



2019 Q2 Family Seasons - Lesson 13 Turning Hearts in the End Time

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SABBATH

Memory Text: “Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5,6 NKJV

What do you hear when you read the Bible?

- What is the primary purpose of the Bible?
- What is included?
- What is excluded?
- For many:
- A code book of commands from God
- Indeed, it seems God does state he is commanding His people do so certain things.
- Stories of God’s people in failure and redemption
- God’s promises
- Earth’s history

Do you see the Bible as Declarative or Descriptive?

Many of the “commands of the Bible” are not described by the Bible as commands.

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Suggestions? - No!, but . . .

Do you realize they are not called commandments until the story of the Rich Young Ruler in the New Testament? (Matthew 19, Luke 18)

Even here, the word that is used could be translated commandment or precept or tradition or requirements.

The Golden Rule

The Study Guide divides up the week into lessons regarding our memory verse, but does not say anything about the last portion.

“I, the Lord, promise to send the prophet Elijah before that great and terrible day comes. He will lead children and parents to love each other more, so that when I come, I won’t bring doom to the land.” Malachi 4:5-6 (CEV)



“Elijah will help parents love their children and children love their parents. Otherwise, I will come and put a curse on the land.” Malachi 4:6 (NCV)

Can you think of other places the Bible talks about God cursing something?

Eden:

- Curse the serpent
- Cursed the ground
- Women would have pain in childbirth
- Women would be subjugated by men
- Cursed Cain

“The LORD will curse the evil person's house, but he will bless the home of those who do right.” Proverbs 3:33 (NCV)

How does that work?

Going back to the Memory Verse of this week. How or why would the coming of God bring doom to the land?

There are commands of God in His word. Although I am suspect of anything Elihu said, he may have been right in Job 36:10

“He makes them listen to his warning and orders them to turn away from wrong.” Job 36:10 (GW)

God commands when we are immature like children to keep up from suffering the consequences of our immature and poor choices.

Most of the Bible is descriptive - not declarative

Emphasis on promises of God: They are described as our only hope (2nd paragraph)

When are promises any good?

- Promises are only as good as the person giving them
- Promises are only good if conditions / people / circumstances do not change
- They are only good if you believe / trust the entity that is making the promise.

Teachers Comments: Overview

“God’s restoration of this sin-fallen planet is an irrevocable promise. We can’t apply that promise in a way that undermines free will. But if anyone can persuade a heart, the Spirit of God can. In this hope we place our confidence.”



Workers With Christ - Jesus, who has redeemed us from Satan's power, has exalted us to the high privilege of being co-laborers with himself. All who choose Christ as their leader, solemnly pledge themselves to his service. If they are true to this covenant, their feelings, their sympathies, their labors, are with Christ. Eternal things will be their highest consideration. They will search the Scriptures with earnest interest and with prayer that they may know the will of God and do it from the heart; that they may work for the best interests of all with whom they associate. {RH December 2, 1890, par. 1 }

SUNDAY

The Prophecy of Turned Hearts

Re-Read the memory text: Malachi 4:5,6 What does this sound like?

If the hearts of the fathers are toward the children and the children are to the fathers, what would we call this?

- Reconciliation
- Atonement
- Unity

Makes you think of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane. "I would that they be as one. . ." John 17:21

Question and then 3rd paragraph: What do you think the phrase "turn the hearts" means?

"Several applications are possible for this phrase: It refers to the reconciliation of the people of Israel with the Lord. God as Father has turned from His wrath toward His children and calls them to return to Him."

Has God's wrath ever been against His children?

God's wrath is against sin. God does not like sin because it results in the destruction of His children. He is never angry at His children

Farther in the paragraph: "Parent-Child relationships are a practical expression of covenant faithfulness with God."

I should never describe God by my failings. We are God's children. God does not have the defects in insight, character or attitudes that we as fallen human beings possess against our children.

Read the memory text again: the final part: How is this different from the 5th commandment?
Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the Lord your God gives you." Deuteronomy 5:16 (NASB)



MONDAY

Family Reunion

The story of the widow and her son, the meal and oil, the son's death and resurrection.

Second question: What effect did the reunion with her son have upon the Phoenician widow's spiritual experience? 1 Kings 17:24. What can we learn from her comments?

She answered, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the Lord really speaks through you!" 1 Kings 17:24 (GNT with Deuterocanon)

She believed more after the miracle than before.

Miracles are most commonly seen in the Bible for those who have little faith (trust), not much.

Miracles are given to help us encourage to have more trust / belief, not because we already do so.

TUESDAY

Turning Hearts at the Altar

The story of Mt Carmel, Elijah, and the Fiery Altar

Read 1st Paragraph: How does "turning back to faith of their fathers" "bring healing to their lives, their homes, and their land"?

Does that work for you?

What does bring healing to our lives, homes and land?

Read the second paragraph

Read the 3rd paragraph

Family worship: Reading together God's word

Evening worship should be short, interesting, God centered.

The father, who is the priest of his household, should conduct the morning and evening worship. There is no reason why this should not be the most interesting and enjoyable exercise of the home life, and God is dishonored when it is made dry and irksome. Let the seasons of family worship be short and spirited. Do not let your children or any member of your family dread them because of their tediousness or lack of interest. When a long chapter is read and explained and a long prayer offered, this precious service becomes wearisome, and it is a relief



when it is over. {CG 521.3}

Read 4th paragraph: Did God “take them back to himself”? Is that what the text says? Who is reconciled to whom?

Where in the Bible do we have God being reconciled to sinners?

Is it not the other way around?

Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.” 1 Kings 18:37 (NASB Strong's)

God is always our advocate, always our friend, always with us (“He says He will never leave us.”). Always our healer.

“In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express.” Romans 8:26 (GNT)

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31-39 (NLT)

The Spirit of God not only maintains this hope within us, but helps us in our present limitations. For example, we do not know how to pray worthily as sons of God, but his Spirit within us is actually praying for us in those agonizing longings which never find words. And God who knows the heart's secrets understands, of course, the Spirit's intention as he prays for those who love God.



Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to his plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good. God, in his foreknowledge, chose them to bear the family likeness of his Son, that he might be the eldest of a family of many brothers. He chose them long ago; when the time came he called them, he made them righteous in his sight, and then lifted them to the splendour of life as his own sons.

We hold, in Christ, an impregnable position In face of all this, what is there left to say? If God is for us, who can be against us? He that did not hesitate to spare his own Son but gave him up for us all—can we not trust such a God to give us, with him, everything else that we can need? Who would dare to accuse us, whom God has chosen? The judge himself has declared us free from sin. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us!

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? Indeed some of us know the truth of the ancient text: 'For your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter'.

No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us.

I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God's whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 8:26-38
(PHILLIPS)

Elijah

"Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you are bringing them back to yourself." 1 Kings 18:37 (GNT)

5th Paragraph: "The all consuming fire fell . . ." When does God's fire ever fall on the wicked and destroy them?

When they cannot be separated from their sin.

"The people of Israel are as stubborn as mules. How can I feed them like lambs in a meadow? The people of Israel are under the spell of idols. Let them go their own way." Hosea 4:16-17 (GNT)

Since Israel is stubborn Like a stubborn heifer, Can the Lord now pasture them Like a lamb in a large field? Ephraim is joined to idols; Let him alone." Hosea 4:16-17 (NASB Strong's)



WEDNESDAY

Turning Hearts at the Jordan

John the Baptist's Ministry

What was John's message? Matthew 3:1 – 12

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 3:2 (NASB Strong's)

What was Jesus' message?

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 4:17 (NASB Strong's)

And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Matthew 10:7 (NASB Strong's)

Read the second (middle page) paragraph on Wednesday's lesson.

John: Prepared the people for repentance and reformation; Directed his disciples specifically to Jesus

THURSDAY

Turning Hearts in the Last Days

Read 1st paragraph

What is the “Gospel” that we as SDA's / modern Christians give as the message?
Is it different from what John & Jesus gave?

Why / Why not?

Read 3rd paragraph

How is the Elijah message different from the Jonah message?

- Jonah was a very successful evangelist
- Jonah changed history
- Who had more converts?
- Who was the greatest?
- Why?

Read the second paragraph on Thursday's lesson

“In The Spirit and Power of Elias



The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ. This prophecy is introduced with the admonition, “Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 1}

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 2}

This prophecy was fulfilled by John the Baptist; for the Saviour himself declared to his disciples, “Elias is come already.” Upon hearing this, the disciples “understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 3}

In every stage of this earth’s history God has had his agencies to carry forward his work, which must be done in his appointed way. John the Baptist had a special work, for which he was born and to which he was appointed,—the work of preparing the way of the Lord. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 4}

The mission and the work of John the Baptist were specified by the angel of the Lord, as recorded by Luke: “And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” The Holy Ghost was to be upon him. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 5}

The wilderness-ministry of John the Baptist was a most striking, literal fulfilment of prophecy. Isaiah had foretold his work as “the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 6}

John, as a prophet, stood forth as God’s representative, to show the connection between the law and the prophets and the Christian dispensation. Like Malachi, he pleaded with the Jews: “Remember ye the law of Moses, ... with all the statutes and judgments.” His work and ministry pointed back to the law and the prophets, while he, at the same time, pointed the people forward to Christ as the Saviour of the world. He called upon them to “behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 7}

The forerunner of Christ lifted up his voice in the wilderness of Judea, crying, “Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he which was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” “Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.... O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be



not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! behold, the Lord will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 8}

In the spirit, and with the power, of Elijah, John the Baptist denounced the corruptions of the Jews, and reprov'd their prevailing sins. His discourses were plain, pointed, and convincing. Many were brought to repentance, and, as evidence of their repentance, were baptized by him in Jordan. This was the work necessary in order to prepare the way for the earthly ministry of Christ. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 9}

The work of John the Baptist, and the work of those who in the last days go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to arouse the people from their apathy, are in many respects the same. His work is a type of the work that must be done in this age. Christ is to come the second time to judge the world in righteousness. The messengers of God who bear the last message of warning to be given to the world, are to prepare the way for Christ's second advent, as John prepared the way for his first advent. In this preparatory work, “every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain;” for history is to be repeated, and once again “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 10}

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to his people, through the instruments he has chosen, and he would have all heed the admonitions and warnings he sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear,—“Prepare to meet thy God.” {SW March 21, 1905, par. 11}

Our message must be as direct as was that of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding the peril his life was in, he never allowed truth to languish on his lips. Our work in this age must be as faithfully done. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 12}

Look at the picture that the world presents today. Dishonesty and fraud, violence and bloodshed, are seen on every hand. The widows and the fatherless are often robbed of their all. The theater, the race-track, and questionable amusements of every kind engage the attention of multitudes. In many churches sins have become fashionable. They are glossed over and excused. The right hand of fellowship is given to the very men who bring in false theories and sentiments. Right principles are no longer cherished. The conscience has become insensible to the counsel and reproofs that have been given. Messages calling for repentance are unheeded. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 13}



In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon his messengers to proclaim his law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the ten commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come." With the earnestness that characterized Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's second advent. Resolution, self-denial, and consecrated effort are required of every laborer. Alertness and consecrated zeal must take the place of listless indifference. The prayerful, earnest appeals that come from a heart imbued with the spirit that actuated Elijah, will bring conviction to the honest in heart. {SW March 21, 1905, par. 14}

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." {SW March 21, 1905, par. 15}

"Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen, Even so, come, Lord Jesus." {Southern Watchman, March 21, 1905, par. 16} Mrs. E. G. White