LESSON 6







The Gift of *Prophecy*

THE PROPHETIC WRITINGS

MEMORY TEXT:

Romans 15:4
4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

1. What is the first mention of writing in the Bible? Read Exodus 17:14.

A: The first mention of writing in the Bible is God's command to Moses to record Israel's victory over the Amalekites in a book.

Exodus 17:14

14 and Jehovah said unto Moses, **Write this for a memorial in a book**, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

Exodus 34:27

27 And Jehovah said unto Moses, **Write thou these words**: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:19

19 Now therefore **write ye this song for you**, and teach thou it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

Isaiah 30:8

8 Now go, write it before them on a tablet, **and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come** for ever and ever.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

Jeremiah 30:2

2 Thus speaketh Jehovah, the God of Israel, saying, **Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book**.

Jeremiah 36:2

2 **Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein** all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

Habakkuk 2:2

2 And Jehovah answered me, and said, **Write the vision**, and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

Revelation 1:11

11 saying, **What thou seest, write in a book** and send it to the seven churches: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamum, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:19

19 **Write therefore the things which thou sawest**, and the things which are, and the things which shall come to pass hereafter;

Revelation 21:5

5 And he that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he saith, **Write**: for these words are faithful and true.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

Documentary hypothesis
(thesis of authors of the historical-critical method on the origin of the Pentateuch)

a) Jahwist Source;

b) Elohite Source;

c) Priestly Source; and

d) Deuteronomist Source.

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SUNDAY – The Call to Write

Genesis 11:31

31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his son's son, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from **Ur of the Chaldees**, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Genesis 14:14

14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued **as far as Dan**.

Genesis 36:31

31 And these are the kings that reigned in the land of Edom, **before there reigned any king over the children of Israel**.

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MONDAY – Literary Genres and Styles

2. Read Isaiah 13:1. How does the Bible here refer to the message Isaiah is giving?

A: The Lord's pronouncement or oracle.

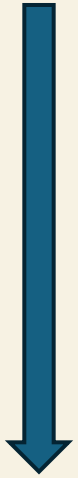
Isaiah 13:1 (NASB)

[1] The **oracle** concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

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MONDAY – Literary Genres and Styles

LITERARY GENRE



Text type

MONDAY – Literary Genres and Styles

CLASSIC PROPHECY:

- It speaks mainly to the people of the prophet's time.

APOCALYPTIC PROPHECY:

- It presents the major events of history and the future.

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TUESDAY – Literary Assistants

3. Read Jeremiah 36:17, 18 and Romans 16:22. What do these verses tell us about the Bible writers' use of literary assistants?

A: The biblical writers were assisted by secretaries.

Jeremiah 36:17, 18 (NASB)

17 And they asked Baruch, saying, "Tell us, please, how did you write all these words? Was it at his dictation?"

18 Then Baruch said to them, **"He dictated all these words to me, and I wrote them with ink on the book."**

Romans 16:22

22 **I Tertius, who write the epistle**, salute you in the Lord.

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TUESDAY – Literary Assistants

1 Peter 5:12

12 **By Silvanus**, our faithful brother, as I account him, **I have written unto you briefly**, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God: stand ye fast therein.

TUESDAY – Literary Assistants

1 Corinthians 16:21

21 The salutation of me Paul with **mine own hand**.

Colossians 4:18

18 The salutation of me Paul with **mine own hand**. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:17

17 The salutation of me Paul with **mine own hand**, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

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WEDNESDAY – Literary Sources

4. Read 1 Kings 11:41; Luke 1:1-4; and Jude 14, 15. What do these verses tell us about how the inspired writers at times used non-biblical sources?

1 Kings 11:41 41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in **the book of the acts of Solomon**?

Luke 1:1-4

1 Forasmuch as **many have taken in hand to draw up a narrative concerning those matters** which have been fulfilled among us, 2 even as they delivered them unto us, who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses** and ministers of the word, 3 it seemed good to me also, having traced the course of all things accurately from the first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus; 4 that thou mightest know the certainty concerning the things wherein thou wast instructed.

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WEDNESDAY – Literary Sources

4. Read 1 Kings 11:41; Luke 1:1-4; and Jude 14, 15. What do these verses tell us about how the inspired writers at times used non-biblical sources?

A: The biblical authors used other sources, including those that were not inspired.

Jude 14, 15

14 And to these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones,
15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have ungodly wrought, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

1 Enoch 1:9 (Jewish book that is not part of the Bible)

9 And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgement upon all, and to destroy all the ungodly: and to convict all flesh of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

5. What does Paul say about God's treasure in 2 Corinthians 4:7?

A: Paul says that the treasure of the gospel is in earthen vessels, that is, God sent His message through fragile human beings.

2 Corinthians 4:7

7 But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves;

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

The Great Controversy, p. 6

Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. **Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another.** And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

The Great Controversy, p. 6

As presented through different individuals, the truth is brought out in its varied aspects. **One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject**; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; **another seizes upon a different phase**; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind—a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

The Great Controversy, p. 6

God has been pleased to communicate His truth to the world by human agencies, and He Himself, by His Holy Spirit, qualified men and enabled them to do this work. He guided the mind in the selection of what to speak and what to write. The treasure was entrusted to **earthen vessels**, yet it is, nonetheless, from Heaven. The testimony is conveyed through the **imperfect expression of human language**, yet it is the testimony of God; and the obedient, believing child of God beholds in it the glory of a divine power, full of grace and truth.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

The Word became flesh:

union of the divine with the human

- Jesus (God and man)

- Bible (Word of God in human language)

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

Matthew 27:9, 10

9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken **through Jeremiah the prophet**, saying, And they took the **thirty pieces of silver**, the price of him that was priced, whom certain of the children of Israel did price;

10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Zechariah 11:12, 13

12 And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my hire **thirty pieces of silver**.

13 And Jehovah said unto me, Cast it unto the potter, the goodly price that I was prized at by them. **And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them unto the potter**, in the house of Jehovah.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

Mark 1:2-4

2 Even as it is written **in Isaiah the prophet**, behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way;
3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ye ready the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
4 John came, who baptized in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins.

Malachi 3:1

1 **Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me**: and the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom ye desire, behold, he cometh, saith Jehovah of hosts.

Isaiah 40:3

3 **The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway** for our God.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

2 Kings 8:26
26 Two and **twenty years old** was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

2 Chronicles 22:2 (New Jerusalem Bible, according to the Hebrew text)
2 Ahaziah was **forty-two years old** when he came to the throne and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, descendant of Omri.

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THURSDAY – Divine Message and Human Imperfections

2 Kings 24:8
8 Jehoiachin was **eighteen years old** when he began to reign; and he reigned in Jerusalem three months: and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:9 (New Jerusalem Bible, according to the Hebrew text)
9 Jehoiachin was **eighteen years old**[v] when he came to the throne, and he reigned for three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what is displeasing to Yahweh.

v) "eighteen years," versions, 2 Kings 24:8; "eight years," Heb.

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FRIDAY – Ellen G. White's Writings

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 37

In regard to infallibility, I never claimed it; God alone is infallible. His word is true, and in Him is no variableness, or shadow of turning. — Letter 10, 1895.

FRIDAY – Ellen G. White's Writings

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 38

There are times when common things must be stated, common thoughts must occupy the mind, **common letters must be written, and information given** that has passed from one to another of the workers. **Such words, such information, are not given under the special inspiration of the Spirit of God.** Questions are asked at times that are not upon religious subjects at all, and these questions must be answered. **We converse about houses and lands, trades to be made, and locations for our institutions, their advantages and disadvantages.**

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