



Biblical Missionaries 3Q 2015 Lesson 5

Exiles as Missionaries

(announcements and GC update at end of notes)

SUNDAY

The lesson focuses on Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as captives in Babylon and Medo-Persia.

Read first paragraph, “Daniel, whose name...” When you think a missionary is, what comes to mind?

Do you think Daniel thought of himself as a missionary? What made him a missionary?

Does this mean, that people in their routine, day-to-day jobs, are also missionaries?

Is a missionary – someone on a mission? Do we have a mission? What is our mission?

Ellen White, one of the founders of the SDA church, said this:

The mission of the church of Christ is to save perishing sinners. It is to make known the love of God to men and to win them to Christ by the efficacy of that love. The truth for this time [what is the truth for this time? The final message of mercy is the truth about God’s character of love!] must be carried into the dark corners of the earth, and this work may begin at home. The followers of Christ should not live selfish lives; but, imbued with the Spirit of Christ, they should work in harmony with Him. {3T 381.1}

There are causes for the present coldness and unbelief. [what might those be?] The love of the world and the cares of life separate the soul from God. [What are these? love of the world just isn’t hedonism, it includes the love of the world’s ways, loving how the world runs its government, and preferring this method to God’s so much one teaches God runs His universe the same way. And cares of life, don’t mean sinful things, but failing to keep balance and allowing healthy activities in excess to overwhelm and exhaust.] The water of life must be in us, [what is the water of life?] and flowing out from us, springing up into everlasting life. We must work out what God works in. [what does this mean? how does this apply to the idea of salvation is by grace and not works versus the idea that without works faith is dead? How does the legal view fail here and the healing view find perfect expression?] If the Christian would enjoy the light of life, he must increase his efforts to bring others to the knowledge of the truth. [what does this look like? and how can this be misdirected?] His life must be characterized by exertion and sacrifices to do others good; and then there will be no complaints of lack of enjoyment. {3T 381.2}



Dann Wyatt one of our online members emailed me this quote from Oswald Chambers this week:

Reconciliation means the restoring of the relationship between the entire human race and God, **putting it back to what God designed it to be.** [What did God design it to be? What is God working for, legal pardon or restoration to His design?] **This is what Jesus Christ did in redemption.** [What did Jesus do? He took broken humanity and in His person cured it, restored it to God's design and unity with God. He procured the Remedy, which restores all who partake to unity with God.] **The church ceases to be spiritual when it becomes self-seeking, only interested in the development of its own organization.** [Wow, do denominations ever get caught into this trap?] The reconciliation of the human race according to His plan means realizing Him not only in our lives individually, but also in our lives collectively. Jesus Christ sent apostles and teachers for this very purpose—that the corporate Person of Christ and His church, made up of many members, might be brought into being and made known. **We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of building His body.** <http://utmost.org/the-spiritually-self-seeking-church/>

Do you agree?

How can the mission of the church be derailed?

- By becoming involved in the issues of the world (politics)
- By coming to love the world and its methods (teaching and practicing the imperial law methodology in the church)
- By focusing only on one's spiritual development and ignoring the community of believers
- By focusing on organizational development rather than the salvation of souls (the Jews who crucified Christ said, "It is better for one man to die than the nation.")
- By sectarian fighting over legal definitions of certain passages, and by focusing on organizational growth, "sheep stealing" rather than delivering individuals from fear and selfishness and establishing them in a love/trust relationship with Jesus Christ and His Father.

Read second paragraph, "The book of Daniel..." What does it mean that they were saved without the priesthood, temple and sacrifices?

Were these rituals needed for the salvation of anyone? No, then why were they given? What was there purpose?

They were merely teaching tools to teach a greater reality, but the rituals had no power to heal from sin.

Did one have to be an Israelite to be saved? (Melchizedek, Nebuchadnezzar, Naaman, the wise men from the east, widow in Zarephath). Then what was the benefit?



And if these people, Jews in Babylon and non-Jews could be saved without the ritual feasts, sacrifices etc., what does this reveal about the idea some are promoting today of the need to observe the OT feast days?

The observation of certain religious rituals or feasts is not a requirement to salvation. The only requirement is partaking of Jesus Christ and being restored into God's design for life. If a particular activity helps in that goal, excellent, then do it.

Think about singing hymns. Do we have to sing hymns to be saved? But could singing hymns help us in our experiencing Christ? Could singing hymns focus our minds, calm our fears, open our hearts, draw us closer in our relationship with God? This is how the various rituals and religious festivals are supposed to function, merely as activities designed to assist in reconnecting us with God for healing and restoration of our hearts and minds.

Read last paragraph, "Every institution..." What was the knowledge Joseph and Daniel took to Egypt and Babylon?

Do we have any evidence they promoted to Pharaoh or the King the weekly Sabbath? The Sanctuary service? What did they present to these people?

They presented a God who is Creator – which means what? What kind of law does the Creator run His universe upon?

- They presented a God who knows the future, who is compassionate, who wants to save. Daniel and his three friends modeled the power of design law in their lifestyle, showing when one puts into their bodies the foods God designed the body to run upon the body, including the brain, is healthier and more effective.
- They also modeled how they were wiser because of worshipping the only true God, another design law – the law of worship.
- They modeled an understanding of how reality works, rather than a religion of superstition, contradictions, irrational beliefs, with which much or religion today struggles.

What is to be the message we are to present? The truth about God – which is what?

Within Christianity as a whole, is the message of God's character of love the primary message that has gone to the world?

What about in our denomination, is the message of God's character of love the central message? Do we struggle with preoccupation with institutional survival to interfere with the actual work of saving souls, the actual work of presenting the truth about God?

MONDAY



Monday's lesson starts with the story of Daniel 2 which is the story of Nebuchadnezzar having a dream that troubles him and telling his wise men they must tell him his dream and interpret it or he will have them all killed. They cannot, and then Daniel and his friends pray and it is revealed to Daniel.

Daniel goes to the king and the king asks, "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" (Dan 2:26)

Now, if you were asked this, wouldn't it be easy, without arrogance or pride, simply to have answered, "Yes, king, I know what you dreamt and what it means."?

But notice Daniel's answer:

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. (Dan 2:27-28)

What is the point of Daniel's answer? To give credit to God, to bring the king an awareness of the Creator! What was the purpose of the dream? What was the dream?

Daniel had a perspective that was not self-focused, not focused on saving his own life. He realized that this was opportunity to enlighten Nebuchadnezzar, thus his answer is about revealing eternal truth to the king, rather than answer in a way that protects himself. This was a love-based answer!

What is the rock that crushes described in the dream? It is the kingdom of God, which is founded upon what? Jesus – what does it mean that the rock crushes? What does it crush? How does it crush?

From the Remedy 1 Pet 2:6-9 it says:

This is exactly what the Scripture is talking about:

"See, I will put a Stone in the land of promise, an especially chosen, perfect, foundation Stone, and whoever trusts in him and is put in harmony with him will never be put to shame."

⁷For you, who know and trust God, this Stone is life's one true treasure; but to those who don't know and trust God, "This Stone was thought to be worthless and rejected, but is actually the one upon which all life is built.

⁸"A Stone of pure love that trips up selfish men and a Rock of holiness, humility and truth over which the sinful, proud and deceitful fall." They trip and fall because they prefer selfishness to love, and unhealed selfishness is a terminal condition, exactly as God diagnosed.

⁹But you who trust God and build upon the Stone are a select and special people, royal ministers of God's healing Remedy, a clean and purified nation, a people whose hearts and



minds are in unity and oneness with God, that you may commend, with your words and lives, him who called you out of the darkness of fear and selfishness into his wonderful light of truth and love.

The lesson points out that when the three were thrown in the fiery furnace that Nebuchadnezzar recognized the fourth as one like the Son of God because the captive Hebrews told him about God.

Why didn't Nebuchadnezzar already know about God? Weren't the Jews supposed to be a kingdom of priests to tell the entire world about God?

Why were they in captivity? Because they refused God's protection and God removed his restraining hand and the Babylonians took them captive, and in this situation the Holy Spirit was still working with both Daniel and his friends and on the pagan king. What lesson do we learn for today?

Read bottom green section, "How important..." When is character most clearly revealed? During good times or during trials?

- Trials reveal character – because it is an opportunity to uncover whether one is concerned with others or self (recent movie in which a person who seemed magnanimous, until a earthquake hit and then it was all watch out for himself)
- Use of money – the widow and her mites
- At the GC our booth was the only one that gave away everything and didn't sell anything. People were stunned and kept commenting how can we do it? Or, they couldn't believe it.
- When the Jews were plotting against Jesus and lying about Him, criticizing Him, He didn't retaliate, but treated them with love. We have tried to model this, by refusing to retaliate against those who have gone around and said negative things about us, instead just focus on telling the truth about God.
- We discovered the power of having a message to share, of having the message of God's truth and love to share, in comparison to some persons who focus on criticizing and fault finding in others.

TUESDAY

The Persians overthrow Babylon and what happens to Daniel? What does this imply? What amazing person Daniel must have been to have been kept in a position of leadership by a conquering force.

The king gets tricked into throwing Daniel into the lion's den, and we all know what happens—but read the second paragraph, which is quoting Daniel 6:25-27: "Then King Darius..." thoughts?

What motivated Darius to do this?

- Did Darius believe in Daniel's God?



- What does it appear, from this Scripture, that Darius understands about God?
 - That God is powerful, creator, enduring
 - Does this proclamation indicate Darius understood God's character and methods of love? Why or why not?
 - What method did Darius use to "evangelize" about God?
 - A governmental edict forcing worship – this is consistent with viewing God through imposed law lenses, which is the great infection of Christianity. Notice, Darius is converted away from his false god to the true God of Daniel, but still views the true God through the lens of dictatorship. This is what has happened to Christianity – exchanged the truth of God's law of love for a lie, that God's law is rules imposed.

WEDNESDAY

Read top paragraph, "Daniel was not merely..." What do you think about the meaning of this? Is God the one causing the events in nations or God foreknows the events and thus can accurately predict them?

Did God cause Nebuchadnezzar to invade Israel? Did God cause the Israelites to worship false gods and thus reject God's protection? Were the Babylonians a country of conscientious objectors that were forced by God to invade Israel? Did God cause the Persians to invade Babylon? Whose spirit is inciting selfishness, pride, power-seeking, leading to war? Does the Holy Spirit bring division and fighting? So is God causing these events, or accurately foretelling what He knows will transpire?

Consider Daniel 10:12-13, 20:

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."... ²⁰ So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;

Who is the prince of Persia? Satan is called the prince of this world, so the prince of Persia, who fights against God's angels, would be who? One of Satan's minions, as would be the prince of Greece, and what is the battlefield these angels are fighting upon? The mind of the king of Persia – the time for the fulfillment of prophecy of 70 years captivity and the release of the Jews has come. Gabriel is working to enlighten the king of Persia and inspire him with love and truth, the prince of Persia is working to obstruct truth and incite selfishness.

Now, why is Michael the only one left to help Gabriel? If only 1/3 of the angels fell with Satan,



and 2/3's are still on God's side, why is Michael the only one who can help Gabriel, but the prince of Persia can get help from the prince of Greece?

Because this isn't a battle over numbers, or power, or might, it is a battle of truth and love versus lies and selfishness. Gabriel took the position vacated by Lucifer, thus there is no created being with greater knowledge of God's character of love. Only Jesus, God Himself possessed more truth and love than Gabriel, thus only Jesus is left to bring additional truth and love about God to bear in the heart and mind of the king! The prince of Greece can come help the prince of Persia because multiple lies can be told from variety of different perspectives inciting fear and selfishness.

Read third paragraph, "And this gospel..." What is the gospel of the kingdom? What is the abomination that causes desolation?

Imperialism – in all its form – so:

- When the Roman legions surrounded Israel using imposed rules, power, coercion and infliction of punishment and death, they surrounded the temple, and in graphic display acted out what happens when such methods are used—pain, suffering, famine, rebellion, death
- When Constantine converted and the spirit temple was surrounded by imperialism in the form of changing the idea of God's law from the design law of love, to imperial rules which require force and imposed punishment, what happened? Pain, suffering, famine of truth and love, desolation of the character of people who took the name Christian, rebellion, war, crusades, torture, intolerance, destruction and the darkest time in human history.
- Today, when Christianity presents God operating no differently than a sinful human government the minds of men are infected, the characters corrupted and desolation of godliness results, which will lead to a recurrence in the world of a time in which religious people will seek to control governments to enforce their methods.

Here is a quote from the book *The Great Controversy*:

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:15, 16; Luke 21:20, 21. **When the idolatrous standards of the Romans should be set up in the holy ground**, which extended some furlongs outside the city walls, then the followers of Christ were to find safety in flight. {GC 25.4}

Notice the idolatrous standards – what are the idolatrous standards, merely the poles that carried the Roman symbols or something else?

Israel is an object lesson. Israel represents the world, the non-priests the unconverted people, the priests the converted people, the temple God's body of believers being healed and reconciled to Him through Christ.



The Romans and their pagan standards represent Satan's war against God's truth to surround the world with such pagan views of God that no one, Christian or non-Christian can see the truth about God.

The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary. He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. **The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God. Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth.** Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. **The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes.** That men might have salvation he came directly to man, and became a partaker of his nature...

Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,--**to set men right through the revelation of God.** [to set right is to justify] In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, "I have manifested thy name." "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." **When the object of his mission was attained,--the revelation of God to the world,--**the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men. {ST, January 20, 1890}

When Constantine converted the church was infected with the lie that God's law is like human law, rules imposed. The minds of humanity became surrounded with such distortions that they came to conceive of God as one who is arbitrary, severe, unforgiving and who is the source of inflicted punishments upon the wicked. This is the abomination of lies that desolates the true church of God.

Thousands have a **false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal.** Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? **God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion.** Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God. {FLB 59.8}

THURSDAY



Read first paragraph, “Daniel was an...” Wasn’t the decree to return to Israel and rebuild the temple before the events in the book of Esther? So, was Esther there “involuntarily”?

Notice the contrast between Esther and Daniel – what stands out to you?

What is the critical issue, the specific behavior, or the heart motive to love others, be willing to sacrifice self, loyalty to God?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss the questions



Update from General Conference of SDA 2015, San Antonio, TX:

First I want to thank God for His amazing blessing in enabling this ministry to have a booth at the GC event. I also want to thank this class, who five years ago chose to help establish this ministry and has faithfully supported us. I also want to thank our online, worldwide class who also has been supporting us. Without all of you we could never have had such a successful event. Finally I want to specifically thank those who volunteered their time to come to San Antonio and help us man the booth:

- Dean and Zoe Scott
- Jim and Carla Harris (from Michigan)
- Russell Atkins
- Lori Atkins
- Chip and Laurie Liles
- Dennis and Kathy Kiley
- Cirsten Weldon
- Christie Jennings
- Luann Serafine (from California)
- Simon Harrison (from Australia)
- James and Donna Ehrlich
- Special guest helper (Kara Dale from Australia)

Our booth at the Exhibit Hall at the GC 2015 in San Antonio was an overwhelming success. We had people come up to us from all over the world, (Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Bermuda, Trinidad, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, England, Sweden, Germany, France, China, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Jordan, Taiwan, Botswana, Kenya, Congo, Puerto Rico, and others I can't remember) many in tears of joy, telling us how much our ministry means to them, how they listen to our classes, watch our DVDs and how their lives have been changed.

We had others, many others, who took the material for the first time and then brought friends the next day to get material telling us how they started reading or watching the night before and found it was already changing their lives. More pastors than we can count came up and told us how much the material is helping, and many took boxes back to distribute in their churches. Union and Conference officials from various parts of the world came by and told us what a blessing our ministry was for them and requested material for their pastors. One Union Ministerial Director has requested 500 of each of our DVDs to give to every pastor in his union.

I was interviewed on an FM radio station MCU 91.1, 91.3, 91.5 in Jamaica, which broadcast while we were there and the host came to our booth the next day telling us what incredibly positive feedback they were already receiving.

I did three Hope Channel interviews, one already broadcast, the others to broadcast later.



We took 10,000 each of God and Your Brain, Healing the Mind and God and Your Church, 10,000 each of CIBTS English and Spanish and 12,500 Study Guides, along with other cards and flyers.

We gave out all 10,000 of the Healing the Mind and somewhere around 9000 of each of the other DVDs, about 8000 of each of the CIBTS and 7500 of the Study Guides.

Dean is writing an article to submit to the Southern Tidings about our Ministry and booth at the GC. He asked those involved to share any thoughts or moments from their time at the GC. Luann Serafine, one of our online class members, who came to the GC just to help us at our booth spent several days with us and sent this:

A year ago, thereabouts, a friend told me to go to a website...he said, "I think you will really appreciate it." So, I did just that.

*Amazingly, what I found that day on the Come and Reason Ministries website (and what I continue to find) is an open invitation to join the ongoing dynamic and robust conversation - **about all the things that really matter in this life!***

Part of my professional background includes approximately a decade immersed in emergency services, fire, rescue, medical transport, with an additional 20 years of trauma, emergency nursing beyond that.

While working to help patients in my care, I have listened to story after story. The similarities we all share have become very visible to me. A common thread might read, "my day started like any other...I was...and then - it just happened so fast – now everything has changed." The unthinkable circumstance or event shows up at the door. And thus, the difficult conversations come to all of us whether we are prepared or not. As a nurse, I continue to find myself very briefly in the midst of someone else's story, and perhaps a pivot point in life. Each time it happens it is clear I have been handed a role to play.

The critical question for me has always been, 'so what do you have to give them right now that will be real, and have lasting and meaningful value?' It takes only a few passes in this scenario for a person to discover that all the conventional, traditional religious or scripted secular answers (those I was given in my past or in my training) fall woefully deficient in the face of raw reality.

At Come and Reason Ministries I have found tools to help others, and myself, in just these kinds of moments.

Come and Reason Ministry is a community of people, a team, unafraid to look at the reality of the world we live in. Open minds willing to study and think through biblical principles – applying these concepts to every aspect of our existence here as it really is. I have discovered a sanctuary of contemplative free thought in this community of people. By using the online



presentations at C&R, the seemingly divergent and disconnected ideas of the past are now melting away. Conflicting concepts are now merging seamlessly into a beautiful cacophony of integrated truth about God's love, about the freedom He has handed to us that we may know truth and live love abundantly. These tools have changed my life.

When you discover truth that has the power to change your world, and change the lives of those around you - how can you not want to jump in and help share these same tools and resources with anyone and everyone who will listen?

In San Antonio, TX, only a few blocks away from the Texas shrine of freedom...The Alamo, I saw hundreds of people from the four corners of the earth truly free to search for truth. I watched those who took a moment to stop at the Come and Reason Ministries booth, and indulge in the freedom of thought God calls us into, exploring ideas and concepts about His love.

In the eyes of so many, I saw the same light of understanding go on. Over and over, I can still see the many smiles of excitement – and how folks would return with their friends. One very tall woman, beautiful, articulate - educated, wearing a lovely purple dress stands out in my mind. As some of us spoke with her I could see her eyes dance as she experienced rapid-fire 'aha' moments.

It was such a joy to place into the hands of so many people, free to them, the very tools that have been helping me over the past year.

We can all see that the whole world is now deeply embroiled in a war where the real theater of battle is in the mind, in our thoughts, contained in our world-views of how life should be and how God operates His Universe. Thank you Come and Reason Ministry team for reaching out to all of us – helping us to have the conversations that are very overdue. Waking us up to the awareness that God has already handed us the most powerful weapons in the universe to win this war against evil, sickness, loss, and death.

These are truth, freedom, and love – and they are best revealed through the heart and life of our Lord Jesus – our most intimate friend...forever.

Luann's beautiful testimony represents so many verbal testimonies we heard from all over the world during the GC. Thanks to each one of you for enabling this ministry to share this message with the world.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase– ALL GLITCHES NOW FIXED in the IOS Version! So please UPDATE to latest version.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes.

August 1: Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Petaluma, CA SDA church.

September 9.10: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Baptist Boomer’s Conference in San Antonio, TX.

September 12: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr., CA SDA church.

September 23-26: American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

October 24: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA.