



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Dec 12 – Dec 18, 2015
Lesson #12: **Jeremiah**

SABBATH – Back to Egypt

(Memory Text) **Jeremiah 42:5** “Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a **true** and **faithful witness** between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us.”

The word “witness” brings to mind “judgment.” In other words the Lord is testifying (or being a witness) against the church in Jeremiah’s day.

Is this how it is with the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

(Revelation 3:14) And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the **faithful** and **true witness**...

Notice how both passages use the word “true,” “faithful,” and “witness” to describe Jesus. So if Jesus is the faithful and true witness this means we can trust that what he is saying about not only the church in Jeremiah’s day, but also the Laodicea church, will be true. In other words it is a witness (or judgment) that is absolutely trustworthy.

If the Lord is being a witness to (or against) the church in Jeremiah’s day and the Laodicea church then this means we have been accused of doing something wrong. A witness is used in a court of law today. Does God have a court session being conducted as we speak?

(Daniel 7:9-10, 26-27) I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

The context and timing of this court session (or judgment) is at least the year 1798 or afterward. How we know this is the order of events in the vision.

Daniel sees four beasts which represent four kingdoms (Dan. 7:17, 23). The he sees ten horns which represent the ten kingdoms which the fourth beast divided into (vs. 7, 23-24). And then he sees a little horn coming up among those ten (vs. 8, 23-24).



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We will list the symbols/events in their order and give their fulfillments:

Beast	Fulfillment	Timeline
Lion (vs. 4)	Babylon	605 - 539 BC
Bear (vs. 5)	Medo-Persia	539 - 331 BC
Leopard (vs. 6)	Greece	331 - 168 BC
Dragon w/iron teeth (vs. 7)	Roman Empire	168 BC - 476 AD
Ten horns (vs. 7)	Divided Roman Empire	476 - 538
Little horn (vs. 8)	Roman Catholic Papacy	538 - 1798

This is clearly a sequence of events that God is giving in chronological order. What is the next event that happens in Daniel 7 after the rise and fall of the “little horn” power from 538-1798? The next event is the judgment that takes place in heaven (vs. 9-14). There is no other conclusion that this judgment takes place AT LEAST in the year 1798 or after. God is going to be a witness – through the record of the books – against all who have professed to serve Jesus.

(The Great Controversy, p. 480) In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment **the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period.** “Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?” 1 Peter 4:17

(The Great Controversy, p. 483) As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of **all who have believed on Jesus come in review** before God. **Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth**, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and **closes with the living.**

The judgment closes with the living righteous. In other words the wicked are not included in the investigative judgment that is now taking place.

(The Great Controversy, p. 486) At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. **All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny.** Both the living and the dead are to be judged “out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”



And concerning the wicked...

(The Great Controversy, p. 660-661) During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection the judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this judgment as an event that follows the second advent. “Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts.” 1 Corinthians 4:5. Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, “judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.” Daniel 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: “I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.” “They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4, 6. It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, “the saints shall judge the world.” 1 Corinthians 6:2. In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. **Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out**, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death.

Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people. Says Paul: “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?” Verse 3. And Jude declares that “the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” Jude 6.{GC 661.1}

At the close of the thousand years the second resurrection will take place. Then the wicked will be raised from the dead and appear before God for the execution of “the judgment written.” Thus the revelator, after describing the resurrection of the righteous, says: “The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Revelation 20:5. And Isaiah declares, concerning the wicked: “They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and *after many days shall they be visited.*” Isaiah 24:22

Let us remember that our view of the events surrounding the millennium is distinctive to Seventh-day Adventism. There is not even one other church who views it as we do. So we can expect this doctrine to be greatly attacked also.

SUNDAY – Political Anarchy

The lesson brings up the word “remnant.” What does it mean? A remnant is something usually at the end that is exactly like the beginning. It won’t be different. It is also smaller in size.

(Isaiah 10:22) For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return.

(Romans 9:27) Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

God’s professed people have been large in number only a remnant (a smaller portion) have allowed God to do that work in them of putting away of sin.



What makes this group “the remnant”?

(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**.

Here are two major clues as to what constitutes God’s remnant:

1. They keep the commandments of God
2. They have the testimony of Jesus Christ

On point #1 what “commandments” are these talking about? Some say it is the command to love one another (John 13:35). Or, they say, it is the command to teach all nations and baptize them (Matthew 28:19, 20) and to partake of the Lord’s Supper. While these may be included we have texts that define what the primary meaning of this phrase means.

The Commandments of God

The expression “keep the commandments of God” is used in three places in the book of Revelation.

1. Revelation 12:17
2. Revelation 14:12
3. Revelation 22:14

Example #2:

(Revelation 14:12) Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Immediately before this verse you have a reference to those who worship the beast, and his image, and receive his mark. So verse 12 is in contrast to what comes immediately before. In other words those who keep the commandments are in contrast to those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark.

Verse 12 is also the conclusion of the Third Angel's Message - so it must be very important.

The next reference...

(Revelation 22:14) Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Notice that the text doesn't say they “believe” in the commandments. It doesn't say that they “have” the commandments. It doesn't say they “teach” the commandments or “preach” the commandments. It says they **KEEP** the commandments.

What are these “commandments” that the remnant keeps?

In the story of the rich young ruler (Matt. 19:16-22) he asked Jesus a question

(vs. 16) Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?



And Jesus answered...

(vs. 17) ...if thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments.**

This is the same expression found in Revelation 12:17. Now which commandments are Jesus speaking of? Starting in the next verse Jesus quotes many of the Ten Commandments. So very clearly, allowing Scripture to define itself, the phrase “keep the commandments” are referring to the Ten Commandments. God’s end-time remnant will keep the Ten Commandments.

God will have a commandment keeping people at the end of time and it's important to realize this. If someone teaches that no one can keep the commandments - that person is making God and His Word a liar because God says that he will have a commandment keeping people on the earth at the end of time.

This is one of two main identifying marks of what constitutes God’s remnant. This is why the Spirit of Prophecy agrees with the Bible and can say the following:

(The Upward Look, p. 315) God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ’s church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. Where two or three are present who love and obey the commandments of God, Jesus there presides...

The Testimony of Jesus

This is the second main identifying characteristic as to what defines God’s remnant at the end of time.

(Revelation 12:17) ...**the remnant** of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and **have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

It says the remnant “have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” But it does not say what that testimony of Jesus is.

Revelation 19 gives us a further definition of what the testimony of Jesus is.

(Revelation 19:10) And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: **I am thy fellowservant**, and **of thy brethren** that have the testimony of Jesus...

John’s “brethren” have the testimony of Jesus.

(vs. 10) ...I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: **for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

What we have so far...

1. John has brethren.
2. And his brethren have the testimony of Jesus (as does John).
3. And it says the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.



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In Revelation 22 we have the same scene repeated where the angel comes to John and John tries to bow down and worship the angel.

(Revelation 22:8, 9) And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy **fellow servant** and of **thy brethren...**

So far we have mentioned in this verse...

1. John (he's the fellow servant)
2. His brethren

But the question is – who or what are John's "brethren"?

(9) ...See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren **the prophets...**

In Revelation 19:10 it says John's brethren have this thing called "the testimony of Jesus" and the verse also calls it "the spirit of prophecy." But here in Revelation 22 it says the brethren who have the testimony of Jesus (which is the spirit of prophecy) are called what? It says they're prophets.

So the question is – what is the testimony of Jesus that is called the spirit of prophecy? It means that you have the prophetic gift. John's brethren have the prophetic gift. The testimony of Jesus means to be a prophet.

So the remnant church in Revelation 12:17 – what are they going to have in their midst? They're going to have the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of prophecy means that they're going to have a prophet in their midst.

Never forget these two characteristics of God's remnant: They keep God's Ten Commandments and they have a prophet in their midst.

Don't be ashamed of these two characteristics. The trend in the church is to downplay these (esp. the testimony of Jesus). Ellen White is the prophet, the messenger of the Lord, sent to us by Jesus himself. This is why it is called "the testimony **of Jesus.**" It's not Ellen White's words, she is speaking for God and when any of us reject the counsel she gives (or any prophet's counsel) we reject the Lord. And what happens when we do this?

(Hosea 4:16) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: **because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee**, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

We cease to be a child of God if we reject any message from the Lord.

Don't go with the flow! It seems most of the church around us is greatly ignoring Ellen White as a prophet and her counsel. This is why the Bible speaks of a "remnant" – it will only be a small number that will heed all that the Lord has spoken.



MONDAY – Seeking Divine Guidance

Jeremiah 42 is highlighted for discussion. The people claiming to serve the Lord asked Jeremiah to intercede in the behalf to the Lord as to where they should go and what they shall do. They swore of obedience to the Lord no matter what the answer was:

(Jeremiah 42:5, 6) Then they said to Jeremiah, The Lord be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the Lord thy God shall send thee to us.

6 **Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the Lord our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the Lord our God.**

The Lord answered the people through Jeremiah:

(10) If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you.

(11) Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the Lord: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

(12) And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land.

Did the people obey? No this is not what they wanted to hear. This is not what made sense to them. They wanted to go to Egypt where they would have plenty of food and safety (vs. 13, 14).

But the Lord sent the warning if they would go to Egypt they would absolutely perish (vs. 15-17).

And despite the warning they listened to their own hearts and would return to Egypt.

What this can mean for the church today

Egypt is a symbol for the world. Has the church returned to the world? It's not that hard to see. Many of our churches have become entertainment centers instead of centers of worship and the preaching of the Word of God.

Many of us look at the big cities as places where we can live abundantly. We can get better employment and food is all around us, etc... Like the Israelites of old they insisted on going to Egypt because of what they thought were advantages. They lacked faith that the Lord would see them through and put their faith in their own wisdom and in the advantages of a thriving society."

(Romans 14:23) ...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

(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.



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We have been counseled to get out of the cities – get out of the place that we think will give us more advantages. The Lord warned Israel not to go to Egypt and we insist on staying in Egypt – not even thinking about moving to the country. We have been warned what will happen to those who stay in Egypt (the cities) when the last events arrive:

(Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 142) But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that **those who wish to leave them will not be able**. We must be preparing for these issues. This is the light that is given me.

BABYLON

The Lord promised the people in Jeremiah's day the following promise:

(Jeremiah 42:11) Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

This promise is for us today. We need not be afraid of spiritual Babylon. We know the end from the beginning because God has given us the sure word of prophecy. God wins! And those who are with Jesus win too.

In Daniel 11:40-45 we have a power called "the king of the north." This is a symbol for the spiritual Babylon --- the Roman Papacy. In these verses he is conquering the world step by step and then in verses 44 and 45 he brings about a death decree to destroy this little remnant because he cannot conquer them.

Jesus brings an end to spiritual Babylon

In Daniel 7 Babylon is called a "little horn." In Daniel 8 he is also referred to as a "little horn" but at the end of the chapter a new name is introduced – he is called a "king" (vs. 23). This same "king" it says:

(vs. 25) ...he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes...

This same power is describe by Paul with the similar attributes:

(2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4) ...and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This power is no doubt referring to the antichrist – the Papal system.

Now what happens to the "king" in Daniel 8?

(vs. 25) but he shall be broken without hand.

And the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians – what happens with him?

(vs. 8) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming



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The “king” in Daniel 8 and the man of sin are identical. God calls the Papacy a “king” because he is usurping the position of the true King of the North --- Jesus.

In Daniel 11 the “king of the north” – it’s the same conclusion “and he shall come to his end.” (vs. 45)

How does he come to his end? One of my all-time favorite verses explains...

(Daniel 12:1) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: **and at that time thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Who is it that delivers the remnant from the hands of the king of the north in the previous verses in chapter 11? It is none other than Jesus.

Again it’s the same conclusion in all 3 scenarios

1. Dan 8 – the “king” (which is clearly the Papacy) is “broken without hand.” This parallels with the stone in Daniel 2 that is cut out of the mountain without hand.
2. 2 Thess. 2 – the man of sin is destroyed by the Second Coming.
3. Dan. 11 – the king of the north (vs. 40-45) comes to his end. How? By Michael, who is none other than Jesus. (Daniel 12:1).

The battle is already won. Join with Jesus and you and I can become conquerors like He is.

TUESDAY – Returning to Egypt

As Jesus gave the Ten Commandments he spake these words:

(Exodus 20:2) I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

He brought Israel out of Egypt because they cried out unto him (Exodus 2:23-25). So God hears Israel’s pleas for deliverance. And God brings them out of Egypt and then takes them to Mt. Sinai and says “If you love me keep my commandments.”

The Lord still operates this same way. We cry out to him for deliverance from bondage to sin. The Lord brings us out of the world (or Egypt) into a special covenant relationship with Him and then he asks us to keep his commandments.

In Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5 is a chapter entitled “An Appeal.” It starts on page 217. This is a highly recommended reading for every one of us. A few excerpts:

(p. 217) I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of



banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.

God's people's hearts were in Egypt despite the Lord's warnings; the church today has retreated back to spiritual Egypt which is a symbol for the world. The people became angry at the words of the prophet Jeremiah and today we express the same sentiments towards (esp.) Ellen White and many things she says to us. We don't like the call to put away sin completely. We don't like the call to put away all meat eating. We don't like the call to not eat cheese. We don't like the call to not drink coffee or tea. We don't like the call to cease theater attendance and sporting events. Why? It's because we love these things more than God.

(Last Day Events, p. 192) Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement.

And how do we accomplish this?

(The Upward Look, p. 328) Ample provisions have been made by the dear Saviour to purify, to cleanse from all sins, and **by His grace to remedy the defects in our character by imputing unto us His righteousness.**

Living By Faith

The lesson also brings out the importance of living by faith in what God says instead of letting our emotions and self-intuition guide us.

(Matthew 4:4) It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Anything else will lead to disaster. We cannot trust our own hearts as the Bible says we cannot trust it (Jer. 17:9). Measure your inclinations with the Word of God and if it is different you have a choice to make.

(Joshua 24:14, 15) Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.



(Deuteronomy 30:19) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

(Daughters of God, p. 121) All your life long your heart has been in rebellion against God. You have trampled upon His offered mercy, choosing the pleasing things of the world and the service of Satan rather than the service of Christ. Yet Jesus in unbounded mercy still invites you to choose Him as your Saviour and become a child of God, an heir of glory. You can choose life and salvation if you will, or you can choose to worship self and devote your precious hours of probation to making your person attractive to please the eye of the worldling and the sensualist, to receive flattery from lying lips, and at last reap that harvest which you have been sowing—corruption. The poor mortal body which has been your idol, your god, will be cut down like the grass and wither as the green herb. Oh, Maria, how heartsick it has made me to see your mind almost wholly taken up with your own person, your dress, your appearance. Your mind seemed to be on a constant stretch to improve your appearance. {DG 121.3}

The Word of God exhorts us to study to show ourselves approved unto God. How much has this important lesson been studied? You have coveted the approval and the praise of those who are lovers of pleasure and the enemies of God while you have had no elevated desires and determination of purpose to seek, above everything else, to show yourself approved unto God. [It is] He who grants you life and every good thing which you have enjoyed.

WEDNESDAY – Taken Into Exile

The lesson asks a great question:

Think about the symbolism, too, in the Israelites' going back to Egypt in their desire to find safety. How ironic! In a spiritual sense, what are ways that we could be tempted to go back to Egypt to find what we think we can't find with the Lord?

First the lesson seems to indicate that we haven't gone back to Egypt. As we have already read the Spirit of Prophecy has spoken of this happening. This is one of the greatest signs, by insinuating that we haven't gone back, that we truly have a disease that leads us to think we're alright when we are all wrong. This deadly disease is called the Laodicea condition.

But anyhow, we have gone back to Egypt in many regards. Joining with The World Council of Churches, with the United Nations, the White House, sending our pastors to Sunday churches like Willow Creek and Saddleback, pandering to evangelicals for acceptance. All these things have leavened the church so much over the years that we have actually come to the point where we don't even believe the Third Angel's message anymore and now we have the audacity to join in partnership with the Roman Catholic Church, on an official level, and present faith to the world in the Faith Counts initiative.



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(Signs of the Times, February 19, 1894, par. 4) **The church that holds to the word of God is irreconcilably separated from Rome.** Protestants were once thus apart from this great church of apostasy, but they have approached more nearly to her, and are still in the path of reconciliation to the Church of Rome. Rome never changes. Her principles have not altered in the least. She has not lessened the breach between herself and Protestants; they have done all the advancing. But what does this argue for the Protestantism of this day? **It is the rejection of Bible truth which makes men approach to infidelity. It is a backsliding church that lessens the distance between itself and the Papacy.**

She saying that because the Protestant churches started compromising and getting away from Bible truth this has caused these churches to join with Rome. Are we exempt from this? Clearly we have moved toward Rome and embraced her with open arms. The Faith Counts initiative demonstrates this. What does this mean? According to the Spirit of Prophecy it means we (the Seventh-day Adventist Church) have gotten away from God's word and this has caused us to get closer with the Papacy. Therefore we are "taken into exile" by her.

Jesus says in Matthew 15:14 the following warning:

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, **both shall fall into the ditch.**

Jesus says the spiritually blind will fall into "the ditch." Laodicea is blind according to Revelation 3:17 and if she continues to be blind and doesn't apply the remedy of the eyesalve then she too will fall into this ditch. The question is: What is "the ditch" that Jesus is speaking of?

(Proverbs 23:27) For **a whore is a deep ditch**; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

In Revelation 17 we have the great whore that sits upon the nations of the earth (vs.1, 2). This great whore is called "Mystery, Babylon the Great" (vs. 5). Jesus is saying that because we have gotten away from Bible truth and have sought after the praise of men, churches, and governments – he says this has blinded our eyes and if we can't see the Papacy anymore as the Antichrist we will surely fall into her hands. We don't apprehend the danger of her anymore. This is why we can join with her. Many leaders will have more bad to say, harsher words to say about a member who preaches the Third Angel than they ever would about this system called Babylon. The church has gone back to Egypt.

THURSDAY – Open Defiance

Because of their backsliding hearts now open apostasy and defiance is inevitable. Read Jeremiah 44:15-19 for the people's response to the word of the Lord from Jeremiah.

(16) As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the Lord, we will not hearken unto thee.

(17) But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.



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And we think how could they have done this? But yet we are surely repeating the same open defiance against the Lord and his prophets. Again, Faith Counts, we are burning incense to Rome, our publications will denounce our own members as Antichrist while praising Pope Francis as a good man in the same sentence, and some of our churches are actually having either Sunday services and Lent services.

Many are coming out of the woodwork in direct opposition to many points of our message: the sanctuary/investigative judgment was made up, the spirit of prophecy is thrown into trashcans on our pulpits, the papacy as the Antichrist is no more, the Lamb-like beast of Revelation is not the USA. Leaders are writing in the open articles denying the faith they once pledged to uphold and nothing happens to them except they get promoted.

The tithe issue

I personally am not one to tell people where they should or shouldn't return tithes and offerings, and I'm sure Metro doesn't do this either as I've never heard it. But the term "storehouse" represents the place where you go to get fed.

(6T 447) There are only two places in the world where we can deposit our treasures--in God's storehouse or in Satan's, and all that is not devoted to Christ's service is counted on Satan's side and goes to strengthen his cause.

If God's storehouse is the conference only then where is Satan's building at?

(Manuscript 73, Dec. 12, 1900) This world is the Lord's storehouse, from which we are ever drawing. He has provided fruits and grains and vegetables for our sustenance. For us He makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall. The whole human family, good and evil, are constantly drawing from God's storehouse. It makes every difference with those so highly privileged how they receive the Lord's gifts and how they treat the contract the Lord has made with them. He has made them His almoners, directing them to draw from His storehouse, and then make a return to Him in gifts and offerings, "that there may be meat in mine house."

(YRP 195) He to whom God has entrusted unusual gifts should return to the Lord's storehouse that which he has received, by freely giving to others the benefit of his blessings. Thus God will be honored and glorified. . . .

What is the food that we should get from the storehouse?

(Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 27) The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. **It is the bread of life for these last days**.

If the Three Angel's Messages are the bread of life message for this time and you never hear it from your local pulpit or never receive the warning message of the danger that is coming on the world – this means that you are not getting fed. So is that place the storehouse anymore? Will God hold us accountable for all of our money?



Sabbath School Lesson Notes – December 19, 2015

Here are few quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy on this point:

Tithe is not to be used to support unsanctified ministers.

(1T, 261, 262) There are fearful woes for those who preach the truth, but are not sanctified by it, and also for those who consent to receive and maintain the unsanctified to minister to them in word and doctrine.

(2T, 552) If God pronounces a woe upon those who are called to preach the truth and refuse to obey, a heavier woe rests upon those who take upon them this sacred work without clean hands and pure hearts. As there are woes for those who preach the truth while they are unsanctified in heart and life, so there are woes for those who receive and maintain the unsanctified in the position which they cannot fill.

(3T, 553) It would be poor policy to support from the treasury of God those who really mar and injure His work, and who are constantly lowering the standard of Christianity.

Tithe is to be supplied to men and women laboring in word and doctrine.

(Ev, 492) The tithe should go to those who labor in **word and doctrine**, **be they men or women**.

Very significant that it says “word and doctrine.” And also take note that men or women can receive tithe. The qualification is not for them to be ordained as this is not Biblical for women, but that they labor in the word and doctrine. In other words they have a burden to get the message out.

(WM, 277) The tithe is set apart for a special use.... It is to be especially devoted to the support of those who are bearing God's message to the world, and **it should not be diverted from this purpose**.

The special use of the tithe is to go to those who are bearing God's message. That message is the three angel's message. If your church is doing this then Praise God!

(6T, 387) The tithe you have withheld I reserve for the support of My servants in their work of opening the Scriptures to those who are in the regions of darkness, who do not understand My law.

There is not a hint in the context of the above three quotes to discriminate between denominational and self-supporting work. God's work is God's work – no matter who does it.

Again, it is not anyone's business to tell or even suggest where to send you money to. But at the same time tithe is a doctrine and God's people have been hoodwinked on this issue. Therefore it merits discussion.