

## **Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for the Fourth Quarter of 2019**

This is a review of the *Seventh-day Adventist Adult Teachers Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* (SSBSG) for the fourth quarter of 2020 titled “Ezra and Nehemiah.” A variety of bibles were used in this SSBSG but only two were Roman Catholic bibles; the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). 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 the bible versions that were used within the quotations of various books. The numbers were as follows:

New King James Version (NKJV) quotations: 74.

King James Version (KJV) quotations: 5.

New American Standard Bible (NASB) quotations: 0. The SSBSG said it was used but I didn't find any quotations from it. On further reading I may find one.

ESV quotations: 5.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB) quotations: 2.

NRSV: 1.

New International Version (NIV): 14.

All memory texts were from the NKJV. I believe it's very good practice to memorize Scripture but except for one memory verse (Proverbs 28:13), I think other verses would be more useful than the ones in this SSBSG. Proverbs 28:13 in the KJV says, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

What one chooses to memorize is an individual matter. I recommend memorizing some promises and passages that clearly teach doctrine (like the Ten Commandments). When going to the work of memorization, use an infallible Bible. Of the bibles listed above, only the KJV is infallible.

The NRSV and ESV are Roman Catholic bibles. By that I mean there are editions approved for Roman Catholics to read. Of the other bibles listed, I believe the NASB, the CSB and the NIV are, for all practical purposes, Roman Catholic bibles but there are no Roman Catholic editions of them as far as I know. A Roman Catholic bible will have the books of the Apocrypha and will usually have commentary that is meant to be just as authoritative as Scripture.

Though the NKJV is fairly bad it's not quite as bad as the others and might not qualify as a Roman Catholic bible. There is, as far as I know, a NKJV edition approved by the Greek Orthodox Church.

Since Ezra and Nehemiah are mostly narrative, there isn't much to mess up even when using a corrupt bible. There were places where short pieces of NKJV quotations were used without a credit to that bible.

On page 39 there it said:

“The Persian government required a tax of 350 talents of silver annually from the province of Judah (*see note on Neh. 5:1-5 in the Andrews Study Bible, p. 598*).”

I guess that means if you don't have the Andrews Study Bible you're out of luck. Fortunately for you I have both English Andrews Study Bibles so I can tell you what the note says. I won't bother quoting the notes of the Biblia de Estudio de Andrews or the Bíblia de Estudo Andrews since technically they aren't the “Andrews Study Bible” though they were both published under the auspices of Andrews University and have similar notes in Spanish and Portuguese respectively.

**“5:1-5 outcry.** A cry of protest, involving internal financial challenges. Following a famine, a number of Jews had to mortgage their fields, vineyards, and homes in order to get grain for food, seeds, and the king's tax. The historian Herodotus (*History*, 3.19) tells us that the region that included Judah had to pay 350 talents of silver annually. Once the property had been mortgaged, debt slavery was applied (Ex. 21:1-11), whereby the children of the debtor were taken into the service of the creditor and had to work off the debt.” The note for both the NIV version and the NKJV version of the Andrews Study Bible is the same.

If you think the above note is reason enough to go out and buy an Andrews Study Bible so you can have the notes of our doctors of the law you might consider what another of their notes says. On page 226 of *The Acts of the Apostles* it says, “Even the manner of His death had been shadowed forth” and then a Bible verse is quoted:

““One shall say unto Him, ‘What are these wounds in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends.’ Zechariah 13:6.”

Here is that verse from one of the Andrews Study Bibles.

“And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.” Zechariah 13:6 from the NKJV Andrews Study Bible.

The KJV says the wounds were in the hands and the NKJV says they were between the arms which would mean in the chest or back. The note for that verse says:

**“13:6** When confronted about the ‘wounds’ on his torso (‘between your arms’ probably means chest or back), scars which probably resulted from self-mutilation while participating idolatrous rituals (1 Kin. 18:28), the false prophet lies about how he received them.”

The NIV Andrews Study Bible says the wounds were on the “body” and the note says they “probably resulted from self-mutilation while participating in idolatrous rituals.” Here is the worst part; the Biblia de Estudio de Andrews and the Bíblia de Estudo Andrews both say the wounds were in the hands but still have a scholar's note saying they were probably self inflicted during idolatrous rituals. Read that and weep. This is a Messianic prophecy that has been mangled and destroyed. At the same the scholar has essentially called Ellen G. White a false prophet.

Page 92 of the SSBSG says, “Maybe if the nobles of Judah had stood up to the corruption brought in by the high priest, Nehemiah wouldn’t have found himself in this situation.” I am standing up to the corruption of the scholars of our church. Maybe you should to the same.

You know don’t you, that the principal contributor to this SSBSG is Jiri Moskala, ThD, PhD who is dean and professor of Old Testament exegesis and theology at Andrews University? Dr. Moskala was also one of the contributors to the Andrews Study Bible.

Page numbers referenced are as in the Standard Edition of the SSBSG.