

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

First Quarter 2021: *Isaiah: "Comfort My People"*

Lesson 3 "When Your World Is Falling Apart"

Read for this week's study

Isaiah 7:1–9; Isaiah 7:10–13; Isaiah 7:14.

Memory Text

“ ‘ “If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established’ ” ’ ”(Isaiah 7:9, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Danger From the North (*Isaiah 7:1–9*)
- III. Attempted Interception (*Isaiah 7:3–9*)
- IV. Another Chance (*Isaiah 7:10–13*)
- V. Sign of a Son (*Isaiah 7:14*)
- VI. “God Is With Us”! (*Isaiah 7:14*)
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. It is sometimes hard to sort out who your friends and your enemies are. That is the problem that was facing the King of Judah in Isaiah 7. He had to decide whether his best interests and the best interests of his country lay with mighty Assyria up north or the anti-Assyrian alliance the cousin nation of Israel was forming. It was no easy choice. Or was there a third option? (Sabbath Afternoon's lesson)
2. Read Isaiah 7:1-2. What was the relative size and power of Judah over against Israel and Syria? Read Isaiah 7:3-9. Why does God give this particular message at this time? To find out the answer you need to go to Second Kings (2 Kings 15:32-38; 2 Kings 16:1-6). What was the larger context of Isaiah 7 and what were the options King Ahaz had to choose from? Read 2 Kings 16:7-9. What was Ahaz' solution to the crisis? (Sunday's lesson)
3. With the previous in mind, let's read Isaiah 7:3-9 again. God knew some things about the situation that Ahaz did not. Things were serious enough the Lord sent Isaiah to try to persuade Ahaz not to ally with Assyria. Why would the Lord tell Isaiah to take

his son, Shear-jashub, with him? How did God's message in verses 4-9 address the king's situation? (Monday's lesson)

4. Read Isaiah 7:10-11. This decision must have been critical to God's plan as He gives Ahaz a second chance here. God invites Ahaz to ask for anything as a sign, even a mountain of gold or ten legions of angels. An offer Ahaz couldn't refuse. Or could he? Read Isaiah 7:12. But isn't asking for signs something God doesn't want you to do? What is the difference here? Read Isaiah 7:13. How is Ahaz wearying God? What does this entire passage tell us about God? (Tuesday's lesson)
5. Read Isaiah 7:14. Who is the woman and who is her child? The text clearly refers to something that was to happen in Ahaz' context. What could that have been? How does the New Testament apply this text (Matthew 1:21-23; 3:17; Revelation 22:16)? Is it possible that both applications of this prophecy are correct? (Wednesday's lesson)
6. Read Isaiah 7:14 again. The text actually says "God with us," the "is" must be supplied. What is the significance of the promise that "God is with us"? Note some other biblical examples of this idea: Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 43:2; Daniel 3:23-25; Genesis 34:24-30; Acts 7:55. This theme also plays a major role in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1:23; 18:20; 28:19-20). (Thursday's lesson)
7. When you are in the process of making a decision, is it appropriate to ask God for a sign? What are some of the dangers in such a request? (Friday's lesson)

Further Study with Ellen White

Amid the perplexities that will press upon the soul, there is only One who can help us out of all our difficulties, and relieve all our disquietude. We are to cast all our care upon Jesus, and bear in mind that He is present, and is directing us to commune with Him. We are to keep our minds stayed upon God; and in our weakness, He will be our strength; in our ignorance, He will be our wisdom; in our frailty, He will be our enduring might. {SD 27.2}

These things were not written merely that we might read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God's servants of old might work in us. In no less marked a manner than He wrought then will He work now wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power. {CG 43.1}

Many hold faith as an opinion. But saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power. {GW 261.1}

Jesus does not call on us to follow Him, and then forsake us. If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever

may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard, saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." [John 14:6.] "He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." [Psalm 72:12.] {GW 263.1}

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." [Isaiah 26:3.] The arm of Omnipotence is outstretched to lead us onward and still onward. Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help. It is for My name's glory that you ask; and you shall receive. Those who are watching for your failure shall yet see My word triumph gloriously. "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." [Matthew 21:22.] {GW 263.2}

It is faith that familiarizes the soul with the existence and presence of God; and when we live with an eye single to His glory, we discern more and more the beauty of His character. Our souls become strong in spiritual power, for we are breathing the atmosphere of heaven, and, realizing that God is at our right hand, we shall not be moved.... We should live as in the presence of the Infinite One.... {OHC 324.5}

Divine wisdom will order the steps of those who put their trust in the Lord. Divine love will encircle them, and they will realize the presence of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. {OHC 324.6}

The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. When temptations and trials come, do not wait to adjust all the difficulties, but look to Jesus, your helper. {DA 490.5}

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}

If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy. {MH 249.1}

The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting testimony that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His children in the struggle with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure. {MH 94.4}

It is for our present happiness and our future good that God subjects us to discipline. The greatest blessing that His children have is the discipline that He sends them. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose that they are fulfilling, as workers together with Him. {TDG 122.3}

The religion of Jesus Christ is not merely to prepare us for the future immortal life; it is to enable us to live the Christ life here on earth. Jesus is not only our pattern, He is also our friend and our guide, and by taking hold of His strong arm and partaking of His Spirit, we may walk “even as he walked.” {TMK 298.6}

When one surrenders to Christ, the mind is brought under the control of the law; but it is the royal law, which proclaims liberty to every captive. By becoming one with Christ, man is made free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood. {MH 131.1}

In the very fact that men are free moral agents, God teaches us not to be forced or compelled into any course of action, also that as responsible beings in copartnership with God we are to represent God in character. We are to have an interest in our brother, in our neighbor, in all around (Letter 65, 1895). {5BC 1098.1}

It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, who seek to compel the conscience. Under a pretense of zeal for righteousness, men who are confederated with evil angels sometimes bring suffering upon their fellow men in order to convert them to their ideas of religion; but Christ is ever showing mercy, ever seeking to win by the revealing of His love. He can admit no rival in the soul, nor accept of partial service; but He desires only voluntary service, the willing surrender of the heart under the constraint of love. {AA 541.1}

God does not employ compulsory measures; love is the agent which He uses to expel sin from the heart. By it He changes pride into humility, and enmity and unbelief into love and faith. {MB 76.3}

God never forces the will or the conscience, but Satan’s constant resort—to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience and to secure homage to himself.—GC 591 (1888). {1MCP 325.1}

God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ. {MH 176.2}

In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience. The Jews looked for the kingdom of God to be established in the same way as the kingdoms of the world. To promote righteousness they resorted to external measures. They devised methods and plans. But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counterworks error and sin. {COL 77.1}

Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. {MH 248.2}

At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer. {DA 669.4}