave us warning and admonition.

*Fellow leaders, beloved brethren and sisters—**don’t let it happen!** I appeal to you as earnestly as I know how this morning—**don’t let it happen!** I appeal to Andrews University, to the Seminary, to Loma Linda University—**don’t let it happen!** We are not Seventh-day Anglicans, not Seventh-day Lutherans—we are Seventh-day Adventists! This is God’s last church with God’s last message.  
(Elder Robert Pierson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, his last address to the Annual Council of the General Conference, October 15, 1978)*

“Don’t let it happen!” What is it he was warning about? We shall see as we continue our lesson study.



### SUNDAY – The Reigns of Manasseh and Amon

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Faithful kings and apostate kings is what Israel had at different times. The lesson reminisces a bit on King Manasseh and then makes this statement at the bottom of the first paragraph of the lesson's page: "One can hardly imagine how he justified in his own mind the horrific abominations he allowed to flourish in Judah."

Getting back to Elder Robert Pierson's last speech, he goes through the various generations of a church and speaks of how each was. Here is the third generation:

*In the third generation, organization develops and institutions are established. The need is seen for schools to pass on the faith of the fathers. Colleges are established. Members have to be exhorted to live up to the standards, while at the same time the standards of membership are being lowered. The group becomes lax about disfellowshipping nonpracticing members. Missionary zeal cools off. There is more concern over public relations. Leaders study methods of propagating their faith, sometimes employing extrinsic rewards as motivation for service by members. Youth question why they are different from others, and intermarry with those not of their faith. (Elder Robert Pierson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, his last address to the Annual Council of the General Conference, October 15, 1978)*

He is hitting the nail on the head. His words are profound. What would he say today if he were alive?

(Matthew 7:13) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

When Israel had a faithful king the people were in a covenant relationship with God. When they had an apostate king the people reflected the same as their king.

What about today? First, let's look at society in general. Just even one president ago in the United States you really didn't hear much about gay marriage, rights, etc... Some, but you didn't hear from mainstream society with an acceptance of the gay lifestyle as the "norm." It was looked down upon. But get a leader who is fine with it, get a Supreme Court to pass it as law and place gays on TV shows and throughout the entertainment industry and the whole country (it seems) is all of a sudden fine with the LGBT community. Add to this the saying "When the United States sneezes the world gets a cold." and we soon saw a LGBT explosion around the world. Gay Pride parades were even in conservative countries like Israel and India. This is just one example.

The church allows the world to affect its mindset. We have such a push for the acceptance of practicing LGBT persons in the church and even holding office and positions. How has this happened? To a large degree it comes from weak and unfaithful leadership. The people are sheep and keep quiet and follow. Another reason is because seventh-day Adventists watch and love the same entertainment as the world.

(Evangelism, p. 271) Are we to follow the Word of God, or the customs of the world?...Conformity to the world is a sin which is sapping the spirituality of our people, and seriously interfering with their usefulness. It is idle to proclaim the warning message to the world, while we deny it in the transactions of daily life.



We will become changed to whatever we set our senses toward

(2 Corinthians 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

(The Great Controversy, p. 555) It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.

Jesus said that at his second coming the world would be like it was in the days of Noah and when the world was destroyed by the flood. (Matt. 24:37-39). The Spirit of Prophecy says the following about that generation that lived when the flood came:

(Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 421) **By beholding evil**, men became changed into its image, until God could bear with their wickedness no longer, and they were swept away by the flood.

The process in many cases is slow

(The Adventist Home, p. 330) The mind of a man or woman does not come down in a moment from purity and holiness to depravity, corruption, and crime. It takes time to transform the human to the divine, or to degrade those formed in the image of God to the brutal or the satanic. By beholding we become changed. Though formed in the image of his Maker, man can so educate his mind that sin which he once loathed will become pleasant to him. As he ceases to watch and pray, he ceases to guard the citadel, the heart, and engages in sin and crime. The mind is debased, and it is impossible to elevate it from corruption while it is being educated to enslave the moral and intellectual powers and bring them in subjection to grosser passions. Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained; and we must be aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract the mind upward and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things.

For this next quote we could add in video games, internet, movies, etc...

(Child Guidance, p. 439) **Influence of Debasing Books and Pictures**—Many of the young are eager for books. They read everything they can obtain. Exciting love stories and impure pictures have a corrupting influence. Novels are eagerly perused by many; and, as the result, their imagination becomes defiled. In the cars photographs of females in a state of nudity are frequently circulated for sale. These disgusting pictures are also found in daguerrean saloons [photo shops] and are hung upon the walls of those who deal in engravings. This is an age when corruption is teeming everywhere. The lust of the eye and corrupt passions are aroused by beholding and by reading. The heart is corrupted through the imagination. The mind takes pleasure in contemplating scenes which awaken the



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lower and baser passions. These vile images, seen through defiled imagination, corrupt the morals and prepare the deluded, infatuated beings to give loose rein to lustful passions. Then follow sins and crimes which drag beings formed in the image of God down to a level with the beasts, sinking them at last in perdition.

We can become like the preacher or teacher we listen to

(The Great Controversy, p. 478) It is by beholding that we become changed. And as those sacred precepts in which God has opened to men the perfection and holiness of His character are neglected, and **the minds of the people are attracted to human teachings and theories**, what marvel that there has followed a decline of living piety in the church. Saith the Lord: "They have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." Jeremiah 2:13

Here is the key to overcoming sin

(Counsels for the Church, p. 80) Brethren and sisters, it is by beholding that we become changed. By dwelling upon the love of God and our Saviour, by contemplating the perfection of the divine character and claiming the righteousness of Christ as ours by faith, we are to be **transformed into the same image**.

Putting more special emphasis on "the same." We can be like Jesus.

### MONDAY – A New King

Refusing to follow God's word the Israelites do what they want in their own eyes. The lesson says the following interesting comments and then quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy:

Seeing what was going on, many faithful in the land had wondered whether God's promises to ancient Israel could ever be fulfilled. "From a human point of view the divine purpose for the chosen nation seemed almost impossible of accomplishment.-Ellen G. White, [Prophets and Kings](#), p. 384."

More from former General Conference President Robert Pierson's address (keep in mind the year is 1978):

*Already, brethren and sisters, there are subtle forces that are beginning to stir. Regrettably there are those in the church who belittle the inspiration of the Bible, who scorn the first 11 chapters of Genesis, who question the Spirit of Prophecy's short chronology of the earth, and who subtly and not so subtly attack the Spirit of Prophecy. There are some who point to the reformers and contemporary theologians as a source and the norm for Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. There are those who allegedly are tired of the hackneyed phrases of Adventism. There are those who wish to forget the standards of the church we love. There are those who covet and would court the favor of the evangelicals; those who would throw off the mantle of a peculiar people; and those who would go the way of the secular, materialistic world. (Elder Robert Pierson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, his last address to the Annual Council of the General Conference, October 15, 1978)*



Have we not repeated the same mistakes and errors as Ancient Israel? They were “hell-bent” on getting their way and doing what they wanted, ignoring any warnings and even persecuting those who would dare speak against their desires, are we not today suffering the same agony as Israel of old all because of our own evil intuition and wisdom?

After reading Elder Pierson’s address you would almost wonder if his words were prophetic. He warned about some disturbing trends that he saw transpiring in the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the time. Today we can see the seeds of these trends plaguing the church now in just about every facet.

Ellen White warned us of this disaster in the church:

(Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 204) Our religion would be changed.... A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.... Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. **The leaders** would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, **they would place their dependence on human power**, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

I have been told by some of our elderly brethren that President Pierson was despised even at the General Conference. They said he was tremendously hated by his own brethren he worked with and they felt this without a doubt escalated his sickness.

(Last Day Events, p. 180) The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place.

Our ever important principle:

(Romans 1:17) The just shall live by faith.

Whatever we desire to do we do it by faith. This means that it is in accordance with God’s will and not our own will.

## TUESDAY – Josiah on the Throne

(2 Kings 22:1, 2) Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

This is a pretty spectacular verse as Josiah was only eight years old and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and it says he did not turn to the right or the left.

(Matthew 7:13) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:



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What if we were to place the average youth in the church as the president of the church – what do you think would be the result? I would hate to even imagine it.

Youth are very critical. How they are trained and guided will bring blessings or curses.

(General Conference Daily Bulletin, January 29, 1893) We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. We want our children to believe the truth. We want them to be blessed of God. We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth. Let all be so trained that they may rightly represent the truth, giving the reason of the hope that is within them, and honoring God in any branch of the work where they are qualified to labor.

Satan also has his army of youth

(Review and Herald, August 26, 1884, par. 12) **The future of society will be determined by the youth of today.** Satan is making earnest, persevering efforts to corrupt the mind and debase the character of every young person; and shall we who have more experience stand as mere spectators, and see him accomplish his purpose without hindrance? **Let us stand at our post as minute men, to work for these youth, and through the help of God hold them back from the pit of destruction.** In the parable, while men slept, the enemy sowed tares; and while you, my brethren and sisters, are unconscious of his work, he is gathering an army of youth under his banner; and he exults, for through them he carries on his warfare against God.

Look at the educational system of even the public schools. The Papacy knows all too well by getting to the core of the matter in bringing a nation down to its knees is to educate the youth in a particular way that would not reflect the ideals of the nation. It should not surprise us to see the LGBT agenda even being taught to kindergarteners. Change the mindset of the nation through the youth and success is assured.

And we can look at own educational system too. Getting so far away from true education and as a result, like what would happen to a nation, the church is changed as it goes even further and further away from its foundation as each generation takes over the church.

We have young 20-something Adventists who were asked to name just one of the messages of the three angels' and they could not do it.

Josiah is a testimony that a young man (a boy really) can live a holy life and do God's will even among rank apostasy.

### WEDNESDAY – The Book of the Law

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(No study)



### THURSDAY – Josiah’s Reforms

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The lesson starts out with this paragraph:

Despite the forewarning of doom, Josiah was still determined to do what was “right in the eyes of the Lord.” Maybe disaster couldn’t be averted, “**but in announcing the retributive judgments of Heaven**, the Lord had not withdrawn opportunity for repentance and reformation; and Josiah, discerning in this a willingness on the part of God to temper His judgments with mercy, determined to do all in his power to bring about decided reforms.”-Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 400.

More from Elder Pierson’s address

*Brethren and sisters, this must never happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church! This will not happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is not just another church—it is God’s church!*

*But you are the men and women sitting in this sanctuary this morning on whom God is counting to assure that it does not happen.* (then he goes on to announce the warning which we quoted in Monday’s lesson)

*(Elder Robert Pierson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, his last address to the Annual Council of the General Conference, October 15, 1978)*

Like King Josiah, Elder Pierson blew the trumpet. He didn’t worry about the consequences because he cared about souls and he cared about the Seventh-day Adventist Church first.

Our current president today – there is an abundance of silence on the things which are happening in our world that are huge fulfillments of Bible prophecy. Even at the General Conference Session (San Antonio, TX) nothing was even remotely said. This would have been the perfect opportunity to warn all the world church’s leaders so they could (hopefully) take it back to their parts of the globe. Whatever the reasons are why there is silence I do not know for sure, but one thing is certain: those who refuse to sound the warning will be lost.

Last week we spoke of “dumb dogs, they cannot bark” (Isaiah 56:10-12) and these dogs are doing an evil work in the church (Philippians 3:2). These silent dogs will be lost as they are found on the outside of the gates of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:15).

Dumb Dog can only be Seventh-day Adventists

Yes, think about it, these dumb dogs who won’t bark and will be standing outside the city can only be Seventh-day Adventists. We are the only people in the entire planet who knows what is going on, who knows Bible prophecy, and what is about to go down. Baptists cannot be a dumb dog because they don’t know. Presbyterians either. And add any other church to that list. Only Seventh-day Adventists can be dumb dogs.

(Revelation 22:15) For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

I find it interesting that “dogs” are first on this list. Could this mean something? That phrase “for without” means “outside of the gates.” Dumb dogs will be on the outside of the gates of the New Jerusalem. Seventh-day Adventists who won’t bark will be outside the gates of the New Jerusalem. It is time to bark!



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(Ezekiel 33:1-8) Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

6 **But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.**

7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and **warn them from me.**

8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; **if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.**

In verses 7 and 8 it says we are to warn the wicked with a warning that comes at the invitation of the Lord. So when we refuse to give the warning we are disobeying a command of the Lord.

And let me, once again, remind all of us all of our mission:

**Proclamation of Truth Our Work**—In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light-bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import,—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention. The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is to be our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them.... Shall we wait until God's judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the Word of God? Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, "even at the door."



### EXTRA BONUS

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Here is the entire address by Elder Robert Pierson, the former General Conference President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is so inspiring and uplifting that I believe you will be blessed as you read it.

#### ***An Earnest Appeal from the Retiring President of the General Conference presented to Annual Council on October 15, 1978:***

*“This will be the last time that in my present role I shall stand before the world leaders of my church, your church, our church, and I have a few words to leave with you.*

*I take my thoughts from something that Elder and Mrs. Ralph Neall have written describing how typically a sect evolves into a church. They say a sect is often begun by a charismatic leader with tremendous drive and commitment and that it arises as a protest against worldliness and formalism in a church. It is generally embraced by the poor. The rich would lose too much by joining it, since it is unpopular, despised, and persecuted by society in general. It has definite beliefs firmly held by zealous members. Each member makes a personal decision to join it and knows what he believes. There is little organization or property, and there are few buildings. The group has strict standards and controls on behavior. Preachers, often without education, arise by inner compulsion. There is little concern about public relations.*

*And then it passes on to the second generation. With growth there comes a need for organization and buildings. As a result of industry and frugality, members become prosperous. As prosperity increases, persecution begins to wane. Children born into the movement do not have to make personal decisions to join it. They do not necessarily know what they believe. They do not need to hammer out their own positions. These have been worked out for them. Preachers arise more by selection and by apprenticeship to older workers than by direct inner compulsion.*

*In the third generation, organization develops and institutions are established. The need is seen for schools to pass on the faith of the fathers. Colleges are established. Members have to be exhorted to live up to the standards, while at the same time the standards of membership are being lowered. The group becomes lax about disfellowshipping nonpracticing members. Missionary zeal cools off. There is more concern over public relations. Leaders study methods of propagating their faith, sometimes employing extrinsic rewards as motivation for service by members. Youth question why they are different from others, and intermarry with those not of their faith.*

*In the fourth generation there is much machinery; the number of administrators increases while the number of workers at the grass-roots becomes proportionately less. Great church councils are held to define doctrine. More schools, universities and seminaries are established. These go to the world for accreditation and tend to become secularized. There is a reexamination of positions and modernizing of methods. Attention is given to contemporary culture, with an interest in the arts: music, architecture, literature. The movement seeks to become ‘relevant’ to contemporary society by becoming involved in popular causes. Services become formal. The group enjoys complete acceptance by the world. The sect has become a church!*



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*Brethren and sisters, this must never happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church! This will not happen to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This is not just another church—it is God's church!*

*But you are the men and women sitting in this sanctuary this morning on whom God is counting to assure that it does not happen.*

*Already, brethren and sisters, there are subtle forces that are beginning to stir. Regrettably there are those in the church who belittle the inspiration of the Bible, who scorn the first 11 chapters of Genesis, who question the Spirit of Prophecy's short chronology of the earth, and who subtly and not so subtly attack the Spirit of Prophecy. There are some who point to the reformers and contemporary theologians as a source and the norm for Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. There are those who allegedly are tired of the hackneyed phrases of Adventism. There are those who wish to forget the standards of the church we love. There are those who covet and would court the favor of the evangelicals; those who would throw off the mantle of a peculiar people; and those who would go the way of the secular, materialistic world.*

*Fellow leaders, beloved brethren and sisters—don't let it happen! I appeal to you as earnestly as I know how this morning—don't let it happen! I appeal to Andrews University, to the Seminary, to Loma Linda University—don't let it happen! We are not Seventh-day Anglicans, not Seventh-day Lutherans—we are Seventh-day Adventists! This is God's last church with God's last message.*

*You are the men and women, the leaders, whom God is counting on to keep the Seventh-day Adventist Church God's remnant church, the church God has destined to triumph! The servant of the Lord says, 'Fearful perils are before those who bear responsibilities in the Lord's work—perils the thought of which makes me tremble.' (Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 391) And in Ezekiel 22:30 we read, 'I looked for a man among them who could build a barricade, who could stand before me in the breach to defend the land from ruin.' (NEB)*

*I believe this morning, fellow leaders that God is looking for men and women, intrepid leaders, men and women who love God's church and God's truth more than they love their lives, to see that this church under God goes through to the kingdom. The task ahead of us is not going to be easy. If I understand the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy aright this morning, ahead lies a time of trouble, a time of challenge such as this church and this world have never before known.*

*The servant of the Lord tells us: 'The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is*



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worthless.' (Selected Messages, volume 1, pp. 204, 205)

*The Seventh-day Adventist Church had its alpha years ago. You and I are the leaders who will face the omega that will be of the same subtle, devilish origin. Its effect will be more devastating than the alpha. Brethren, I beg of you, study, know what is ahead, then with God's help prepare your people to meet it!*

*'God calls for men who are prepared to meet emergencies, men who in a crisis will not be found standing on the wrong side.'* (Review and Herald, November 5, 1903)

*We are pressing on to the final conflict, and this is no time for compromise. It is no time to hide your colors. When the battle wages sore, let no one turn traitor. It is no time to lay down or conceal our weapons, and give Satan the advantage in the warfare.'* (Review and Herald, December 6, 1892)

*And then I call attention to a vision the Lord's servant had, in which she saw a ship heading toward an iceberg. She said: 'There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice cried out, "Meet it!" There was not a moment's hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stern, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.*

*Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, "Meet it!" I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come. I must without delay obey the command, "Meet it!"* (Selected Messages, volume 1, pp. 205, 206)

*Fellow leaders, it may be that in the not too distant future you will have to meet it. I pray God will give you grace and courage and wisdom.*

*Finally, 'What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is nearing its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.'* (Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 391)

*What a wonderful assurance we have this morning, brethren and sisters that you and I are in God's work. This work is not dependent on any man; it is dependent on our relationship with Him. There is only one way for us to face the future, and that is at the foot of the cross. A church with its eyes upon the Man of Calvary will never walk into apostasy.*

*Thank you, brethren and sisters, for giving me the privilege of serving you for the past 45 years, and may God bless every one of you."*