

Sabbath School Lesson #5 – The Nations: Part 2 – 26 April-2 May 2025

Christ would us listen when God speaks. God says, “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalms 46:10).

God spoke by the prophets; He speaks by His Son. We read: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2). In time past, God spoke by the prophets; in these last days, God has spoken to us by His Son. In many ways and manners has God spoken; but whether in times past, or in these last days; whether by the prophets, or by His Son, it was God who spoke. The voice of God is as clear in the prophets as in the sermon on the mount. It is but one voice. “This is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12), said the Saviour. The word spoken through the prophets, is the same as that spoken through Jesus.

Every man who will listen, will certainly know that it is the Lord who speaks. And the child may know as well as the man. The people who really listened to the word of God spoken by Jesus of Nazareth, had no difficulty in knowing whose word it was. Those who listened only to criticise, and to find occasion for multiplying their own words, naturally enough did not know that it was the word of God. But those who wished to know God’s word, in order that they might do it, knew for a certainty. These words were proved true: “If any man willeth to do His will, He shall know of the teaching, whether it be of God, or whether I speak from Myself” (John 7:17). There are many people who did not know that the Bible is the word of God. They are not fighting it, but are simply in doubt about the matter. Unfortunately some of these, in their perplexity, go to men for enlightenment, and only have their doubts increased.

No man, no matter how well he knows the word of God, can prove to another that it is the word of God. Much less can such a thing be done by one who himself has doubts about the Bible. Only let that doubting one come to the Bible with an open, unprejudiced mind, and honestly desirous of knowing the word of God in truth, and he will soon know it for himself, so that he will not ask anybody to prove it for him. Neither will he be troubled by any other person’s doubts. He has the demonstration in his own soul. The Bible is its own evidence to him. One other thing we must notice in this connection, and that is that the text we read in Hebrews tells us that “in these last days” God has spoken to us by His Son. When Jesus was on earth, many hundreds of years ago, it was the “last days.” The world was even then past its meridian. How much more emphatic, therefore, must the expression be in this time. We are now in the last days, and it therefore becomes us to listen most diligently and reverently to the words of Him that speaketh. Paul admonishes us, “See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven” (Hebrews 12:15).

Sunday: The Very First Commandment – Read Genesis 2:9-17; what was the first command, a prohibition, that God gave to humanity, and why was it so important? It is very important that we be loyal to the Word of God. When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He said, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17). This was a plain commandment, yet “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,” said to Eve, “Ye shall not surely die.” In saying this he professed to be “giving larger effect” to the spiritual purpose of God’s commandment, because he said if they listened to him they should be like God. Eve was deceived and ate, and gave to her husband with her, and he ate, and so that sin brought death into the world.

Monday: Daniel 2 – Read Daniel 2:31-35, which gives a sweeping panoramic view of world history until the end of time. What important truths can we learn from this amazing prophecy? In verse 31, we learn that Nebuchadnezzar, practicing the Chaldean religion, was an idolater; so, an image would at once command his interest and respect. What mattered most to him were wealth, political power, and his gods. By presenting him with a giant godlike statue made from a variety of precious metals and then revealing to His servant what the dream was and what it meant, God captured this heathen ruler’s attention. And in verses 32-35, we learn that below this head of gold was a body composed of inferior metals

descending in value, until they reached their basest form in the feet and toes of iron mingled with clay, delivering the message that earthly greatness or glory will fade and vanish. And in verses 41 and 44 we see the stone that smashes the feet marks the end of earthly nations.

Tuesday: Daniel 7 – What important lesson for our present time should we remember from Daniel 7? Daniel 7 declare that the little horn is the power that would think to change times and laws (Daniel 7:25). It is common knowledge that the Catholic Church claims credit for the change from Sabbath to Sunday. In a Catholic catechism: “Q. Which is the Sabbath day? A. Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday” (Peter Geiermann, *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 1930, p. 50). When our Adventists pioneers rejected both Sunday worship and the trinity, they took notice of the following Catholic Reasons for keeping Sunday: “1. Because ‘it is also called Sunday from the old Roman denomination of Dies Solis, the day of the sun, to which it was sacred.’ ‘Sunday was a name given by the heathens to the first day of the week, because it was the day on which they worshiped the sun’ 3. Because it is ‘it is a day dedicated by the apostles to the honor of the most Holy Trinity.’” {ARSH April 4, 1854, page 86}. Catholicism dedicated Sunday observance in honour of the god they worship. The Catholics claims that they keep Sunday “in honor of the most holy Trinity.” Observance of a holy day is a way people worship God. Sunday observance was instituted in Catholicism in honour of their trinity god. The Trinity is the who is worshiped through Sunday observance.

The Catholic Church claims authority for instituting the trinity doctrine: “Our opponents sometimes claim that no belief should be held dogmatically which is not explicitly stated in Scripture (ignoring that it is only on the authority of the Church we recognize certain Gospels and not others as true). But the Protestant churches have themselves accepted such dogmas as the Trinity for which there is no such precise authority in the Gospels ... it is our claim that Tradition alone – founded on the Apostles' teaching, analyzed and reflected on through the ages by the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit promised by Christ - illumines the full and true meaning of the Scriptures” (The Catholic Church's New Dogma: The Assumption Of Mary By Graham Green, LIFE, 30 October 1950). Many Seventh-day Adventists would accept the trinity and reject Sunday observance, simply due to ignorance of the fact that the trinity is not only a Catholic institution, but the trinity is the very foundation upon which Sunday observance is based. All false doctrines in Catholicism are founded on the trinity doctrine. Thus, the Catholic Church states that the Trinity is the foundation of their faith from which all the rest of their teachings flow: “The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church ... The Church studied this mystery with great care and, after four centuries of clarifications, decided to state the doctrine in this way: In the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, truly distinct one from another. Thus, in the words of the Athanasian Creed: ‘The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three gods but one God’” (Handbook for Today's Catholic, 1977, p 12).

Wednesday: Between Land and Sea – What does the sea and land represent in the prophecy where the “beast rise up out of the sea” and “another beast coming up out of the earth” (Revelation 13:1, 11)? In Revelation 17:1, John speaks of a woman that he saw, sitting on many waters, and the angel told him (verse 15) that these waters were “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and kings.” If sea, denotes peoples, and multitudes – the earth would suggest, by contrast, a new and previously unoccupied territory. The lamblike beast, “instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied and grow up gradually and peacefully” {GC 440.1}.

Thursday: prophecy Again – What movement is referred to in Revelation 10:8-10? The Millerite movement who suffered a great disappointment when in 1844 Jesus did not return on earth as they had thought, became the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and were told to “prophecy again” until close of probation. Those Adventists who are untied with the world now and therefore fail to “prophecy again,” will accept Sunday worship. “By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side” {GC 608.2}.