

**Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes**  
**Fourth Quarter 2015: *Jeremiah***  
**Lesson 9 “Jeremiah’s Yoke”**

**Read for this week’s study**

Jeremiah 16:1–13; Hosea 1:1–3; Jeremiah 27:1–18; Daniel 4:25; Jeremiah 28; 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.

**Memory Text**

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23).

**Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide**

- I. Introduction
- II. A Solitary Life
- III. Jeremiah’s Yoke
- IV. War of the Prophets
- V. The Yoke of Iron
- VI. Trusting in Lies
- VII. Further Study

**Questions and Notes for Consideration**

**Moderator: Zdravko Stefanović**

**Jeremiah’s Yoke(s) (Jeremiah 16, 27-28)**

1. “You must not marry,..! (Jeremiah 16)

This incident from Jeremiah’s life makes young people very upset. What do we know about the marital status of the other biblical prophets? This time, did God’s command go too far? Can you imagine yourself in Jeremiah’s place, hearing these words?

The Lord also commands Jeremiah to go into social isolation. Was this a temporary or a permanent command? How does this oracle end? Can we easily distinguish the words of poetry uttered by the prophet from those spoken by the Lord?

2. Un unlikely servant of the LORD (Jeremiah 27)

Zedekiah hosted a regional anti-Babylon conference. Why did he do that? What did God command Jeremiah to do? What did the yoke symbolize? Can you describe God’s plan for Babylon?

The king listened to the prophet but only half-heartedly. Who were Jeremiah's bitterest opponents? Were they right in saying that his message sounded like treason? How does God's message end in this chapter? Why does Jeremiah keep switching from the third to the first person report and the other way around?

3. Hananiah confronts Jeremiah

It appears that for several weeks, perhaps a few months, Jeremiah carried the yoke of wood. Why is it that Hananiah is not called a "false prophet"? Where was this man from? How did his speech contradict Jeremiah's preaching? Why did Jeremiah answer the way he did? Had you been present, who would you choose to believe? Why?

In the temple with many leaders present, Hananiah broke the wooden yoke. Why didn't Jeremiah show any resistance? What did the yoke of iron represent? How is Nebuchadnezzar portrayed in these chapters? Why was Hananiah's punishment so harsh?

4. Statement against idolatry (Jeremiah 10:11)

The prophet taught the people of Judah what to say to those who worship idols. Why is this verse unique in Jeremiah? Does it fit the context in this chapter?

**Kidna teimrun lehon:**

**Elahaya di-shemaya ve'arka la aveidu**

**Yeveidu meiar'a umin tehot shemaya eileh.**

*Thus will you say to them:*

*The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth,  
they will perish from the earth and from under these heavens.*

Describe in your own words the unique power of the Creator God. Comment on these two quotes: "God is the fountain of life, while the idols are man-made folly... We may not be worshiping the Baal and the Asherah any longer, but we worship power and money, the celebrities of the moment, human science, and other idols." (Schreiber, 21).

Jeremiah taught that the observance of the Sabbath is central to the survival and welfare of Judah (Jeremiah 17:21-25). Is the Sabbath one of the best antidotes for idolatry? Do you agree with the famous dictum: "More than the Jews kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath kept the Jews"?

## Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Should we pick up our Bibles and begin to read God's claims about Himself? If we do it, almost on page one we hear God say, "Don't do that! It isn't safe. Anyone can make mere claims."

And immediately my trust in God is increased by His warning me to not accept mere claims. Remember the evening we discussed Deuteronomy 13 and 1 Kings 13? There are prophets who claimed to be prophets but who were lying to us. There are people who performed miracles, but at the same time they were not telling the truth. There are many other warnings in the Bible—remember the four hundred lying prophets of King Ahab, the lying prophets of the days of Jeremiah. God has been very candid in warning us "don't accept mere claims." What we need is evidence and demonstration. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #7, "The Question Of Authority" recorded February, 1984, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link: <http://pkp.cc/7MMCAG>*

"Don't listen to those false prophets". Then drop down to 21 [Jeremiah 23], where God says of these preachers, these false prophets: "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran: I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people." But they did not know the counsel of the Lord.

So look over to 25 now in the same chapter. Remember the warnings we've had in the Bible before about false prophets. Jesus talks about false prophets. Paul does. John does. We've been told to beware of people who speak to us with authority in God's name:

I have heard what the prophets have said, who prophesy lies in my name, [So they were prophesying in God's name, but they were not telling the truth. And what they say is,] I have dreamed, I have dreamed. [You see, I had a vision. The Lord has spoken to me.] How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies; and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? [How many times today do you hear people claim that God has spoken to them? If you listen to programs on television, how many of them claim, "God has spoken to me and told me, this is what you are to do"? Are we to believe this because a person makes that claim? Jeremiah says these prophets were lying.] Who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams which they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream; but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. [An interesting contrast there.] What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire? says the LORD; and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, says the LORD, who steal my words from one another. Behold, I am against the prophets, says the LORD, who use

their tongues and say, Says the LORD. Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, says the LORD, and who tell them, and lead my people astray by their lies, and their recklessness: when I did not send them, or charge them; so they do not profit this people at all, says the LORD.

Think of it, they're lying in God's name. But you remember I Kings 13? You remember the younger prophet and the older prophet, and the older prophet said, "I am a prophet of the Lord, and the angel of the lord has told me" thus and so. "But he lied to him." We've been warned of this repeatedly.

Or Deuteronomy 13, remember? The man who gives a sign or a wonder, and the miracle comes to pass, but if at the same time he's not telling the truth, Moses says, "Then don't believe him." But how susceptible people are to miracles and claims of authority. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in All 66 – Ezekiel, recorded 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/37MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/38MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

### **Further Study with Ellen White**

We shall encounter false claims; false prophets will arise; there will be false dreams and false visions; but preach the Word, be not drawn away from the voice of God in His Word. Let nothing divert the mind. The wonderful, the marvelous, will be represented and presented. Through satanic delusions, wonderful miracles, the claims of human agents will be urged. Beware of all this. . . . {2SM 49.1}

We must not trust the claims of men. . . . {2SM 49.3}

Nor can we trust impressions. . . . {2SM 49.4}

The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles. . . . {2SM 52.4}

The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. {GC88 593.1}

Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Word of God. The Spirit which inspired the Scriptures, always leads to the Scriptures,—*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, April 13, 1891. {1SM 43.2}

Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power of Satan shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the imitative work of the powers of darkness. {RH, December 24, 1889 par. 11}

Christ foretold that the going forth of deceivers would be accompanied with more danger to His disciples than would persecution. {Ev 359.2}

Satan can skilfully play the game of life with many souls, and he acts in a most underhanded, deceptive manner to spoil the faith of the people of God and to discourage them. . . . He works today as he worked in heaven, to divide the people of God in the very last stage of this earth's history. He seeks to create dissension, and to arouse contention and discussion, and to remove if possible the old landmarks of truth committed to God's people. He tries to make it appear as if the Lord contradicts Himself. {Ev 359.4}