

First Quarter of 2020 Seventh-day Adventist Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide

This is a review of some of the lessons of the first quarter of 2020 Seventh-day Adventist Adult Teachers *Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (SSBSG).

LESSON 3

Seven different bibles, three of which are Roman Catholic bibles, are used in this SSBSG with the King James Bible being used very little. On page 21, it says regarding king Nebuchadnezzar that, “he can no longer remember” the dream. This is the highlight of the story; the king can’t remember the dream and wants someone to tell him what the dream was and the interpretation thereof. Lets take a look at the verse, Daniel 2:8, from the various bibles used in this SSBSG that say king Nebuchadnezzar couldn’t remember his dream.

NKJV – “The king answered and said, “I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm.”

Revised Standard Version (RSV) – “The king answered, ‘I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is sure’

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) – “The king answered, ‘I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see I have firmly decreed.’”

New International Version (NIV) – “Then the king answered, ‘I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided.’”

English Standard Version (ESV) – “The king answered and said, ‘I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm.’”

Christian Standard Bible (CSB) - “The king replied, ‘I know for certain you are trying to gain some time, because you see that my word is final.’”

King James Bible – “The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.”

Read ALL of the above verses and see which ONE is the ONLY ONE that says Nebuchadnezzar couldn’t remember his dream. In fact, if you have any or all of the above bibles see if ANY of them say ANYWHERE in chapter 2 that Nebuchadnezzar couldn’t remember his dream. They say the king demanded to be given the interpretation of the dream and that he wouldn’t tell them what his dream was but NONE except the King James Bible says the “the thing is gone from me” which means he couldn’t remember the dream.

On page 21, speaking of the wise men who had failed to tell Nebuchadnezzar his dream, it says “the original language suggests that the killing starts immediately.” Really? Lets look at Daniel 2:13 in some bibles that allegedly follow the “original language.”

King James Bible – “And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.”

NKJV – “So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

ESV – “So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

RSV – So the decree went forth that the wise men were to be slain, and they sought Daniel and his companions, to slay them.”

NRSV – “The decree was issued, and the wise men were about to be executed; and they looked for Daniel and his companions, to execute them.”

NIV – “So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.”

CSB – “The decree was issued that the wise men were to be executed, and they searched for Daniel and his friends, to execute them.

Look at that; SEVEN different bibles all allegedly translated from the “original language” and the ONLY ONE that says the killing had already started was the NKJV. Somehow, and who knows how, the principal contributor must have decided the NKJV was the bible to be believed. In making that decision, he elevated his opinion contrary to and above probably several hundred translators who were probably a lot more competent than he is. In addition he put his opinion above Ellen G. White who wrote:

“Nebuchadnezzar revoked the decree for the destruction of the wise men. Their lives were spared because of Daniel’s connection with the Revealer of secrets.
Prophets and Kings page 498.

The lesson for Sunday 1/12/20 is titled “The Immanence of God.” According to a note on the bottom of page 21, “immanence” is said to mean “that though distinct from the creation, God can still be so close to it.” Is that true?

According to the online version of Encyclopædia Britannica, “immanence, in philosophy and theology, a term applied, in contradistinction to ‘transcendence,’ to the fact or condition of being entirely within something” and “its most important use is for the theological conception of God as existing in and throughout the created world.” It goes on to say that “this concept has been expressed in a great variety of forms, including theism and pantheism.”

Warren B. Smith in “A ‘Wonderful’ Deception” on page 18 elaborates on the meaning of immanence in New Age doctrine. He quotes the book, *As Above, So Below* by the editors of the “New Age Journal.” “The occult/magical saying ‘as above, so below’ conveys the ‘fundamental truth about the universe’-the teaching that ‘we are all one’ because God is ‘immanent’ or ‘within’ everyone and everything.” That clearly is pantheistic teaching. Immanence does NOT mean what the Sabbath School Bible Study Guide says it means.

Is that an innocent error? I tend to think not because the reference quoted to support this is Acts 17:28 which says, “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” Taken by itself with no explanation, some might understand this to mean God is in everything. In this verse, “in him” means “because of him.” Other examples of this usage can be found in the King James Bible.

I entered the search term “as above so below” and up popped a bunch of results linking that term to Baphomet (a name for Satan), Anton LaVey (founder of the Church of Satan), etc. Be warned, the word “immanence” means pantheism and is linked to the occult.

LESSON 4

On page 32 of the Standard Edition it says:

“To the best of his knowledge, the king identifies the fourth figure as ‘the Son of God’ (Dan. 3:25).”

A little below that on the same page is a quotation from a Spirit of Prophecy book:

“But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume.” *Prophets and Kings* page 508-509.

Here is Daniel 3:25 from a couple of bibles.

New International Version – “He said, ‘Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.’”

King James Bible – “He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

Is there any difference between “Son of God” and “a son of the gods?” How many “gods” are there?

On page 33 of this lesson it says, “Indeed true faith, as manifested by Daniel’s friends, is measured by the quality of our relationship with God and its resulting absolute confidence in God.” From one of the bibles used in this SSBSG:

Christian Standard Bible – “If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can rescue us from the power of you, the king.”
Daniel 3:17.

“If the God we serve exists...” That doesn’t sound much like faith to me.

LESSON 5

You should know the reason why a certain King James Bible quotation was used on page 57 (page 36 of the Standard Edition) while there is a marked dominance of the usage of the NKJV. I counted the number of times the various bibles were used in lessons one through five. The numbers are as follows:

NKJV quotations: 41.

Memory texts: 4 from the NKJV and one from the ESV.

Bibles used besides the NKJV and the King James Bible: one from the ESV (for a memory text) and one from the New International Version (NIV).

Quotations that are small portions of verses that read exactly the same in the NKJV and the King James Bible: 9.

Quotations that can only be from the King James Bible: 1. Yes, that is ONE.

NOTE: there were three places where a quotation from some book quoted the King James Bible; in other words, they were quotations of quotations. These are not included in the above numbers. The ONLY full verse quoted from the King James Bible that could only be from the King James Bible was as follows:

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.” Ezekiel 28:17 from the King James Bible.

This verse is about Lucifer who became the Devil, the Dragon and Satan. Here is that verse from the NKJV:

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.” Ezekiel 28:17 from the NKJV.

This verse in the King James Bible is in future tense and in the NKJV it's past tense. If you had continued reading to Ezekiel 28:18 in the NKJV you would read that Satan has already been turned to ashes; Satan is dead according to the NKJV. The other bibles used in this SSSBSG; the Christian Standard Bible, the NIV and the three Roman Catholic bibles; the ESV, the New Revised Standard Version and Revised Standard Version also have these verses in past tense.

LESSON 8

At the top of page 62 of the standard edition one is instructed to read Daniel 7:7, 8, 19-25. There is no mention of which bible one should read that verse in. Down the page it says the little horn will speak “pompous words;” the wording of that phrase is from the NKJV as is the wording of the phrase “persecute the saints.” As you read that verse from both the NKJV and the King James Bible keep in mind that the conclusion the principal contributor comes is that during 1,260 years, “the little horn will mount an attack against God, persecute the saints, and attempt to change God’s law.”

New King James Version – “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.” Daniel 7:25.

King James Bible – “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” Daniel 7:25.

You may think the verses say the same thing. It's possible the principal contributor, Elias Brasil de Souza, thought they said the same thing. They don't say the same thing. This is why it's a lot

more important to understand English than it is to understand Greek or Hebrew. The NKJV says the saints will be persecuted and “he,” the little horn will intend to change times and law with the sentence concluded with a period. A new sentence starts with the first word being “Then.” That means AFTER the period of persecution the saints will **then** “be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.” That is absolutely contrary to Seventh-day Adventist doctrine but wouldn’t contradict the doctrine of some denominations which is that the time of trouble will last three and a half years.

In the King James Bible that verse is one long sentence and means the saints will be worn out by the little horn “until” (which in this context means for) three and a half years of prophetic time.

On page 65 of the standard edition you will find some quotations from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) apparently because the contributors to this SSBSG like what it says. The phrase “saints of the most High” occurs in Daniel 7:18, 22, 25 and 27 in the King James Bible but the contributors to this prefers what the NRSV says, i.e., “holy ones of the Most High.” I have always understood that the saints of the most High were also holy so I see no advantage in using the NRSV for this reference. On the very next page this SSBSG says, “Purgatory, penance, auricular confession and the change of the Sabbath commandment to Sunday are among many other changes of the ‘times and law’ introduced by the papacy.” OK, since the contributors to SSBSG have used the NRSV they apparently consider it an authoritative source of doctrine.

PURGATORY – “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, Would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” The King James Bible says there are “many mansions.” John 14:2 from the NRSV. By substituting “dwelling places,” the NRSV leaves open the interpretation that some won’t be in Paradise but will wait in purgatory until enough of their iniquity has been atoned for by means of their suffering.

PENANCE – “but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:27. That is quite a bit different than the King James Bible that says, “I keep under my body” which means the higher powers of the mind control the body. “Punish” has an entirely different connotation.

AURICULAR CONFESSION – “Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” James 5:16 from the NRSV. On the first page of the chapter titled “Confession” in *Steps to Christ* Ellen White says, “The apostle says, ‘Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed’ James 5:16. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another.” That should clearly tell you what the difference is between a “sin” and a “fault.” The NKJV says “trespasses” in this verse. A trespass is the same as a sin.

SABBATH COMMANDMENT – “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.” Exodus 20:8-10 from the NRSV. The only material change

made in this passage is saying “a sabbath” rather than “the sabbath.” Using the indefinite article “a” lumps the Sabbath into the same category as the ceremonial sabbaths of the Jews. You will find many so called Protestant bibles that have done the same thing. This SSBSG says the Roman Catholic Church changed the Sabbath commandment to Sunday. They didn’t do that. There is NOTHING about Sunday in this passage. The Roman Catholic Church teaches the change in the day of worship was made by HER authority so they don’t need to change the commandment.

LESSON 9

The memory verse for this lesson is a key text for Seventh-day Adventists.

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

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14 from the King James Bible.

“He said to me, ‘For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be restored.’” Daniel 8:14 from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB).

All of those bibles were used in this SSBSG so they should be OK, right? Read carefully what each bible says in ENGLISH. In saying “for two thousand three hundred days” the NKJV is saying it will take 2,300 days for some process to cleanse the sanctuary. The CSB also has “for” but in addition says the sanctuary will be “restored” which means the sanctuary was destroyed and will be built again. Neither of these bibles teaches Seventh-day Adventist doctrine. Either the authors of this SSBSG didn’t know that or they are trying to alter our doctrines. If you believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant end time church that should alarm you.

The King James Bible, also known as the King James Version, says, “Unto two thousand and three hundred days.” “Unto” in this verse means “until.” The King James Bible teaches that the start of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary won’t be until after 2,300 days have passed. Seventh-day Adventists believe that started on October 22, 1844.

LESSON 11

On page 84 of the standard edition you will find a NKJV verse quoted:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12 from the NKJV.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12 from the King James Bible.

The phrase “heavenly places” only occurs five times in the NKJV and all of those are in Ephesians.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,” Ephesians 1:3 from the NKJV.

“which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:20 from the NKJV.

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” Ephesians 2:6 from the NKJV.

“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 3:10 from the NKJV.

Read those verses carefully and ask yourself if there is ANY wickedness in “heavenly places” at this time. The answer you should come up with is no. There is no wickedness at this time in heavenly places but there is certainly wickedness in “high places.” That could be the pope or even some princes of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

There is another problem in the NKJV reading of Ephesians 6:12. That is where it speaks of the “darkness of this age.” The use of “age” in that verse is consistent with New Age doctrine. According to New Age doctrine the world isn’t going to end. There are various ages. We are now leaving the Age of Pisces and are entering the Age of Aquarius or are perhaps already in the Age of Aquarius.

Here is a brief assignment if you have a NKJV bible. Try to find some place in it that says “end of the world” as in the world will end. Good luck.

LESSON 13

On page 172 of the teachers edition you will find part of an ESV verse quoted:

“He answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, and walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’” Daniel 3:25 from the ESV.

“He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Daniel 3:25 from the King James Bible.

Why would Nebuchadnezzar say “son of the gods?” Why wouldn’t he just say he looked like a god or like one of the gods? Nebuchadnezzar had obviously heard that God had a Son.

“But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of fire.” *Prophets and Kings* pages 508-509.

Also on page 172 of the teachers edition it says, “Interestingly, the voice of the ‘archangel’ will bring about the resurrection of the saints at the coming of Jesus (1 Thess. 4:16).” Only one word, “archangel,” is quoted from 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and they have that word preceded by the definite article “the” but not in quotes. They are trying to make the point that Jesus is “the archangel” and that is true. There is only one archangel, Jesus Christ, also known as Michael.

The NKJV says “an archangel” in this verse which means Jesus is one of several archangels. Roman Catholics believe there are multiple archangels such as Michael, Gabriel and Raphael and the NKJV doesn’t contradict that doctrine in this verse.