

## **A Review of the Seventh-day Adventist *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* for the Third Quarter of 2024**

This is a review of the entire *Seventh-day Adventist Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (SSBSG) for the third quarter of 2024 titled “The Book of Mark.” In this SSBSG eight different bibles were used three of which are Roman Catholic Bibles. I counted the number of times each was used. I did not count them twice so my count could be off a little. I did not count quotations that I found could have been from more than one bible and I did not count quotations that appeared within a quotation. The numbers were as follows:

New King James Version (NKJV) quotations: 43.  
King James Version (KJV) quotations: 1.  
International Standard Version (ISV) quotations: 2.  
Revised Standard Version (RSV) quotations: 2.  
New American Standard Bible (NASB) quotations: 168.  
New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995) quotations: 5.  
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) quotations: 3.  
English Standard Version (ESV) quotations: 21.

Memory texts were all from the NKJV.

Page numbers referenced will be as in the Standard Edition of the SSBSG unless otherwise noted.

### **LESSON 1. The Beginning of *the* Gospel (6/29/24 - 7/5/24)**

Seven different fake bibles are advertised in capital italicized letters in this SSBSG. The KJV isn't advertised at all; it's just used occasionally. Do you have all of them and do you have a concordance for all of them? Do you believe all of them?

On page 8 it says, “Mark clearly recovered from his failure, almost certainly through the trust that his cousin, Barnabas, placed in him.”

“Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)” Colossians 4:10 (KJV).

“Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),” Colossians 4:10 (NKJV).

To say “sister's son to Barnabas” would make Mark the nephew of Barnabas and not “the cousin of Barnabas.”

“Barnabas, on the other hand, was inclined to excuse Mark, who was his nephew, because of his inexperience.” *Spirit of Prophecy* volume 3 page 353.

On page 10, there is a discussion about the Holy Spirit. The ESV is used in the discussion and a Greek lesson is given. Do you know what *ekballō* means? It's OK if you don't. The *ekballō* is in there to foster the delusion that you're learning a lot from someone who knows a lot more than you do.

There is currently in the Seventh-day Adventist Church a faction referred to as antitrinitarians that claims Jesus is a created being so is a little less than God and the Holy Spirit isn't a distinct being but rather some type of emanation from God. Here is a passage antitrinitarians hate because it clearly teaches that three distinct beings compose the Godhead also called the Trinity. It has long been claimed that the passage doesn't belong in the Bible and Seventh-day Adventist scholars have supported that lie.

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.” 1 John 5:7-8 (KJV).

Here is that passage from the ESV.

“For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.” 1 John 5:7-8 (ESV).

The passage in the ESV is shorter because 1 John 5:7 has been removed and then replaced with part of 1 John 5:8.

Antitrinitarians claim that the doctrine of the Trinity is a Roman Catholic doctrine and that the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church didn't believe in the Trinity. The ESV is a Roman Catholic bible. If the Trinity is a Roman Catholic doctrine why wouldn't 1 John 5:7 be in one of their bibles?

There was more than one founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and they may not all have believed in the Trinity. Here are some quotations from one of the founders that had more spiritual authority than the rest of them.

“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who accept Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.” *Ellen G. White Special Testimonies Series A and B* (reprint with ISBN 9781495468902) page 202. Also found in *Evangelism* page 615.

“He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent...He is the eternal, self-existent Son.” *Evangelism* page 615 and Manuscript 101, 1897.

“Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf.” Manuscript 11, 1901.

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.” Manuscript 66, 1899.

There is a book titled *Communication with the Spirit World* by Johannes Greber. In it are quotations of things said by a demon speaking through a medium. Here is one of those quotations found on page 369.

“The doctrine that three persons are united in one Godhead finds its main support in the grossly falsified passage in the Epistle of John, the correct version of which reads: ‘For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit, the water, and the blood: and the three of them are in accord’. (*1<sup>st</sup> John 5:8.*) To this has been added the spurious sentence: ‘And there are three who bear witness in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, and these three are one’. That this entire last sentence is a spurious interpolation is a fact of which your Catholic theologians are well aware.”

Do you think the demon was being helpful by pointing out a doctrinal error in the Bible?

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

Antitrinitarianism is a doctrine of devils and guess what? Satan has managed to get all other “the Bible” used in this SSBSG changed in the same way except for the NKJV.

On page 12 it says, “The first angel’s message announces the beginning of the pre-Advent judgment, which began in 1844 and was predicted in the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel 8:14.” Here is Daniel 8:14 from some of the “the Bible” used in this SSBSG.

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14 (KJV).

“And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’” Daniel 8:14 (NKJV).

“He said to me, ‘It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconstructed.’” Daniel 8:14 (NASB).

Keep in mind that I’ve found only one quotation from the KJV, forty-three quotations from the NKJV including ALL of the memory texts and one hundred and sixty-eight quotations from the NASB. Daniel 8:14 is a crucial text supporting the Seventh-day Adventist doctrine of the investigative judgment and the heavenly sanctuary. You CANNOT truthfully teach the doctrine of the investigative judgment using the Satan edited NKJV or the NASB.

In saying “unto,” the KJV means “until” which, using prophetic time, will bring you to 1844. The NKJV in saying “for” means that some process will go on for 2,300 years and will be completed, not started, at the end of that time. The NASB has two problems. It says that at the end of 2,300 evening and mornings the sanctuary will be reconstructed; it says nothing about cleansing. The phrase “evening and mornings” is used because then it

can be claimed that since each day had an evening and a morning sacrifice, only 1,150 literal days are meant.

Here is another nail in the coffin made by Satan for the doctrine of the investigative judgment.

“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” Hebrews 9:12 (KJV).

“Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” Hebrews 9:12 (NKJV).

This is not a prophecy but rather a description of what had already happened when Paul wrote this. If Jesus started his ministry in the Most Holy Place in Paul’s time as the NKJV says, it obviously didn’t start in 1844.

## **LESSON 2. A Day *in the Ministry of Jesus* (7/6/24 - 7/12/24)**

On page 15 it says, “Mark 1 does not have many of Jesus’ words recorded. However Mark 1:17 does have His words to two fishermen, Simon, who will later be called ‘Peter,’ and his brother, Andrew. The two men are standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, casting a net. There is no mention of a boat or other fishing paraphernalia, which may suggest that the two men are not well off financially.”

The principal contributor, Thomas R. Shepherd, PhD, DrPh to be hereafter referred to as Tom or Dr. Tom, may never have been fishing. Just because a boat wasn’t mentioned, doesn’t mean they didn’t have one. When fishing, you can cast a net from the shore or from a boat. Then there is this passage.

“Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.” John 21:3-6 (KJV).

It appears that Peter probably had a boat.

On page 19, Dr. Tom discusses leprosy. He says, “Leprosy as described in this passage, and throughout the Old Testament as well, did not refer only to what is known today as Hansen’s disease (bona fide leprosy). The biblical terminology would be better translated as a “dreaded skin disease” and could include other epidemic ailments, as well. Hansen’s disease may have come to the ancient Near East about the third century B.C. (see David P. Wright and Richard N. Jones, ‘Leprosy,’ The Anchor Bible Dictionary, vol. 4 [New York: Doubleday, 1992], pp. 277-282).”

Here's something Dr. Tom might have benefited from reading before trying to edit the Word of God.

“Circumstantial evidence of the long presence of leprosy in this country gleaned from Ayurvedic medical descriptions of *Charaka*, *Susruta* and others, and socioreligious practices sanctioned in the *Shastras*, received strong authentication in an archaeological report published in 2009. Skeletal remains of a 40-year old male unearthed at a Vedic burial site dating from 2,000 BC at Balathal, near Udaipur (Rajasthan), bore the tell-tale signs of leprosy in the skull (erosion of the margins of the nasal aperture and complete atrophy of the anterior spine) as well as in the postcranial skeleton (Fig. 1.1). The authors of the report proposed that the explanation lay in the customary practice of burial alive of lepers in India in Vedic times (See Section on Legislation).” *IAL Textbook of Leprosy* page 3.

There’s a lot more one can learn about leprosy in that book of 749 pages.

Here is a description of a leper that is fully in accord with what is known about leprosy today.

“He is a loathsome spectacle. The disease has made frightful inroads, and his decaying body is horrible to look upon.” *The Desire of Ages* page 263.

### **LESSON 3. Controversies (7/13/24 – 7/19/24)**

I didn’t find anything wrong with the part of the lesson for the common people except for the use of a fake “the Bible” with no warning about the error it contains. The section for Sabbath School teachers is authored by Teófilo Correa, PhD to be hereafter referred to as Theo.

Theo has felt the need to use three fake bibles to teach teachers; the NASB1995, the NASB and the NRSV. They all can be used to teach the doctrine of purgatory in 1 Peter 3:18-20, that Elhanan killed Goliath in 2 Samuel 21:19 and that Jesus made all foods clean (that would include pork) in Mark 7:19. See the last one? This SSBSG is about the book of Mark. What are the chances that either Tom or Theo will mention that fact? Since you may not have enough “the Bible” laying around, I’ll show you the permission Jesus gave to eat pork or whatever else you want to eat in Theo’s “the Bible” of the day.

“He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.)” Mark 7:18-19 (NRSV).

“And He said to them, ‘Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?’ (Thus He declared all foods clean.)” Mark 7:18-19 (NASB95).

“And He said to them, ‘Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?’ (Thus He declared all foods clean.)” Mark 7:18-19 (NASB).

#### LESSON 4. Parables (7/20/24 – 7/26/24)

What is being taught in this Sabbath School Lesson? I didn't see anything wrong with Tom's or Theo's discussion of the parables if you ignore the fact that corrupted bibles were used throughout. So, what are the lessons taught when the *NKJV*, *ESV*, *NASB*, *NASB95*, *NRSV* and *RSV* are advertised in capitalized italicized letters and are used to teach what "the Bible" says? I think some obvious things are that all bibles are about the same and that all bibles have some mistakes and it doesn't matter.

An equally important question to ask is WHY are such bibles used. Here are some possibilities.

1. The authors don't know the bibles they use have mistakes (I highly doubt that).
2. The authors think the KJV is written in archaic English and is too hard for you to understand.
3. The authors wish to have some leeway in telling you what the Bible means (I think so).
4. The authors don't always agree with what the KJV says (I think so).
5. The authors believe the KJV is not as good a translation as more recent translations (some of them probably believe that). Another way to put this is that they believe the KJV has more mistakes than other bibles.
6. The authors don't understand as much about English as they should (I think so).

I have heard Seventh-day Adventist ministers use one of the corrupt "the Bible" preferentially but when it clearly contradicts Seventh-day Adventist doctrine they quote from the KJV or they change the wording of their fake "the Bible" so I know they're not entirely ignorant of some errors in their fake "the Bible." The reason I know not all understand ENGLISH is because they make STUPID mistakes when teaching from an ENGLISH bible. Here is an example of what I've heard more than once about the following passage.

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Jude 1:7 (KJV).

I've heard this verse used as evidence that the souls of the dead don't burn forever because Sodom and Gomorrha aren't still burning. With a little thought and knowledge of ENGLISH it's apparent that since the buildings, streets and other infrastructure of Sodom and Gomorrha never fornicated or went after strange flesh, the verse in no way proves that the souls of the fornicators or goes after strange flesh aren't still suffering in Hell and I can easily prove using five (some used only in the teachers comments section) of the fake "the Bible" used in this lesson that those souls are at a minimum in Purgatory.

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.” 1 Peter 3:18-20 (NASB95).

Notice that according to the NASB95 Jesus was “made alive in the spirit.” That means not in a flesh and blood body. It then says that he spoke to “spirits now in prison” who had died in the flood. If he spoke to them, they must have been awake and still capable of receiving salvation.

Here’s what the real Bible says.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” 1 Peter 3:18-20 (KJV).

In the real Bible, Jesus was quickened (brought to life) “by” (and not “in”) the Spirit (Holy Spirit) and that it was “by” the Holy Spirit that the wicked people that had died in the flood had been preached to.

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;” 2 Peter 2:5.

The same Holy Spirit involved in Jesus’ resurrection had preached to the antediluvians through Noah.

Though blowhards will tell you that the KJV is too hard to understand and that you need an easier-to-read bible they’ll happily give you Greek or Hebrew lessons (LOL). For your edification, Theo explains the Greek word *kai* (και) on page 54 of the teachers edition. That word means “and” in most cases and an English-speaking person with in infallible English Bible will never need to know what και means.

Here are two things that are important to know.

“Man is fallible, but God’s Word is infallible.” *Selected Messages Book One* page 416.

“The Bible with its precious gems of truth was not written for the scholar alone. On the contrary, it was designed for the common people; and the interpretation given by the common people, when aided by the Holy Spirit, accords best with the truth as it is in Jesus.” *Testimonies for the Church* volume 5 page 331.

Here’s something scholars like Tom and Theo would like you to believe.

“But even when you are assured that the Bible contains the Word of God, and nothing but the Word of God, how do you know that the translation is faithful? The Books of Scripture were originally written in Hebrew and Greek and you have only the translation. Before you are certain that the translation is faithful you must study the Hebrew and Greek languages, and then compare the translation with the original. Hew few are capable of this gigantic undertaking.” *Faith of Our Fathers*, 73<sup>rd</sup> edition, by James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, page 80.

#### **LESSON 5. Miracles Around *the* Lake (7/27/24 – 8/2/2024)**

I found nothing wrong with this lesson other than the use of fake bibles.

#### **LESSON 6. Inside Out (8/3/24 – 8/9/24)**

“On page 48 Dr. Tom says, “Third, what Mark 7:19 means when it says that Jesus cleanses all food is not that the food laws are abolished but instead that the tradition of touch contamination that the Pharisees had made was invalid.” Dr. Tom apparently is having trouble with English and there are other princes of our church that have trouble with it as well. Here is Mark 7:19 from each of the four Andrews Study Bibles.

“So He said to them, ‘Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?’” Mark 7:18-19 (NKJV).

“‘Are you so dull?’ he asked. ‘Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.’ (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)” Mark 7:18-19 from the New International Version (NIV).

“Él les dijo:—¿También vosotros estáis así, sin entendimiento? ¿No entendéis que nada de fuera que entra en el hombre lo puede contaminar, porque no entra in su corazón, sino en el vientre, y sale a la letrina? Esto decía, declarando limpios todos los alimentos.” San Marcos (Mark) 7:18-19 from the Reina-Valera 1995 (RV95).

“Então, lhes disse: Assim vós também não entendeis? Não compreendeis que tudo o que de fora entra no homen não o pode contaminar, porque não lhe entra no coração, mas no ventre, e sai para lugar escurso? E, assim, considerou ele puros todos os alimentos.” Marcos (Mark) 7:18-19 from the Almeida Revista e Atualizada (ARA).

The NKJV says in ENGLISH that food enters a man (that would be through the mouth), goes into the stomach and then is eliminated (that would be out of the rectum) and that said substance (which is usually brown) is purified (meaning it's clean). Tell that to your mother. I think the translators were actually trying to say in a little less direct way than what the other bibles said which is that Jesus declared all foods clean. That Jesus said all foods (that would include pork) are clean is very clearly said in the NIV, the RV95 and the ARA.



Here is that passage from the real Bible.

“And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?” Mark 7:18-19 (KJV).

The real Bible says food enters a man, then goes to the belly and then out into the draught (latrine, or sewer or whatever they had to deposit the body’s waste products in) and it DOES NOT SAY Jesus said all foods are clean or that the waste products of a person are clean.

Just so you know that Dr. Tom isn’t the only confused one, here’s some commentary on that passage from an illustrious Andrews University Scholar in those respective Andrews University “the Bible.”

“In these verses, Jesus is not declaring that a person can eat anything.”

“In these verses, Jesus is not declaring that a person can eat anything.”

“Aquí Jesús no está declarando que se puede comer cualquier cosa.”

“Nestes versículos, Jesus não declara que é permitido comer de tudo.”

On page 81 of the teachers edition Theo says, “Mark, in his allusion to Isaiah, follows the text of the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). There are two ways that could explain how the Mark said the same thing as the Septuagint. Mark could have been following the text of the Septuagint if there was such a thing when he was alive but there wasn’t. The other way is that the writer(s) of the Septuagint could have copied what the Hebrew Scriptures which did exist said.

There are at least three Septuagints and all were written after Jesus and His disciples and the authors of the real New Testament Scriptures were dead. The letter of Aristeas was used for a time to prove the validity of the Septuagint. Per that letter, that’s now admitted to be a fraud, scholars from each of the twelve tribes of Israel were invited by Ptolemy Philadelphus II, to come and write a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Levites were the guardians and purveyors of the Hebrew Scriptures and not any of the other tribes.

#### **LESSON 7. Teaching Disciples: Part I (8/10/24 – 8/16/24)**

On page 39 Tom notes that Jesus said “that Elijah has already come, a reference to John the Baptist.” That is true. Here is the passage he used to teach that fact. He didn’t specify the bible version used so I’ll use the real Bible.

“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.” Malachi 4:5-6 (KJV).

That verse is not a reference to John the Baptist because “the great and dreadful day of the LORD” is Christ’s second coming and not His first. John the Baptist was the “Elijah” prophesied to come before Christ’s first coming but another Elijah was prophesied to come before Christ’s second coming.

Here is a description of the first Elijah.

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Matthew 3:1-3 (KJV).

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.” Matthew 11:12-14 (KJV)

Here is the prophecy in Isaiah.

“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.” Isaiah 40:3 (KJV).

Here is another prophecy about Christ’s first advent.

“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 3:1 (KJV).

There is an app I’ve found very useful and have loaded on a number of Macs and PCs that you can find if you enter the search term “king james pure bible search.” You can use it to enter words and phrases that occur in the KJV. If, using that app, you enter the phrase “day of the lord” you will bring up twenty-five places in the Bible where that phrase occurs and ALL of them refer to Christ’s second coming.

Who is the “messenger” who was “Elijah the prophet” that was prophesied to come before the “day of the Lord?” There was one who said she never claimed to be a prophet because she was more than a prophet and had been designated the Lord’s messenger.

“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.” Malachi 4:5-6 (KJV).

On page 61 Tom wrote, “‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him *should not perish* but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16 ESV;

*emphasis supplied*)." Why would one use a ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE in a SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST publication to teach a verse that EVERYONE should have had memorized since around or before GRADE SCHOOL??? There is NO REASON FOR THAT unless they are CLUELESS or wish to promote Roman Catholic doctrine. Here is that passage from the real infallible Bible.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."  
John 3:16-17 (KJV).

And here is Roman Catholic doctrine from the fake "the Bible" Tom used.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'" Luke 2:13-14 (ESV).

Here's the passage from the real infallible Protestant Bible.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14 (KJV).

Do you see the difference? It's difficult to reconcile "peace, good will toward men" with the policy of burning people at the stake if you don't agree with them. It also contradicts the statement that "God so loved the world" with no exclusion of those with whom He wasn't pleased. Jesus died for the whole world; even for people he wasn't pleased with. If you claim it's "peace among those with whom he is pleased" you can claim it's OK to burn people at the stake since they're allegedly people God isn't pleased with.

#### **LESSON 8. Teaching Disciples Part II (8/17/24 – 8/23/24)**

I found nothing wrong with this lesson other than the use of fake bibles.

#### **LESSON 9. Jerusalem Controversies (8/24/24 – 8/30/24)**

On page 73, it's recommended that you read Mark 11:1-11. Toward the bottom of the page Dr. Tom says, "The crowd that accompanied Jesus shouted 'hosanna,' a term originally meaning 'save now' but eventually coming to mean 'praise to God.'" Here's where "hosanna" occurs in that passage.

"And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest." Mark 11:9-10 (KJV).

Dr. Tom has given pretty much worthless information. According to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, "hosanna is "of Heb. or." and meant "oh save!" The New Testament was originally written in Greek; not in Hebrew or Aramaic. Hosanna didn't

originally mean “oh save!” in Greek. In Greek, hosanna, according to *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, was “an exclamation of adoration.”

Here's some equally worthless information. Do you know what “mischief” means? According to Noah Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language, it originally was “Old Fr., *meschef*; mes, wrong, and chef, head or end, the root of *achieve*, Fr. *achever*.”

On page 74, Dr. Tom once again uses the ESV to teach a lesson. He quotes part of Mark 11:14 from the ESV in the story of the fig tree and then down the page, and referring to Mark 11:20-26, he says that “The next morning, going back to the city (*see Mark 11:20-26*), the disciples are astonished to see the fig tree withered from the roots.”

When Seventh-day Adventist ministers use fake a “the Bible” they frequently say ridiculous things. Dr. Tom has quoted a passage from his fake “the Bible” that contradicts itself and contradicts the Spirit of Prophecy. That is at least one reason why those that don’t know any better, and that probably includes Dr. Tom, think all bibles and the Spirit of Prophecy writings contain mistakes.

“And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’ And his disciples heard it. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.” Mark 11:13-14, 20 (ESV).

“In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, ‘May no fruit ever come from you again!’ And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, ‘How did the fig tree wither at once?’” Matthew 21:18-20 (ESV).

“Upon searching its branches, from the lowest bough to the topmost twig, Jesus found ‘nothing but leaves.’ It was a mass of pretentious foliage, nothing more. Christ uttered against it a withering curse. ‘No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever,’ He said. The next morning, as the Saviour and His disciples were again on their way to the city, the blasted branches and drooping leaves attracted their attention.” *The Desire of Ages* pages 581-582.

Obviously if the fig tree “withered at once” the disciples would have noticed that before the next morning. And what do you know; the NKJV that was used for the memory text also says the fig tree “immediately” withered away in Matthew 21:19 and the favorite fake “the Bible” of this lesson quarterly, the NASB, says it withered “at once.”

Here is what the real Bible says.

“And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.” Matthew 21:19 (KJV).

The word “presently” means an indefinite time so there is no contradiction of Mark’s account nor of the account in *The Desire of Ages*.

#### **LESSON 10. The Last Days (8/31/24 – 9/6/24)**

On page 81, the favorite story of the widow giving a tiny sum of money is related and it’s noted that “Many rich individuals put in large sums, but He did not comment on their gifts as they deposited them.”

Toward the bottom of the page another favorite statement is made. It says, “On the other hand, withholding tithes or offerings when leaders do something displeasing means that the giving is tied to their actions instead of being made in thankfulness to God. However tempting it may be to do that, it’s wrong.”

That statement is true but the leaders would have you believe that if you don’t give all your tithe to the local church or conference, you are sinning. That is not true if said tithe is given to persons or entities that are using the money for those doing the work of a minister to save souls and spread the three angels’ messages. There is nothing wrong in giving money outside the regular channels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church when the money is being used correctly. The lesson quarterly for the first quarter of 2023 was about managing money and there is a complete review of that quarterly on this site that you can peruse for more information.

On page 83 there is a discussion about Antiochus Epiphanes and it’s explained that he wasn’t involved in the “abomination of desolation” Jesus was describing in Mark 13:14-18 because he lived long before Christ’s first advent.

“But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.” Mark 13:14-18 (KJV).

Toward the bottom of page 83 Tom says, “Instead, the abomination likely refers to the planting of the Roman pagan standards in Israel during the siege of Jerusalem in the late A.D. 60s. This was the sign for the Christians to flee, which they did.” Methinks that in using “likely,” Tom is being a bit timid.

“And the Saviour warned his followers: ‘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.” *The Great Controversy* page 26.

## LESSON 11. Taken *and* Tried (9/7/24 – 9/13/24)

For some reason Dr. Tom felt the need to use the ISV for this lesson. Who knows why. Maybe because the other fake “the Bible” are too hard to read. The cover of mine says, “The most readable and accurate English translation ever produced.”

Here’s a bit of Roman Catholic doctrine for you from “the most readable and accurate English translation ever produced.”

“No, I keep beating on my body and making it my slave so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:27 (ISV).

Why, oh WHY didn’t Dr. Tom use the ISV everywhere else since it’s “the most readable and accurate English translation every produced.” That verse in the ISV clearly teaches the necessity of penance; you know, literally whipping yourself or otherwise torturing yourself to gain salvation. Here is that verse from the real Bible.

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:27 (KJV).

You don’t need to beat your body or participate in other voluntary painful physical exercises to keep your body “under.” You do, however, need to abandon practices that are injurious to your body and mental processes. That’s what keeping “under” the body means.

“When Daniel was in Babylon, he was beset with temptations of which we have never dreamed, and he realized that he must keep his body under. He purposed in his heart that he would not drink of the king’s wine or eat of his dainties. He knew that in order to come off a victor, he must have clear mental perceptions, that he might discern between right and wrong.” *Review and Herald*, 4/2/1889 or *The Mission Study Bible* page 990 of the Old Testament section.

Theo has quoted *The Desire of Ages* but I have to wonder if he ever read all of it. On page 146 of the teachers comments section which only Sabbath School teachers have Theo said, “The second character is an unknown woman who was willing to expend an exorbitant amount of her own capital on Jesus. She brought a very expensive perfume to anoint Jesus’ head and feet.”

At the table the Saviour sat with Simon whom He had cured of a loathsome disease, on the one side, and Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, on the other. Martha served at the table, but Mary was earnestly listening to every word from the lips of Jesus. In His mercy, Jesus had pardoned her sins, He had called forth her beloved brother from the grave, and Mary’s heart was filled with gratitude. She had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she had longed to show Him honor. At great personal sacrifice she had purchased an alabaster box of ‘ointment of spikenard, very costly,’ with which to anoint His body.” *The Desire of Ages* pages 538-539.

And there's this.

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (it was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)” John 11:1-2 (KJV).

## **LESSON 12. Tried *and* Crucified (9/14/24 – 9/20/24)**

On page 97 Tom says, “The irony is that Jesus is both the Messiah and the King of the Jews. His convictions for blasphemy and sedition were mistaken; He should have received homage and worship instead. Yet, Jesus still acts in a kingly manner. His response to Pilate, “You have said so,” (*Mark 13:2 ESV*), is noncommittal. He does not deny the title or affirm it.” Then in the teachers comments section, Theo says, “Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above” (*John 19:11, NASB*). In other words, Jesus says to Pilate, *I am not only the King of the Jews, but I am also above all powers and kingdoms on the earth, including yours.*” It would be nice if Tom and Theo could be consistent with one another.

Just so you know, my ESV says, “To meet the requirements of Catholic orthodoxy, and at the same time to be in agreement with Crossway (USA), the original publishers of the ESV, this translation has been scrutinized by a team of Catholic biblical scholars. These scholars have examined the ESV Bible text from the vantage point of Catholic orthodoxy with respect to *Liturgiam Authenticam* for use in Catholic liturgy in India.”

Oh, and I must tell you. My NASB says, “The *New American Standard Bible* is the most widely accepted contemporary word-for-word translation. Based on the original *American Standard Version*, it is highly regarded for its scholarship and accuracy.”

Here's a sample of NASB scholarship and accuracy.

“And there was war again with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.” 2 Samuel 21:19 (NASB).

That's right. The NASB clearly says it was Elhanan that killed Goliath and you probably always thought it was David.

On page 99, Tom corrects God. He says, “The nails used to fasten a person to the cross (*compare with John 20:24-29*) were likely driven through the wrist below the palm where no major blood vessels run. (In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for ‘hand’ can refer to both the hand and the forearm.) The palm of the hand itself does not have the structures necessary to carry the weight of the body in crucifixion.”

“The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooded bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe.” *The Desire of Ages* page 755.

“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.” Psalms 22:16 (KJV).

“Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.” John 20:27 KJV.

I looked up the definition of “hands” for Psalms 22:16 in my *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* and it says, “a *hand*, (the *open* one [indicating *power, means, direction, etc.*], in distinction from 3709, the *closed* one)” with NOTHING said about a forearm. Besides you couldn’t have an open and closed forearm (try it if you want to) like you can have an opened or closed hand.

I also looked up the definition of “hands” for John 20:27 in my *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* and it says, “perh. from the base of 5494 in the sense of its congener the base of 5490 (through the idea of hollowness for grasping)”. You grasp with your HAND and not with your wrist or forearm.

Last but not least, *The Desire of Ages* is written in ENGLISH and Ellen G. White, the Lord’s messenger knew the difference between a hand, a wrist and a forearm.

Also, there are no major blood vessels in the center of the palm.

### **LESSON 13. The Risen Lord (9/21/24 – 9/27/24)**

On page 109, Tom quotes part of Matthew 28:20 from the NKJV.

“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Matthew 28:20 (NKJV).

Try finding anything in the NKJV that says “end of the world” in anything but a geographic sense. It’s New Age terminology to say “end of the age.” According to New Age terminology, there are various long ages (much longer than 6,000 years) and the world doesn’t end; the sun just eventually peters out in millions of years. Just so you know, we’re now in or will soon be entering the Age of Aquarius.

I sometimes read through the quarterly again and if I find something new, I’ll update this review.

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