Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
Fourth Quarter 2026: *The Gift of Prophecy*
Lesson 7 "Now Hear This!"

Read for this week's study

Numbers 13:26-30; Jeremiah 36:20-26; 2 Chronicles 36:15, 16; Matthew 23:30-35**;**
1 Corinthians 10:6-12.

Memory Text

"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11, NASB).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

I. Introduction
II. Anger at God's Messenger
III. Destroying the Message: Part 1
IV. Destroying the Message: Part 2
V. Hypocrisy
VI. For Our Admonition
VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration
Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. It has never been easy to be a prophet of God. Biblical prophets were often called to deliver messages that people did not want to hear. Conflict in the wake of a prophetic message was almost guaranteed. The truth about God almost always goes contrary to people's experiences, ideas, felt needs, and convictions. When that happens, some people submit to the truth and turn away from their delusions. Others rebel against these revelations of God and become more and more hardened in opposition, sometimes to the point of abuse and murder. The theme of this lesson is how and why prophets have faced so much human opposition. (Sabbath Afternoon)

2. The Bible indicates that every person in this world has received a measure of faith and of understanding from God (Rom 12:3; John 1:9). Everyone also lives in the world and is influenced by it (Rom 12:2). How can we best manage that inner

conflict in our own lives? What does John 3:18-21 tell us about that dynamic? (Sabbath Afternoon)

3. Read Numbers 13:25 through 14:24. Why are these people so upset with Aaron and Moses? How much easier is it to trust God when things are going well versus when disaster strikes? (Sunday)

4. Read Jeremiah 36:16-26. What was going on in the court and how did the leaders respond to the prophetic warning? Read Jeremiah 36:27-31. How did God respond to Jehoiakim's act of defiance? (Monday)

5. Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-16. This is a historical summary of the events also narrated in Jeremiah. How did the nation of Judah respond to the messages sent to them by God through the prophets? What was the final result of these actions? (Tuesday)

6. Read Matthew 23:29-35. What important but painful point is Jesus making here? How is Revelation 3:17 related to this? (Wednesday)

7. Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-12. According to Paul, why did God inspire the prophets to write what they wrote in the Bible? What is the relationship between Israel and the church (Gal 6:16)? How does Paul's approach to the purpose of the Bible compare with John's (John 20:30-31)? (Thursday)

8. In the lesson it says, "God does not waste words. When He speaks, His Words are eternal." How do you understand this statement, do you agree or disagree? (Thursday)

9. According to this lesson, Ellen White is like the biblical prophets in two important ways: 1) Like the biblical prophets, she experienced supernatural phenomena while in vision, and 2) she experienced much rejection of her ministry, both from those who ignored it, and from those who in practice exalted her gift over the Bible. Regarding the former, she had this to say: "God has set me as a reprover of His people; and . . . as He has laid upon me the heavy burden, He will make those to whom this message is given responsible for the manner in which they treat it. . . . I have not chosen this unpleasant labor for myself." 4T 231-232. (Friday)

10. What impact have the prophetic writings of the Bible made in your life? What about the writings of Ellen G. White? In what ways have understanding both been a challenge in your life? (Thursday)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

COMMENT: Hypocrites are especially disliked by everybody, and maybe God doesn't like them, either.

Why do you suppose? Why?

COMMENT: They're dishonest.

Why doesn't He like dishonest people? Do they offend Him? Or is it that He can't work with them?

COMMENT: He can't work with pride.

Well, when you think of salvation as healing, and God wishes to heal everyone. He says, "Why will you die? I have the power to heal every one of you. But you keep cheating. Every time you come back to My office, and I ask you, 'Have you taken your medicine? Have you followed the program?'"

"Oh yes, doctor. Oh yes doctor."

"I was looking out the window last week and I saw you flip the medicine over the wall, and you stand here and say, 'Yes.' If you go on cheating like this you're going to die. It isn't that I hate you, patient of Mine, you happen to be My son, and I don't want you to die. But if you go on doing this, I'll have to give you up to the consequences, and you're going to die, and I don't want you to die." Isn't that why He says cursed be the cheat? You can't save a cheat. You can't heal a cheat. But there's never anything arbitrary. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Acts, recorded April 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

http://pkp.cc/59MMPOGIA66 (Part 1) http://pkp.cc/60MMPOGIA66 (Part 2)

Now, what is the essence of sin, in scripture? Let's take the Romans definition. We so customarily use 1 John 3:4. But the last verse of Romans 14 says, "Sin is a breech of trust." Whatever is not of faith is sin. It's faithlessness. And the woman was an unfaithful woman. That's the whole thing. We may be very ignorant, but if we trust God enough to be willing to listen, He can heal all the damage done. But where there is not honesty, integrity, humility, a willingness to listen, then God can do nothing if we go on again and again playing Him false. These next few books will emphasize this so frequently. Of course Isaiah did, Jeremiah did.

That's the hypocrite. The hypocrite is playing false. I think we've discussed the word 'hypocrite' haven't we, that Jesus used so often? It's made up of two parts, "*hupo*" meaning 'under', 'hypoglycemia'; your blood sugar is down. 'Hypo' is under. And then "*krites"* means a mask. An

actor was, in those days, a hypocrite. See, Rock Hudson is a very successful hypocrite! But it has a different meaning now. It doesn't mean he's playing false. It means he's a good actor. And it came to have this regrettable connotation later on. A saint who is only wearing the mask of sainthood, you see, a pious fraud, is the one the Lord cannot help at all. Ellen White has that colorful comment that to the Lord, pretentious piety is nauseating. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in All 66 – Hosea, Joel, Amos, recorded March 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

*Audio links to the West Covina series recorded in 1984:

http://pkp.cc/41MMPOGIA66 (Hosea Part 1) http://pkp.cc/43MMPOGIA66 (Joel & Amos Pt 1)
http://pkp.cc/42MMPOGIA66 (Hosea Part 2) http://pkp.cc/44MMPOGIA66 (Joel & Amos Pt 2)

And I'm impressed; I've never worked out the percentage, but the overwhelming proportion of scripture is in terms of pictures and stories and demonstrations and examples rather than in statements. Here and there the statements are sprinkled through, like little sub-headings. And we pluck out the sub-headings and then argue over the words, to our loss, I believe. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Hebrews, recorded July 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

http://pkp.cc/73MMPOGIA66 (Part 1) http://pkp.cc/74MMPOGIA66 (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

With the trusting faith of a little child, we are to come to our heavenly Father, telling Him of all our needs. He is always ready to pardon and help. The supply of divine wisdom is inexhaustible, and the Lord encourages us to draw largely from it. {3BC 1146.8}

God is ever seeking to instruct finite men that they may exercise faith in Him and trust themselves wholly in His hands. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us, teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing too small for His attention (GCB Feb. 18, 1897). {3BC 1141.3}

But though the conflict is a ceaseless one, none are left to struggle alone. Angels help and protect those who walk humbly before God. Never will our Lord betray one who trusts in Him. As His children draw near to Him for protection from evil, in pity and love He lifts up for them a

standard against the enemy. Touch them not, He says; for they are Mine. I have graven them upon the palms of My hands. {PK 570.4}

We are to rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. The answer to our prayers may not come as quickly as we desire, and it may not be just what we have asked; but He who knows what is for the highest good of His children will bestow a much greater good than we have asked, if we do not become faithless and discouraged. {SD 92.2}

The Christian always has a strong helper in the Lord. The way of the Lord's helping we may not know; but this we do know: He will never fail those who put their trust in Him. {PK 576.1}

The Lord will not disappoint any who put their trust in Him. He will be first and last and best in everything to us. He will be a present help in every time of need. In these last days of service we shall ... be held, and led, and protected, by the power of Christ. {RY 112.1}

It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. {SC 17.2}

God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief, and these will produce a sure harvest. By rejecting the first warning from God, Pharaoh of old sowed the seeds of obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve. The seed of unbelief which he sowed produced a harvest of its kind. Thus his resistance continued, until he looked upon his devastated land, upon the cold, dead form of his first-born, and the first-born of all in his house and of all the families in his kingdom, until the waters of the sea closed over his horses and his chariots and his men of war. His history is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7. Did men but realize this, they would be careful what seed they sow. {COL 84.4}

No soul is ever finally deserted of God, given up to his own ways, so long as there is any hope of his salvation. "Man turns from God, not God from him." Our heavenly Father follows us with appeals and warnings and assurances of compassion, until further opportunities and privileges would be wholly in vain. The responsibility rests with the sinner. By resisting the Spirit of God today, he prepares the way for a second resistance of light when it comes with mightier power. Thus he passes on from one stage of resistance to another, until at last the light will fail to impress, and he will cease to respond in any measure to the Spirit of God. Then even "the light that is in thee" has become darkness. The very truth we do know has become so perverted as to increase the blindness of the soul. {MB 93.1}

The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God. {GC 542.2}

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death. {FLB 84.7}

God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. {GC 36.1}

We want all to understand how the soul is destroyed. It is not that God sends out a decree that man shall not be saved. He does not throw a darkness before the eyes which cannot be penetrated. But man at first resists a motion of the Spirit of God, and, having once resisted, it is less difficult to do so the second time, less the third, and far less the fourth. {5T 120.2}

And the same compassion that reached out to rescue Peter is extended to every soul who has fallen under temptation. It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him, helpless and trembling, fearing to seek for pardon. But why should we fear, when God has said, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me?" Isaiah 27:5. Every provision has been made for our infirmities, every encouragement offered us to come to Christ. {COL 156.1}

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. {DA 668.3}

Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, "Ye shall receive." {AA 564.1}

In calling them to His service, God offers them freedom. Obedience to God is liberty from the thralldom of sin, deliverance from human passion and impulse. {TM 247.1}

The government of God is not, as Satan would make it appear, founded upon a blind submission, an unreasoning control. It appeals to the intellect and the conscience. "Come now, and let us reason together" is the Creator's invitation to the beings He has made. Isaiah 1:18.

God does not force the will of His creatures. He cannot accept an homage that is not willingly and intelligently given. A mere forced submission would prevent all real development of mind or character; it would make man a mere automaton. Such is not the purpose of the Creator. He desires that man, the crowning work of His creative power, shall reach the highest possible development. He sets before us the height of blessing to which He desires to bring us through His grace. He invites us to give ourselves to Him, that He may work His will in us. It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God. {SC 43.4}

Satan is constantly urging men to accept his principles. Thus he seeks to counterwork the work of God. He is constantly representing the chosen people of God as a deluded people. He is an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power he is constantly using against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan's charges by showing the result of obedience to right principles. {6T 11.2}