



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Jul 25 – Jul 30, 2015
Lesson #5: **Biblical Missionaries**

SABBATH – Exiles as Missionaries

(Memory Text) **Daniel 7:14** “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Again, I’m still always amazed that we will pretty much use any version of the Bible except the King James Version. The King James is the easiest to remember when doing memory verses. The reason for this is the poetic like flow of the language.

On to the lesson – the last paragraph of the page starts out by saying:

“But the book of Daniel is also a kind of handbook for missionary activity. From it we can draw lessons...”

How true this is. Not only will it give us personal and practical lessons but it also gives us lessons on how to study the Bible (esp. prophecy), and prayer.

SUNDAY – The Exile

When you look at the story (and prophecy) in Daniel 3 and see that only three Hebrews were faithful. I asked myself there must have been many more than these three. But how many Hebrews were taken to Babylon?

(2 Kings 24:14-16) And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

16 And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

So we clearly see here that there were more than these three Hebrews that were taken captive. The days of Daniel were just like the days of Noah – a very small remnant were the only ones faithful.

The lesson asks a very good and important question: What does the Bible tell us about Daniel’s character that made him the great missionary he was?

Why was Daniel able to pass the big test (in chapter 6) of his and stay firm in praying to God openly and then he was thrown into the lion’s den?



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(Matthew 25:21) His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: **thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things**: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Was Daniel tested on something smaller before he was tested here in chapter 6? Absolutely – his diet.

(Daniel 1:5-8) And **the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank**: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

6 Now **among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah**:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

8 **But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank**: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Notice that word “purpose.” This means Daniel made up his mind ahead of time that he would not eat meat. This doesn't mean just unclean meats. Daniel wouldn't eat any meat at all and this decision he made ahead of time before he would be tempted.

(Romans 6:11) Likewise **reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin**, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Believe (reckon) that you are dead to sin and that God has promised it does not have dominion over you. We now live for the Lord Jesus Christ and want to allow him to work through us.

(Romans 13:14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Make no provision for sin. In other words if you have a problem drinking liquor you certainly don't want to go hang out at a bar. If you have a problem with cigarettes and decide to quit, don't place a pack in glove box just in case you get the urge. Make no provision, or plan, for sin. Purpose ahead of time, at the beginning of each day, that you are not going to entertain that sin and ask the Lord to keep you throughout the day.

So the book of Daniel records that he was faithful – very faithful – in his diet. He wanted as clear a mind as possible to serve the Lord.

(Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 63) The liability to take disease is increased tenfold by meat eating. The intellectual, the moral, and the physical powers are depreciated by the habitual use of flesh meats. **Meat eating deranges the system, beclouds the intellect, and blunts the moral sensibilities.**

(Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 354) But **when we take any course which** expends our vitality, decreases our strength, or **beclouds the intellect we sin against God.**



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(Counsel on Diet and Foods, p. 383) Those who use flesh meat disregard all the warnings that God has given concerning this question. They have no evidence that they are walking in safe paths. They have not the slightest excuse for eating the flesh of dead animals. God's curse is resting upon the animal creation. Many times when meat is eaten, it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating.

And this is a sobering statement that none of should take lightly:

(Counsel on Diet and Foods, p. 59) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Those who overcome as Christ overcame will need to constantly guard themselves against the temptations of Satan. The appetite and passions should be restricted and under the control of enlightened conscience, that the intellect may be unimpaired, the perceptive powers clear, so that the workings of Satan and his snares may not be interpreted to be the providence of God. Many desire the final reward and victory which are to be given to overcomers, but are not willing to endure toil, privation, and denial of self, as did their Redeemer. It is only through obedience and continual effort that we shall overcome as Christ overcame.

The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. The continual transgression of man for six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of time, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome.

Because Daniel was faithful and true to the diet God had outlined for him he was able to stand firm when the big test came. Don't we have a big test coming? It's called the national Sunday law. We must, and we'll repeat that, we must be as faithful in our diet. God has outlined very clearly in the Spirit of Prophecy his plan for us when it comes to healthy bodies.

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

(1 Corinthians 10:31) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

The first angel's message commands us to "give glory to him." we can do this by our eating and drinking habits.



MONDAY – Witnesses (Daniel 2 – 5)

Daniel had much to “complain” about if he chose to. Taken captive from his land, he was castrated, almost killed (several times), persecuted, and his very existence of who he was they were trying to erase (his name, language, education, etc...). But we find Daniel never complaining or murmuring even once.

Had he, what kind of witness would he have been? Would King Nebuchadnezzar have been converted? (We are told he will be in the kingdom) It is highly doubtful he would have been.

This should be a lesson for each of us. What happens to us in this life and in this world is only temporary. We must learn to live with whatever circumstances come our way. God will fix these things in the judgments stages.

If Daniel were never taken captive Nebuchadnezzar might not have come to a knowledge of Jesus.

Another thing to point out about Daniel is that when God gave him a message he delivered it “as is” – no toning it down – no muffling the message. It takes a courage only given by God to tell Nebuchadnezzar that his kingdom will not last forever and that he would be conquered.

Again there are lessons here. We are to give the message “as is” to the world and let God deal with the consequences.

(Evangelism, p. 230) Satan has devised a state of things whereby the proclamation of the third angel's message shall be bound about. We must beware of his plans and methods. There must be no toning down of the truth, no muffling of the message for this time. The third angel's message must be strengthened and confirmed. The eighteenth chapter of Revelation reveals the importance of presenting the truth in no measured terms but with boldness and power.... There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel's message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been.--Manuscript 16, 1900.

(Prophets and Kings, pp. 141, 142) Those ministers who are men pleasers, who cry, Peace, peace, when God has not spoken peace, might well humble their hearts before God, asking pardon for their insincerity and their lack of moral courage. It is not from love for their neighbor that they smooth down the message entrusted to them, but because they are self-indulgent and ease-loving. True love seeks first the honor of God and the salvation of souls. Those who have this love will not evade the truth to save themselves from the unpleasant results of plain speaking. **When souls are in peril, God's ministers will not consider self, but will speak the word given them to speak, refusing to excuse or palliate evil.**

Would that every minister might realize the sacredness of his office and the holiness of his work, and show the courage that Elijah showed! As divinely appointed messengers, ministers are in a position of awful responsibility. They are to "reprove, rebuke, exhort will all long-suffering." 2 Tim. 4:2. In Christ's stead they are to labor as stewards of the mysteries of heaven, encouraging the obedient and warning the disobedient. **With them worldly policy is to have no weight. Never are they to swerve from the path in which Jesus has bidden them walk. They are to go forward in faith, remembering that they are**



surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. They are not to speak their own words, but words which One greater than the potentates of earth has bidden them speak. Their message is to be, "Thus saith the Lord." God calls for men like Elijah, Nathan, and John the Baptist--men who will bear His message with faithfulness, regardless of the consequences; men who will speak the truth bravely, though it call for the sacrifice of all they have.

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

TUESDAY – Daniel in Persia

(Daniel 6:20) And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, **servant of the living God**, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Daniel is called "the servant of the living God." The lesson asks why he called this.

(Romans 6:16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

When one is called a "servant" this means that he obeys that person he is a servant to. The master's requirements will be carried out by the servant (or slave).

(Matthew 10:34) The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Servants of righteousness and Jesus

(Romans 6:18, 22) Being then made **free from sin**, ye became the **servants of righteousness**.

22 But now being made **free from sin**, and **become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

(Jeremiah 23:6) In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Jesus is our righteousness that frees us from the bondage of sin.



WEDNESDAY – Daniel and God’s Eternal Kingdom

We (meaning me and you) have control over only one prophecy of the Bible.

(Matthew 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

This is in our hands. This is the reason why Jesus hasn’t come – the work hasn’t been performed and God’s professed people are not ready.

(Early Writings, p. 119) I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, "Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant.

She says “a great work must be done for the remnant” – what is this work? It is the perfecting of character and the work of spreading the gospel.

(Maranatha, p. 112) Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. **When the character of the Saviour shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim His own.** It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten, the coming of our Lord. **Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel! Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come.**

The reason we are not spreading the gospel is because we really don’t want Jesus to come. We say we do but our action – the way we live our lives each day - say something different. We really love this world. The old saying goes “Your actions are so loud I can’t hear a word you say.”

HEAVEN IS CHEAP ENOUGH!

(Matthew 25:21) Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

(Maranatha, p. 319) As your senses delight in the attractive loveliness of the earth, think of the world that is to come, that shall never know the blight of sin and death; where the face of nature will no more wear the shadow of the curse. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. In the varied gifts of God in nature we see but the faintest gleaming of His glory. It is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Language is altogether too feeble to attempt a description of heaven. As the scene rises before me, I am lost in amazement. Carried away with the surpassing splendor and excellent glory, I lay down the pen, and exclaim, "Oh, what love! what wondrous love!" The



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most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour's love.

Don't you want go now?

THURSDAY – More Exiles as Missionaries

One day soon those who stand firm as a rock to God and His commandments will be in “exile.” At this time we will be “missionaries” just like many in the Bible (Daniel, Esther, Moses, etc...). We will give a testimony for Jesus like no other. Not by our own words or might but by the power of the spirit of God will this be done. We will witness to the some of the greatest people of the earth.

(Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 716) My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us? Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition shall be brought against you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when you will be brought before councils, and every position of truth which you hold will be severely criticized. The time that so many are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge that God has given us of preparing for the approaching crisis.

(Maranatha, p. 45) Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.

(2 Timothy 3:12) All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

(Maranatha, p. 195) As Christ was hated without cause, so will His people be hated because they are obedient to the commandments of God. If He who was pure, holy, and undefiled, who did good and only good in our world, was treated as a base criminal and condemned to death, His disciples must expect but similar treatment, however faultless may be their life and blameless their character.

Human enactments, laws manufactured by satanic agencies under a plea of goodness and restriction of evil, will be exalted, while God's holy commandments are despised and trampled underfoot. **And all who prove their loyalty by obedience to the law of Jehovah must be prepared to be arrested, to be brought before councils that have not for their standard the high and holy law of God.**

Those who live during the last days of this earth's history will know what it means to be persecuted for the truth's sake. In the courts injustice will prevail. The judges will refuse to listen to the reasons of those who are loyal to the commandments of God, because they know that arguments in favor of the fourth commandment are unanswerable. They will



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say, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die." God's law is nothing to them. "Our law" with them is supreme. Those who respect this human law will be favored, but those who will not bow to the idol sabbath will have no favors shown them.

In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but **the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.**