



## Jeremiah 4Q 2015 Lesson 2

### The Crisis (Within and Without)

#### SABBATH

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1. Memory Verse: "Israel was holiness to the Lord, the first fruits of His increase All that devour him will offend; disaster will come upon them," says the Lord" (Jeremiah 2:3 NKJV)
  - a. (GW) "Israel was set apart for the Lord. It was the best part of the harvest. All who devoured it became guilty, and disaster struck them," declares the Lord.
  
2. Read the first paragraph:
  - a. The crisis of the human condition since the fall.
  - b. What do you think of the extreme measures that it took to solve the crisis.
  - c. What all did they include?
  - d. Was Christ's death on the cross just for this human condition?
  - e. What else was done to solve a crisis?
  
  - f. What did Christ's death on the cross solve? (GWTrans)
    - i. Heb 2:14 – "Since all of these sons and daughters have flesh and blood, Jesus took on flesh and blood to be like them. He did this so that by dying he would destroy the one who had power over death (that is, the devil).By His death Christ destroys the devil"
    - ii. John 17:3 – "This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent."
    - iii. 2 Tim 1:10: "Now with the coming of our Savior Christ Jesus, he has revealed it. Christ has destroyed death, and through the Good News he has brought eternal life into full view."
  
  - g. What is the sequence of events of Sin?
    - i. Rebellion by Lucifer
    - ii. Miscommunication by Lucifer to other angels
    - iii. Open rebellion in heaven between God and His angels
    - iv. Expulsion of 1/3 of heavenly beings from heaven
    - v. Creation of the earth
    - vi. The Tree of Good & Evil within the Garden of Eden
    - vii. Temptation and fall
    - viii. The subsequent history of mankind
    - ix. God's wooing influence throughout the pre-Children of Israel time
    - x. Abraham's separation
    - xi. The selection of a family for God
    - xii. The ups and downs of Abraham's offspring
    - xiii. The land of Canaan and the settlers



- xiv. Apostasy
- xv. Christ's life and death
  
- h. This weeks lesson
  - i. The apostasy of the next generations after entry into Canaan
  - ii. The division of Israel into two kingdoms
  - iii. The types of evil
    - (1) Abandonment of God (Living water John 4:10)
    - (2) Creation of a false form of religion
  - iv. The Babylonian Threat
  - v. Swearing Falsely
  - vi. The source of truth and your willingness to obey truth.
  
- 3. Read the third paragraph from Sabbath Afternoon's Lesson
  - a. What do you call it when an individual is not listening and is no longer susceptible to the wooing of the Holy Spirit?
    - i. The Unpardonable Sin.
    - ii. Do you/ Does a person commit the unpardonable sin?
      - (1) Is it something you can do? No
      - (2) It is a condition
        - (a) You become the unpardonable sin
      - (3) Does it have anything to do with your actions? Yes
        - (a) Thoughts create actions
        - (b) Actions create habits
        - (c) Habits create character
        - (d) Our character not only is a picture of who we are, but in and of itself alters the way we think, hear and see things in our environment and perceive the influence of God.
      - (4) The unpardonable sin is a condition of the heart and mind.
      - (5) The thoughts that are the foundation of this are both **active** and **passive**
        - (a) That is why it is so important to guard the avenues that we take things into our souls / ourselves.
  
- 4. New physician behavior
  - a. Impulsive
  - b. Undisciplined
  - c. Reactive
  - d. Selfish
  - e. Little self control



## 5. SUNDAY

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### A Quick History

- a. “All it took was for a new generation to arise, one that didn’t “know the Lord” (Judges 2:10) and a spiritual crisis started that, in many ways, infected the nation all through its history.”
- b. How does that happen?
- c. At the highlighted section at the bottom of the page:
  - i. “Think about the problem of the next generation not having values and beliefs of the one before it. How have we, as a church, dealt with this issue?”
  - ii. What values and beliefs did your generation have that the next generation did not have?
    - (1) dress
    - (2) respect
    - (3) paying tithe and offerings
    - (4) music
    - (5) work ethic
    - (6) worship style
    - (7) reading God’s word
    - (8) rest
    - (9) recreation
    - (10) Sabbath
  - iii. Behavior can be driven by values, culture, beliefs, guilt, coercion, habit
  - iv. Which of these things listed in “5,C,ii” above are values and which are culture?
  - v. Is behavior important?
  - vi. How do you transmit values without transmitting behavior?
  - vii. 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18 “This Lord is the Spirit. Wherever the Lord’s Spirit is, there is freedom. As all of us reflect the Lord’s glory with faces that are not covered with veils, we are being changed into his image with ever-increasing glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



## 6. MONDAY

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### The Two Kingdoms

- a. The day's lesson discusses some of the trends toward idolatry after the division of the kingdom of Israel
  - i. The Northern Kingdom
    - (1) twin capitals: Bethel and Dan
    - (2) Golden Calves for worship
    - (3) Why did the king do this?
      - (a) Fear
      - (b) Selfishness
  - ii. The Southern Kingdom (Judah)
    - (1) The stories of multiple wicked kings and their reproofs from the prophets.
    - (2) The story is of an ever seeking God
    - (3) The way for a redeemer was being preserved, but at what cost?
      - (a) It is easy to misinterpret God's tolerance as approval
      - (b) It is often thought that the Bible depicts what God wants, instead of His loving dealings with an errant people; what was necessary for preservation of an option for healing.
- b. Bottom highlighted section:
  - i. "Why, then, must we constantly test our lives against the standard of the Bible? What other standard do we have?"
  - ii. How do we do that?
  - iii. What are we testing?
    - (1) Behavior?
    - (2) Motives?
    - (3) Did you ever notice that we can only test our own motives, but we tend to test other peoples' behavior?
    - (4) Much of our culture / behavior / options are not directly discussed in the Bible due to the culture of the their time vs ours.
      - (a) Smoking or legalization of marijuana
      - (b) Abortion
      - (c) Single parent issues



- (d) Much of the discussion regarding women's ordination within the Adventist church is 21<sup>st</sup> century people having little guidance in their decisions, because of incomprehension of how to use 1<sup>st</sup> century writings in guiding our thoughts.
- (e) We have as much difficulty with 19<sup>th</sup> century guidance in this current culture.
  - (i) It has become largely irrelevant to the current generation.

## 7. TUESDAY

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### Two Evils

- a. "My people have done two things wrong. They have abandoned me, the fountain of life-giving water. They have also dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that can't hold water."
- b. Two evils
  - i. Abandon God (The source of living water John 4:10)
  - ii. Made their own cisterns (source of water)
- c. How is our church any different?

## 8. WEDNESDAY

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### The Babylonian Threat

- a. History of the kingdom of Judah and its relationship with Egypt, Assyrian Empire, and Babylon
- b. Read last paragraph: "Again and again. . ."
- c. Highlighted questions at the bottom of the page:
  - i. "When was the last time you believed what you wanted to believe, no matter how obviously wrong that belief turned out to be?"
    - (1) Have you ever done that?
    - (2) Have you ever believed something that later turned out to be false?
    - (3) Do you have any examples?
    - (4) Why did you do that?
      - (a) Blinded by love
      - (b) Blinded by something you wanted to be true

## 9. THURSDAY

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### Swearing Falsely

- a. Read Jeremiah 5:1 (GNT) "People of Jerusalem, run through your streets! Look around! See for yourselves! Search the marketplaces! Can you find one person who does what is right and tries to be faithful to God? If you can, the Lord will forgive Jerusalem."



- b. The first paragraph
  - i. Two stories
    - (1) Diogenes, Greek philosopher of 4<sup>th</sup> Century, looking for honest man
    - (2) Abraham and God: Is there 10 righteous people in Sodom?
  - ii. The point of the quest?
    - (1) The complete loss of integrity of the people
    - (2) The right judgment of God
    - (3) The yearning of God's heart for His people
      - (a) Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"
      - (b) Ezekiel 18:31 & 32 "Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! **For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,**" declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."
      - (c) Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"
- c. Middle of the page: Jeremiah 5:2,3 "Even though you claim to worship the Lord, you do not mean what you say. Surely the Lord looks for faithfulness. He struck you, but you paid no attention; he crushed you, but you refused to learn. You were stubborn and would not turn from your sins."
- d. "No matter how deeply fallen the nation had become, many of the people believed that they were still faithfully following the Lord!"
  - i. How does that happen?
- e. Read the last paragraph before the highlighted section. "The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord"
- f. As a member of a given church, I have often thought, "I am part of the remnant church."
- g. What is your magic?
  - i. The Sabbath?
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ?



- iii. 3 angels messages?
- h. James 1:26, 27 (GW) “If a person thinks that he is religious but can’t control his tongue, he is fooling himself. That person’s religion is worthless. Pure, unstained religion, according to God our Father, is to take care of orphans and widows when they suffer and to remain uncorrupted by this world.”
  - i. There is no discussion here of the Sabbath
  - ii. 28 Fundamental beliefs
  - iii. 2300 days prophecy
  - iv. Correct interpretation of the end times
  - v. Micah 6:8 “You mortals, the Lord has told you what is good. This is what the Lord requires from you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to live humbly with your God.”
- 10. Many people have as their favorite verse Jeremiah 29:11 but do not read the next two verses.
  - a. Jeremiah 29:11 - 13 (NASB) “For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”
  - b. Or Christ’s statement in John 7:16 - 17 (NASB) “So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.”
    - i. We are blinded when we are unwilling to follow God’s word with repentance and humility follow its correction.