



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Nov 21 – Nov 27, 2015
Lesson #9: **Jeremiah**

SABBATH – Jeremiah’s Yoke

(Memory Text) **Luke 9:23** “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Let’s mark it down: To follow Christ means to deny self. The religion of Jesus is a religion that denies self. It denies our selfish natures in appetite, in spare time, in selfish gain, etc...

(Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 249) Christ is saying to His servants today, as He said to His disciples: “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” But men are as slow now to learn the lesson as in Christ’s day. God has given His people warning after warning; but the customs, habits, and practices of the world have had so great power on the minds of His professed people that His warnings have been disregarded.

With Luke 9:23 as the title verse - Faith I Live By, p. 151

The foundation of the plan of salvation was laid in sacrifice. Jesus left the royal courts and became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. All who share this salvation, purchased for them at such an infinite sacrifice by the Son of God, will follow the example of the true Pattern. Christ was the chief Cornerstone, and we must build upon this Foundation. Each must have a spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice. The life of Christ upon earth was unselfish; it was marked with humiliation and sacrifice. And shall men, partakers of the great salvation which Jesus came from heaven to bring them, refuse to follow their Lord and to share in His self-denial and sacrifice? Is the servant greater than his Lord? ... Self-denial and the cross lie directly in the pathway of every follower of Christ. The cross is that which crosses the natural affections and the will....
If we would be with Him in heaven, we must be like Him on earth.
Let us follow the Saviour in His simplicity and self-denial. Let us lift up the Man of Calvary by word and by holy living.

An interesting quote:

(Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, p. 63) Manufacture not yokes for your own necks or for the necks of God’s people. Let no one struggle against natural claims, but against sin, which must be met and repulsed at every step. The way is plainly marked out. “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” [Luke 9:23].

“The light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eye be single” (if special care is taken to keep every organ of the body pure and healthy; if temperance in all things is observed; if the physical and mental powers are exercised in accordance with an enlightened conscience) “thy whole body shall be full of light” [Matthew 6:22]. Paul writes, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” [Romans 12:1].



It is not our service to pray that colored hair shall become black, or that grey hair, which God pronounces honorable, shall become black. Those who set their minds laboring in this direction are not following on to know the Lord. They are starting in a course which will lead to the greatest, most God-dishonoring fanaticism.

Our work is to form new habits of thought. Through faith in Christ we can do this. Natural propensities are to be controlled. Selfish inclinations are to be denied. Again and again some things hostile to grace and reform will start into life. Again and again we shall be called into the conflict to fight against hereditary tendencies to do wrong.

SUNDAY – A Solitary Life

(2 Corinthians 6:14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The Christian's life can be one of a lonely existence. There are at least several reasons for this:

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

The life a Christian leads, if true to God, is a rebuke to many. In this day and age people look down upon "good" people. The Bible says the people just before Jesus returns will be "despisers of those that are good." (2 Tim. 3:3).

Another reason why a true follower of Christ will be a solitary person is because of the message that he must bear. The truth hurts and is never popular. It involves condemning sins, it involves warning people of the coming judgment and it involves telling people that they must change.

John the Baptist said to the religious leaders of his day:

(Matthew 3:1, 2, 10) In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.... therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

In other words he was telling them that they needed to repent and change and if they didn't they would be cast into the lake of fire which is the second death. John the Baptist was not very loved by the church he came to give his message to. But we must ever remember that Jesus loved him and that is what we should worry about first.

We too have an even more direct message to give to the world than John the Baptist:

(Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 321) In this fearful time, just before Christ is to come the second time, God's faithful preachers will have to bear a still more pointed testimony than was borne by John the Baptist. A responsible, important work is before them; and those who speak smooth things, God will not acknowledge as His shepherds. A fearful woe is upon them.



John was not well received because of his plain speaking.

(Prophets and Kings, p. 140) The forerunner of Christ lost his life by his plain speaking.

Jesus was put to death because he told the truth. Why should we expect anything else from this world? The Devil will raise up anyone and everyone he can to persecute any of God's faithful.

(Revelation 12:17) And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

MONDAY – Jeremiah's Yoke

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had invaded and captured Jerusalem. The invasion of Babylon into Jerusalem wearied the prophet. While some of the circumstances and particulars may be different how many are wearied at how modern Babylon had decimated God's spiritual Jerusalem today? We will probably never know until we get to the kingdom what exactly goes on behind the curtain as to how far the Papacy's damage to God's church has gone.

There is literally almost a complete silence of the Third Angel's Message within the camp. How has it come to this? Men instead are preaching against it, telling lies and saying it is not so and use slick philosophical arguments to express their opinions of deceit. Are we burdened by this? Is there a true deep burning inside our hearts over this? Better yet – what are we doing about it?

(Testimonies, vol. 4, pp. 173-174) Other false prophets arose to sow confusion among the people by turning them away from obeying the divine commands given through Jeremiah, but God's judgments were pronounced against them in consequence of their grievous sin of bringing rebellion against Him.

Just such men arise in these days and breed confusion and rebellion among the people who profess to obey the law of God. But just as certainly as divine judgment was visited upon the false prophets, just so surely will these evil workers receive their full measure of retribution; for the Lord has not changed. Those who prophesy lies encourage men to look upon sin as a small matter. When the terrible results of their crimes are made manifest, they seek, if possible, to make the one who has faithfully warned them responsible for their difficulties, even as the Jews charged Jeremiah with their evil fortunes.

Those who pursue a course of rebellion against the Lord can always find false prophets who will justify them in their acts and flatter them to their destruction. Lying words often make many friends, as in the case of Ahab and Zedekiah. These false prophets, in their pretended zeal for God, found many more believers and followers than the true prophet, who delivered the simple message of the Lord.



TUESDAY – War of the Prophets

The issue discussed in this lesson is when more than one person rises up and claims to be speaking for God but each are saying something different. How can we tell who is who? It is by the Word of God.

A similar and more “modern” scenario happened in the late 1800s into the 1930s. In 1883 the General Conference Church Manual Committee was formed. This committee unanimously rejected the idea of a church manual and hoped the issue of a church manual would never come up again.

In 1933 the Church Manual issue was brought up again by another General Conference Committee and passed with flying colors, and thus the Seventh-day Adventist Church had its first church manual.

Now we must ask ourselves a question: Which General Conference was right? Both were “in session.” Was it the 1883 General Conference “in session” who rejected a church manual, or was it the 1933 General Conference “in session” which accepted a church manual?

Which one was right? And which was walking in their own ways?

If something is brought into the church and it’s not from God, then who is it from? (See Matt.15:3, 6, 9)

This is why it is so important to study for ourselves and not just take it for granted that the speaker we listen to every Sabbath is telling what I need to hear.

(The Desire of Ages, pp. 140-141) If Nathanael had trusted to the rabbis for guidance, he would never have found Jesus. It was by seeing and judging for himself that he became a disciple. So in the case of many today whom prejudice withholds from good. How different would be the result if they would “come and see”!

While they trust to the guidance of human authority, none will come to a saving knowledge of the truth. Like Nathanael, we need to study God’s word for ourselves, and pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. He who saw Nathanael under the fig tree will see us in the secret place of prayer. Angels from the world of light are near to those who in humility seek for divine guidance.

If we trust human authority we will never really find Jesus.

(Maranatha, p. 197) We shall find that we must let loose of all hands except the hand of Jesus Christ. Friends will prove treacherous, and will betray us. Relatives, deceived by the enemy, will think they do God service in opposing us and putting forth the utmost efforts to bring us into hard places, hoping we will deny our faith. But we may trust our hand in the hand of Christ amid darkness and peril.

The followers of Christ must expect to encounter sneers. They will be reviled; their words and their faith will be misrepresented. Coldness and contempt may be harder to endure than martyrdom....



WEDNESDAY – The Yoke of Iron

(No study)

THURSDAY – Trusting in Lies

(Jeremiah 28:5) Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but **thou makest this people to trust in a lie.**

These words are still echoing today in God's church. There are many false shepherds telling lies that the people love to hear.

(Isaiah 58:20) Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

A big lie plaguing the church today is homosexuality. Speaking about this subject, Paul in the book of Romans says they "changed the truth of God into a lie..."

The Omega of Apostasy involved changing the truth into a lie.

(Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 204) 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 worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.

The Great Hope is a lie. The bulk of truth was removed from The Great Controversy and it was changed into The Great Hope.



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – November 28, 2015

One of the biggest lies we can perform is to claim to be a follower of Jesus but our lives clearly show that we don't know Him – only of Him.

(2 Timothy 3:1-5) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

If we were to stop here we would be certain that this was talking of the world but it is not. It is speaking of the condition of those claiming to be Christ's.

5 Having a form of godliness (they're religious people), but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.