



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES
For the week of Nov 07 – Nov 13, 2015
Lesson #7: **Jeremiah**

SABBATH – The Crisis Continues

(Memory Text) **Jeremiah 9:24** “But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

The text says God “delights” in exercising lovingkindness and righteousness. We can understand this as we know how it feels when we do something good for someone – it gives us that happy and satisfied feeling. What about judgment? It says God delights in exercising “judgment.” Most of us would have a harder time understanding and relating to this one. We must understand that God’s character is absolute love, and part of God’s love is judging. In other words God is happy because his ways are to call things as they are. He’s pure honesty. He hides, covers, or even white-washes nothing. And at the same time He does not “exaggerate” a person’s character – even the good qualities, as we like to do many times. God’s character is mercy and justice. We have these two traits brought out in Exodus 33 and 34. Moses asks Jesus to show him his glory and here is what Jesus did.

(Exodus 34:6, 7) And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...

There’s the mercy and longsuffering of God towards us. And here is the other side of God’s love – his justice.

(7) ...and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Aren’t we glad we that we have a God like that? Think about this, if God was a God that “cut corners” when it came to people – how would heaven and the new earth be when we get there? It would just turn into another great controversy eventually. This we can guarantee.

We must ever keep reminding ourselves that we are nothing and can accomplish nothing without the power of God.

(John 3:30) He must increase, but I must decrease.

A couple of encouraging statements from The Great Controversy:

(p. 504) The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: “Affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom.



(p. 627) God's **judgments will be** visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. **His long forbearance with the wicked** emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is nonetheless certain and terrible because it is long delayed. "The Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act." Isaiah 28:21. **To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act.** "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Ezekiel 33:11. The Lord is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ... forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Yet He will "by no means clear the guilty." "The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked." Exodus 34:6, 7; Nahum 1:3. By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. **The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord's reluctance to execute justice.** The nation with which He bears long, and which He will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God's account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmixed with mercy.

God would rather not execute judgments and punishment on humankind – but He must do it when necessary. A good parent is not one who allows their child to do anything as they please with no retribution. A good parent is one who will correct their child even though it hurts them to do so. The parent realizes that feelings must take a back seat to principle and what is necessary. This is God; he must perform this "strange act." The act is strange to him because his nature wants to shower blessings upon his creation but the persistent wrong actions of individuals must be dealt with for the benefit and safety of the universe.

SUNDAY – Let Him Who Boasts...

The lamenting of Jeremiah in chapter 9 is highlighted and asks us to dwell on verses 23 and 24.

(Jeremiah 9:23, 24) Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:
24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

This speaks volumes of the Laodicean condition.

"The **only hope** for the Laodiceans is a clear view of their standing before God, and a knowledge of the nature of their disease." (4T 87)

Do we understand this? Our only (only means there is no other option) is to realize our condition as a people before God. When we read the message to the church of Laodicea – it is grim.

But we should not look at it this way. God, in his mercy, loves us enough to tell it to us plainly how we are. He wants us to come to the Remedy. Believe what he has said about our condition and run to Jesus and submit – that all we must do – and allow Jesus to perform that work in us.



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ATTENTION: Brothers and Sisters we have huge problems going on today in our church. With all the recent attention surrounding fellow church member Dr. Ben Carson, the current leader in the polls for the nomination of the Republican Party to become the President of the United States of America, this has brought on great changes and issues within the church.

(Last Day Events, p. 172) Divisions will come in the church. **Two parties will be developed.**
The wheat and tares grow up together for the harvest.

We have seen the fulfillment of this esp. with the Women's Ordination issue but it is running deeper than we could ever have imagined.

As mentioned Dr. Ben Carson's run for the Presidency has brought the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the forefront and its doctrines in the spotlight. This is exactly what the Spirit of Prophecy has foretold would happen.

(Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 386) Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice, **but a change will come**; the movements are now being made. **The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring the commandment-keeping people to notice.... Every position of our faith will be searched into**, and if we are not thorough Bible students, established, strengthened, settled, the wisdom of the world's great men will be too much for us. (Letter 12, 1886)

She says Seventh-day Adventists will come to notice and that our doctrines will "searched into." This time is now because of Dr. Ben Carson. Notice the very recent headlines:

"Donald Trump seeks a sharp contrast with Ben Carson's Seventh-day Adventist faith" (Wash. Post – Oct. 24)

"Ben Carson Puts Spotlight on Seventh-Day Adventists" (NY Times – Oct. 27)

"MSNBC's David Corn on Ben Carson: 'Serious Issues About His Faith'" (Breitbart – Oct. 27)

"Ben Carson and the Satanic Sabbath Persecution Conspiracy" (Mother Jones – Oct. 2)

"Carson puts new spotlight on Seventh-day Adventist Church" (AP News – Oct. 29)

"What Seventh-day Adventists like Ben Carson believe" (CNN Politics – Nov. 4)

"All Your Questions About Seventh-Day Adventism And Ben Carson Answered" (NPR – Oct. 27)

"Ben Carson's Church Believes the U.S. Government Will Team Up With the Antichrist" (The Daily Beast – Oct. 31)

Several of these articles spell out very plainly the old-time traditional scenario of the end-times. God said the rocks would cry out. And now God is using the situation with Dr. Ben Carson to accomplish something he said long ago through his prophet Ellen White.

The church (at large) refuses to preach the message and give the world the last warning and instead God is getting journalists to delve into our teachings and repeat these teachings and scenarios in worldwide news outlets.



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(Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 300) Let me tell you that **the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning.** There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. **The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness.**

Now the question arises: In light of all the major events happening that pertain to our prophetic message, why doesn't the church want to preach and confirm the message?

The answer may shock most but we need to realize its validity: The church doesn't believe the Pope is the Antichrist anymore. Are you finding it hard to believe this? Want proof? Do you need the proof? First let's look at what Jesus said.

(Matthew 12:34, 35) O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Jesus says whatever is in in your heart (this means your mind) it will come out of your mouth.

How long have you dear reader been in the church? And how long has it been since you heard this message preach? Have you ever read any articles from our publications that uphold and warn us about our message? Out of the heart the mouth speaks, Jesus said.

The following articles are from seventh-day Adventist sources and we will give some brief excerpt from these articles:

“Viewpoint: Antichrist Fever - The Pope in the US” (Spectrum Magazine – Sept. 24)

“But the traditional Adventist interpretation of Revelation 13 as applied to modern day Papacy and America faces many challenges.... We should be concerned that in attempting to enforce our only interpretation of Revelation 13 to the Papacy and America, we have effectively neutered the text. It can no longer speak dynamically today, but must apply either to a medieval religious power or a future triumvirate of devilish politico-religious powers.... The Papacy has also been called the fulfillment of all “antichrist” prophecies in the New Testament. But that view also has its own problems. The obvious meaning of antichrist is to be “against Christ”. Is the Pope really “against Christ”? We may take issue with the Pope’s interpretations of many doctrines but this does not mean he is against Christ....I fail to see how the Pope could be described as THE antichrist.”

These are so-called Adventists denying our prophetic interpretation of Revelation 13 and giving philosophical-like answers to try and make the case sound good. Not only does this deny our interpretation but this also throws out what the mark of the beast is and it throws out Ellen White as a prophet and The Great Controversy.



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“Adventist Revelation Scholar Reflects on Pope’s Visit to the U.S.” (Adventist Today – Sept. 28)

“The audience required extra rooms and some were standing after all the seats were taken on Sabbath afternoon (September 26) at Loma Linda University when Dr. Jon Paulien, a top Adventist expert on the Book of Revelation and dean of the university’s School of Religion, spoke on “Bible Prophecy and the Pope’s Visit.”...he mentioned [the] mass mailing [of] the Ellen White volume, *The Great Controversy* to Philadelphia households prior to the arrival of the Pope last week. He also mentioned the “infamous” billboard campaign by an Adventist splinter group denouncing the Catholic faith. He said actions of this type counterproductive, causing “more anger than curiosity.” **He noted that the anti-Catholic stance in some Adventist evangelism is not—and repeated “not” twice —part of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Adventist denomination. It does not represent the core of Adventist faith,** he said.”

Take note that this was being done at Loma Linda University. What we need to ask ourselves is why is not the Third Angel’s message part of the book published by the church that explains our beliefs? Why is it not there?

There is a video of this whole event on Youtube (type in “Revelation 13 and the Papacy – Jon Paulien) and Jon Paulien goes on to say that Revelation 13 does indeed describe the Papacy during **the Middle Ages** and then goes on to use Jer. 18:7-10 to then say that ALL prophecy is conditional and because Pope Francis is “different” and that the Papacy has changed – the end-time scenario we have been preaching does not apply now. Again he says it is conditional because the Papacy has changed therefore God has removed his condemnation and judgment against the Papacy.

(Ephesians 5:6) Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

If what Jon Paulien is saying is true then the apostle Paul, Ellen White and even God himself are fools.

Paul describes the actual destruction of the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 by the appearance of Jesus.

(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:

Did God have Paul write this down for nothing? For all Christians to read throughout the rest of this world’s history?

Ellen White and God – Would God waste many years of a human beings life to inspire them to write a book such as *The Great Controversy*, describing events in detail of what would happen and telling what the Papacy would do in the end-times to this earth and God’s people, even putting Sis. White at risk of her life because of this book as Satan tried to kill her so she wouldn’t write it --- would God do something like this? Jon Paulien’s statements make God look like a careless fool. And this man is called one of the top Adventist theologians?????? Have mercy!!! But this what all the students at Loma Linda are being taught today as he is the school’s Dean of Religion.



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Here is another article; it's actually a **Blog by Rachel Held Evans** who is a Christian columnist, blogger and author. On her Blog she interviews Seventh-day Adventist pastor David Newman. Who is David Newman? From the website:

“David Newman describes himself as an evangelical Adventist. He has pastored New Hope Adventist Church for the past ten years, and is retiring at the end of June 2012, after which he will enter a PhD program in London, England. He is the editor of Adventist Today, a progressive, lay-owned journal, and has served in various administrative posts for the Adventist denomination as well as an adjunct professor at Andrews University. For many years, he was the editor of Ministry Magazine, an international Adventist journal for pastors.”

This man is pretty influential, I would say, among Adventists. Here is one of the questions asked by Rachel:

From Rachel: Do Adventists believe that the Catholic Church is (or will become) the anti-Christ? I've heard this, but never actually asked an Adventist about it.

(David Newman's answer) That is a most intriguing question. It is hard to answer because our whole belief structure **has been evolving** (in the best sense) over the years.

Note: He says our beliefs (doctrines) have been changing “for the better” over time. I wonder which ones?

(David Newman cont.) For example, when I was editor of Ministry magazine, the denominational magazine for pastors, I published an article by Dr. George Knight, our leading church historian, which began with these words: “Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the Trinity. For Joseph Bates, the Trinity was an unscriptural doctrine; for James White it was that ‘old Trinitarian absurdity’; and for M. E. Cornell it was a fruit of the great apostasy, along with such false doctrines as Sunday keeping and the immortality of the soul...” And Knight continues with several other examples of how Adventist beliefs have evolved through the years.

Yes, some Adventists have considered the Pope the anti-Christ but this is nothing new. Martin Luther also considered the Pope the anti-Christ. **However, we have no official doctrine on this point. It does not appear in our statement of Fundamental Beliefs. We certainly do not believe that the pope is the anti-Christ now,** and I personally have questions about what the pope's role might be in the future.

So we have another official of the church reminding us that this teaching that the Pope is Antichrist is not in our official beliefs as a church and that we don't believe this anymore.



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Another article from the church outlets:

Top 3 Mistakes to Avoid When Sharing Prophecy” (Sabbath School Net – Oct. 1, 2015)

“Antichrist or not, Christians do not have the right to make false accusations against Pope Francis. Exodus 20:16 clearly states “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” And last I checked, **Pope Francis is my neighbor**. While I may not agree with his meta-narrative **he is still a child of God**.... Rhetoric is defined as “the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the exploitation of figures of speech and other compositional techniques.” Combine that with “hateful” and you have got yourself one nasty piece of literature.... **Examples of hateful rhetoric can include articles and memes insulting the Pope with phrases such as “Marxist,” “idolater,” “blasphemer,” or “man of sin.”** Now some may argue “but that’s what the Bible calls him!” To which I would say, No. That’s what we call him while borrowing Scripture’s language. Truth is, we don’t know *who* the apocalyptic Antichrist is.

There you have it – a consistency in denying our faith.

If the Pope/ Roman Church is not the Antichrist then the mark of the beast is not Sunday anymore.

If the Pope/ Roman Church is not the Antichrist then The Great Controversy and its author Ellen White is a farce (as well as all of her books).

Do you see the implications of what is happening?

If the Pope/ Roman Church is not the Antichrist then the sanctuary doctrine and the investigative judgment are false because the Third Angel points to the heavenly sanctuary. The Third Angel is righteousness by faith in verity – the prophet wrote.

One final article from **Mother Jones** entitled **“Conservatives Are Mad Because Ben Carson's Been Questioned About His Faith. Here's Why They're Wrong.”** And the sub-title is very interesting: **“Especially when a prominent member of his church calls its views paranoid and accusatory.”**

In this article they interview (extensively) a Seventh-day Adventist pastor from Ohio: Loren Seibold. Mr. Seibold, if you remember, is the pastor who wrote the article a few years ago called “Letting Roman Catholics off the Hook” in which he tries to convince the reader that it is time to let go of our traditional teaching of the Roman Church system as the Antichrist. He has written other articles of apostasy too where he attack other key doctrines of the church. How this man continues as a pastor and is moving up in the ranks with the church is evidence that the church has changed and must think the same way as Mr. Seibold. Loren Seibold also writes articles from time to time for some of our major publications as well.

Every concerned Adventist needs to read this whole article (link will be at the end of this lesson). Here are a few excerpts for those who may not have access to the computer. Please really listen to what this man is saying:



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All the following is from the article:

Loren Seibold, who is a pastor with the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, last week published an article in Spectrum, an independent Adventist publication, that seriously engaged—and wrestled with—the questions inherent in the articles I had written. He began:

When a friend sent me David Corn's column for Mother Jones a few weeks ago, it was like getting hit with bad news I already knew. Sooner or later, someone was going to peek behind the first serious Seventh-day Adventist presidential candidate, and begin to scrutinize the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Corn gave a fairly accurate description of historical eschatological narratives about how the Papacy, through the agency of the United States government, is gearing up to persecute and condemn those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

Seibold suggested that Carson's campaign would lead to the displaying of dirty laundry, and he noted that there has long been a conflict within the Seventh-day Adventist Church about how to come to terms with its own theology:

*There are sharp differences among us how we regard such teachings. Some want to be forthright and forceful about them. The most blatant example was an **offshoot** church in Florida that put full-page ads in newspapers across the country explaining in painful particularity our Papal enemy and anticipated persecution, while erecting billboards blaming the antichrist for changing the Sabbath to Sunday. **Those who are sending out millions of pulp-paper copies of [Ellen White's] The Great Controversy fall into the same category...***

Another group can't bring themselves to discard any detail of The Great Controversy scenario, but they wince when it's displayed in its nakedness. They'd say it's a matter not of what we believe, but how we present it. Persecution by Roman Catholics is going to happen, but that's the meat of the message, an advanced truth, and we shouldn't reveal it to people until they've digested the milk... No, we're not anti-Catholic, they say, just distrustful of Catholicism, and they hope that others will be able to understand this nuance.

There are others in our denomination whose faith doesn't rely on these frightening prophetic narratives. These people love the Seventh-day Adventist church, too (although those in the previous two categories might dispute that), but see these ideas as leftovers of our 19th-century past. They believe that Jesus will return, but reject the idea that these fearful prophetic scenarios are essential truths. Just as other Christians have left behind their anti-Catholic or anti-Semitic prejudices, so must we.

Seibold notes that he doesn't know where "Carson comes down on any of these matters." (Carson has approvingly referred to "prophecy" and the coming Sabbath "persecution.") But Seibold appears to welcome the opportunity presented "when David Corn reveals our official paranoia," for **he sees this moment as a chance for the church to confront what he calls "the curious to downright nutty" aspects of Seventh-day Adventist teachings**. He concedes that "for a century and a half we've been calling the



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Papacy the antichrist, the beast, and the whore of Babylon. We've described other Protestants as Babylon and apostate Protestantism." **He writes:**

It is also true that stories about the Papacy's plan to persecute those of us who worship on Saturday are a solid part of the writings of our 19th century prophet [Ellen White]. And yes, a substantial number of our people accept every word of that account as though it were history written in advance.

Seibold contends that the **dark and paranoid aspects of Seventh-day Adventism need to be exorcised:** "There are many in the Seventh-day Adventist church who see these stories as remnants of a frightened, nativist past." **And he believes that "this accusatory eschatology has distracted from the work of the gospel, and from bringing blessings to the world."** (He adds, "we have a bragworthy record of merciful work through our hospitals, disaster relief agencies, and schools.")

There it is plain and clear. The church is rejecting the Third Angel's message at the very time it is needed most.

A noteworthy statement from Mr. Seibold from the article:

"Seibold contends that the dark and paranoid aspects of Seventh-day Adventism need to be exorcised:"

What does "exorcised" mean? From the Oxford Dictionary:

drive out or attempt to drive out (an evil spirit) from a person or place:

Mr. Seibold is plainly stating that the Third Angel's message needs to be expelled from the Seventh-day Adventist Church once and for all. And those who believe and insist on preaching it, I wonder what will happen with them?

(Review and Herald, 12/18/1888, par. 12) It does not seem possible to us now that any should have **to stand alone**; but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for his name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. **We need, then, to study the word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate.** We must **critically search** the living oracles of Jehovah.

After reading those headlines and article the question is to be asked: Where do you and I stand? Add to this what was done to The Great Controversy in reducing it down to 85 pages, ripping the heart of the message out, and we can understand better what is happening.

Did not the Spirit of Prophecy say our religion would be changed?

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. (1SM, 204.2)



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At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. (5T, 136)

We can truly start to grasp how Ellen White could make this statement from The Great Controversy, page 608:

As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in **the third angel's message**, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, **abandon their position** and join the ranks of the opposition.

Notice the phrases she uses: "As the storm approaches" – the storm is the Sunday issue and she says as it is approaching – meaning even before it actually arrives because it is approaching. Then she mentions the third angel's message in particular and says this large class "abandoned their position" on the third angel's message. This causes them to join the opposition.

By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.

Here is the link to the whole article:

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/11/ben-carson-faith-seventh-day-adventism>

MONDAY – Creatures or the Creator?

Jeremiah 10:1-15 are highlighted for discussion. and then the question is asked in what I feel is a peculiar way: **What is the Lord telling His people here? If this same warning were given today, in our time and culture and context, how might it be written?**

First off we love to bring culture into the mix. God is not a respecter of person (Acts 10:34). We have gotten to the point where we allow culture to define Bible doctrine, instruction and warnings. This is not so.

In verses 3 and 4 it sounds as if a Christmas tree is being described. With the Christmas season just upon us let's ask the controversial question: Should Seventh-day Adventists put up a Christmas tree in their homes and churches?

First off the word Christmas when broken down is the Christ Mass – that's what it was called early on. Second the argument I hear most is "Ellen White said we can have a Christmas tree." Did she say that?

(The Adventist Home, p. 482) There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen and placing it in our churches, but the sin lies in the motive which prompts to action and the use which is made of the gifts placed upon the tree.



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So there is no harm in putting an evergreen tree up. But shall we decorate it like the world does? That's a different story. She says we should hang offerings for the church on it.

(The Adventist Home, p. 482) Let not the parents take the position that an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath school scholars is a sin, for it may be made a great blessing. Keep before their minds benevolent objects. In no case should mere amusement be the object of these gatherings. While there may be some who will turn these occasions into seasons of careless levity, and whose minds will not receive the divine impress, to other minds and characters these seasons will be highly beneficial. I am fully satisfied that innocent substitutes can be devised for many gatherings that demoralize.

So it's how we approach the tree, the motives and the uses of the tree that makes the difference. We virtually are paying homage to some "god" just in the act of how we can observe the holidays. Will these holidays be celebrated and acknowledged in heaven and the new earth? The answer is absolutely not.

The Creator and creature in the Garden of Eden

God is the Creator and we are the creature. This principle was set aside by our first parents in the Garden of Eden. God is the owner and man is the steward (or administrator). God had reserved something for himself to test man if he will recognize that he is not the owner - but the steward. If man respects what God has put aside for Himself - man will bring upon himself a blessing. But if man disrespects what God has set aside for Himself - man brings a curse upon himself.

Genesis 1 presents God as the owner because he is Creator. Genesis 2 presents man as the steward because God gave man dominion over the earth. But there was something in the garden that God reserved for Himself. It was the tree. God said this tree will test whether you recognize yourself as creature or whether you want to make yourself Creator. So God reserved the tree for Himself and told man not to eat of it. Man would have been blessed if he had respected the tree. But man did not and the curse fell upon creation.

We make ourselves the Creator

The Laodicean message describes a people who "need nothing" (Rev. 3:17). This must mean they don't even need Jesus. This is a startling observation that is substantiated by the Bible. Look at verse 20:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

The door is the door to the heart of the last church. If Jesus is knocking on the door and waiting for someone to open it then this means he is on the outside wanting to come in. In other words he is not in the heart and mind and affections of this church. Again, this is a sobering thought. This church has made itself the Creator. In other words it knows what is best for itself because it doesn't need anything – it has it all.



The Papacy vs. the Creator vs. the creature

Lucifer was the first to break this bond between the Creator and the creature.

(Isaiah 14:13, 14) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne **above the stars of God**: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.**

Satan was cast out of heaven and eventually wound up at planet earth and is looking to establish his kingship through evil men.

The apostle Paul describes a power that has directly set himself up as God.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, 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.

The Papacy is a manifestation and continuation of the war in heaven. Satan through the Bishop of Rome is seeking to compel the consciences of all to worship their way which is in direct opposition to God's ways.

How could a power do such a thing? By the change of the Sabbath commandment can this only be done. The Sabbath is the only command that identifies the one who gave the law in the first place. It identifies him as the Creator.

(Exodus 20:11) For (because) in six days **the LORD made heaven and earth**, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

It identifies Jesus as Creator of everything and therefore everything else would automatically become the creature. Without the wording of the fourth commandment any person could come along and say of the other nine commandments that he gave these laws and everyone should obey that person. But the fourth explains exactly who it is. It is the only commandment that could even be the seal.

If the Pope would have just changed one of the other nine commandments (which they have tampered with them all in some way) the Pope would only be "equal" with God. But by the fact of changing the Sabbath, a sign that God is Creator, he has, in his mind, exalted himself above God.

The world is getting ready to give this power control over the earth and God's people are silent on the issue.



TUESDAY – A Call to Repentance

Jeremiah 26:1-9 is highlighted for discussion. The lesson asks a question: **What hope is the Lord offering his people?**

God wants Jeremiah to go tell the people a message from him and that this message will turn the people from their sins but only if you do something. And verse 2 is very significant as it has that answer:

Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, **all the words** that I command thee to speak unto them; **diminish not a word**:

Have we done this very thing? Have we left something out of our preaching when God has said “go and tell the world”? When we leave something out that God has commanded us to speak unto the people what is the result? The result is either no success or you get a half-hearted Christian at best.

What has God commanded us, like he did Jeremiah, to go and say to the world?

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
7 **Saying** with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Notice that when we go and tell every nook and cranny of the world about the good news of salvation that Jesus has done for us described here in verse 6 as “the everlasting gospel” – we are commanded to “say” the Three Angel’s Messages to those same people of planet earth. This is the proof that these three message cannot be separated from the gospel message and that we cannot take it upon ourselves to decide whether we want to share this part of the message or not.

You can choose to not preach these three messages but you will be lost. This warning is to be proclaimed by God’s people. If you don’t the Bible has a name for you:

(Isaiah 56:10, 11) His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, **they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark**; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.
11 Yea, **they are greedy dogs** which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: **they all look to their own way**, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

God considers a person that will not proclaim his warning as a dumb and greedy dog. There is a catch-phrase the world says “All dogs go to heaven.” These dogs do not go to heaven. Notice what Revelation 22 says:

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.



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This is the first group that is allowed to enter into the New Jerusalem. Verse 15 describes those who are outside the city – they're not allowed in.

15 For without are **dogs**, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Notice that dogs are mentioned first. We have just seen that a dog is one who claims to be a Christian but will not bark or give the warning message and they look to their own way. These will no doubt be Seventh-day Adventists who knew the warnings but decided for themselves that they only want to preach smooth things. Don't be a dumb dog my friend.

Here is the rest of that beautiful message called The Three Angel's Messages:

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

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

We can repent of our backsliding now

(Prophets and Kings, p. 141) 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.



WEDNESDAY – The Call for Death

Jeremiah's word from the Lord did not go over too well. It went over like a lead balloon.

(Jeremiah 26:10, 11) When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the Lord, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the Lord's house.

11 Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, **This man is worthy to die; for (because) he hath prophesied against this city,** as ye have heard with your ears.

Why did they want to kill Jeremiah? Because he spoke something that condemned the actions of the church.

What happens today when someone stands up and says "Hey, we have a problem here in the church."? What happens to that person? They are accused of being against the pastor. They are accused of being against the conference. And they even start wondering if you are an offshoot like the Shepherd's Rod. They pull you from your positions. They lessen or stop your speaking engagements. We haven't learned the lessons of old have we?

Doug Batchelor is banned from the Florida conference --- why? It was all because he stood firm against Women's Ordination. He did this in the most loving and kind way. He is not an angry man and they still did this to him. And Bill Knott calls for the same thing to anyone else in his article "A Time to Marginalize" (Adventist Review) who does not come into line with his way of thinking. From the article:

So here's a call to shut our ears, protect our pulpits, change the channel, and withhold our dollars from those of whatever ideological camp who practice the uncivil and unrighteous behaviors we witnessed before San Antonio. Yes, move them to the margins; draw the boundaries of our community in such a way that only repentance and changed behavior will again allow them full inclusion.

This is the dragon speaking. This is papal power being exerted. This is not the kingdom of Christ.

Those who preach the Three Angel's Messages and esp. the Third will be marginalized by the powers that be. This I think we can bank on. It's coming and are we ready?



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Just as Jeremiah did not back down when faced with threats of death and he didn't change his message either. We too should not fear man as Jesus says in Matthew 10:28:

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

(Prophets and Kings, p. 142) 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 with all long-suffering." 2 Timothy 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



THURSDAY – Jeremiah’s Escape

God’s people will stand firm at the end of time. Faced with no buying or selling they change not their message and mission but it will intensify under the power of the Holy Spirit (Rev. 18:1-4) - their hope and faith brighter as they endure the trials before them.

(The Great Controversy, p. 612) Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

We must leave all the consequences with God. It’s his problem. We just need to do ALL that he has said.

(The Great Controversy, p. 609) He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ’s ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.

Let’s put our trust in God and not any man regardless of their influence, position or rank, and let us not forget this promise of God:

(Matthew 28:20) I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

It is his promise. Will we have the faith to believe it?