

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide

Oct | Nov | Dec 2026

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY



OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

Lesson 3 Study Notes[ABSG-4-2026]
October 10-16



SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON STUDY NOTES

Fourth Quarter 2026 | Lesson 3

Old Testament Prophets

October 10-16

Purpose

These notes are prepared to simplify and reinforce the weekly Sabbath School lesson for personal devotion, family worship, small-group study, and Sabbath School discussion.

They are designed to help readers engage with the weekly lesson in a clear, practical, and easy-to-understand way, while encouraging deeper study of the original sources.

Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. They are prepared with reference to the Bible, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the writings of Ellen G. White.

However, these notes are not an official publication of, nor endorsed by, the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Readers are encouraged to rely first on the Holy Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the writings of Ellen G. White, as the primary sources for their study and understanding.

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Questions, corrections, or suggestions?

We welcome your feedback as we continue to improve these study notes.

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Sounding the Advent Message

Lesson 3 [Oct 10-16]: Understanding the Memory Text

"Jehoshaphat stood and said, 'Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: **Believe** in the **Lord** your **God**, and you shall be **established**; **believe** His **prophets**, and you shall **prosper**.'" — 2 Chronicles 20:20 (NKJV)

- This week's lesson **shows** how **God** used human **prophets** to **guide** His people.
- **True** prophets spoke God's **message** even when it was **unpopular**.
- **Jehoshaphat's** words to Judah still **speak** to us today: **trust** God, **listen** to His **Word**, and **follow** His **guidance**.

"Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem..."

- Three **armies** were marching against Judah, and the people were **terrified**.
- Jehoshaphat **called** them to **stop** and **listen**, because **fear** was **drowning** out everything else.
- When **trouble** comes and your **heart** is racing, **God** asks you to **quiet** yourself and **hear** Him.

"Believe in the Lord your God..."

- Judah's **army** was no **match** for the **enemy**, and Jehoshaphat **knew** it.
- He called the people to put their **confidence** in God, not in their **soldiers** or their **walls**.
- When you face a **problem** bigger than your **resources**, you do not have to **pretend** you can **handle** it alone.

"...and you shall be established..."

- **God** had told Judah to **stand** still and **watch** Him **fight** for them.
- To be **established** means to take your **position** and **stand** firm, trusting God to do what you cannot do.
- When everything in you wants to **run** or fight in your own **strength**, God calls you to stand still and **trust** Him.

"Believe His prophets..."

- **God** had already **spoken** through Jahaziel: "The **battle** is not yours, but God's."
- **Believing** the prophet meant **acting** on a message that sounded **impossible**.
- Not everyone who **claims** to speak for God is **true**, so **test** every message by **Scripture**.
- When you hear a **voice** claiming to be from God, **examine** it carefully, and follow only what **aligns** with His **Word**.

"...and you shall prosper."

- **Prosperity** here does not mean **wealth** or a life without **hardship**.
- Judah **prospered** because they trusted God's message and **obeyed** it, and God gave them **deliverance**.
- They did not have to **fight**. They **watched** God **win** the battle for them.
- When you trust God and **follow** His direction, He brings the **victory** in His **way** and in His **time**.

What This Means for You

- When **fear** and **uncertainty** arise, trust God rather than **relying** only on your own **understanding**.
- **Study** His **Word** and **test** what you hear against **Scripture**.
- Follow God's **guidance** even when it **challenges** your **plans** or is **unpopular**.
- God's guidance may not always **lead** you along the **easiest** path, but He **remains faithful**.
- Let your **faith** shape your **daily** choices, your **relationships**, and your **service** to others.

A Final Thought

- Judah's **strength** was not in its **army**, but in its **trust** in **God**.
- **Trust** His **promises**, **test** every **teaching** by His **Word**, and follow His **guidance**.
- You may not **know** what **lies** ahead, but you can know the **One** who **leads** you.

October 10: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- Just as **travelers** need **guidance**, we need God's **direction** on our **journey** toward **heaven**.
- In the Old Testament, **prophets** helped **God's** people understand His **will**.
- Their **lives** remind us that God's **messengers** were **human**, with **fears**, **weaknesses**, and **struggles**.
- Yet **God** worked through them to **guide**, **correct**, and **encourage** His **people**.
- Their **experiences** raise an important **question**: What can we **learn** from these **servants** of God?
- This week, we will **explore** their lives and **discover** why **faithfulness** to God's **message** **matters**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will **discover** how **prophets** were **human** and could **experience fear** and **discouragement**.

Monday: We will **learn** how to **recognize true** prophets who **faithfully share** God's **messages**.

Tuesday: We will **explore** how prophets **guided kings**, **priests**, and the people according to God's **will**.

Wednesday: We will **discover** how **women** also **served** as **prophets** in God's **work**.

Thursday: We will **examine** the **danger** of **false** prophets and the **importance** of **standing** by God's **truth**.

Let us **study** this week to **understand** how **God worked** through **imperfect** people and how we can **remain faithful** to His **truth**.

October 11: Sunday - The Humanity of Prophets

Read: James 5:17–18; 1 Kings 19:1–16

Summary

- **Elijah** was a **man** just like us, and he needed God's **strength** just as we do.
- After the **victory** on **Mount Carmel**, Jezebel **threatened** his **life**, and he became **afraid**.
- Elijah felt **alone** and **unsuccessful** because Israel's **apostasy** continued despite his **efforts**.
- His **experience** reminds us that great **spiritual** victories do not make us **immune** to **discouragement**.
- **God met** Elijah in his **weakness** with rest, food, and a **gentle voice** rather than **condemnation**.
- **God reminded** Elijah that he was **not** alone and that His **work** was still **moving** forward.
- When our efforts seem **fruitless**, we must **remember** that the **results** belong to **God**, not to us alone.
- **God's promises** give us **hope** and strength when discouragement makes us feel like **failures**.

Question

- Why can we feel like **failures** even when we are **sincerely** serving **God**?

Answer

- We may become **discouraged** when our **efforts** seem **fruitless**, but **God sees** the **whole picture** and can **strengthen** us to **continue**.

Reflection

- When I feel **discouraged** or **alone**, do I **trust God** to **sustain** me even when I cannot **see** the **results** of my **efforts**?

Takeaway

- You are **not** a **failure** because you feel **discouraged**. **Trust** God's **promises**, **receive** His **strength**, and **keep walking** with Him.

October 12: Monday - Identifying True Prophets

Read: Deuteronomy 18:20; 1 Kings 22:1–14; 1 Samuel 9:3–14

Summary

- Not everyone who **claims** to speak for **God** is a **true prophet**.
- So **God gave** us clear **ways** to tell the **difference**.
- A **true prophet speaks** God's **message faithfully** and **honestly**, even when it makes them **unpopular**.
- An **example** is **Micaiah**, who **stood alone** against four hundred prophets, all telling King Ahab only what he **wanted** to **hear**.
- They **pressured** him to **soften** his message, but he **spoke** only what **God told** him, even though it made King Ahab **hate** him.
- A **true prophet** is also known by their **character**, for **Samuel** was an **honorable** man and a **man of God**.
- But even the greatest **prophets** were not **flawless**, and they needed **grace** just like you.
- So do not **expect perfection** from **God's messengers**, and **test** every message by **Scripture**.

Question

- What does **1 Kings 22:1–14** tell us about how **faithful prophets operate**?

Answer

- **Faithful prophets speak** God's message **faithfully**, **accurately**, and **honestly**, even when it is **unpopular**. They do not **change** the message to please people in **power**.

Reflection

- Who, even among the most **esteemed** men and women of **God**, have you known to be **flawless**?

Takeaway

- Do not **look** for **perfect messengers**. Look for **faithful** ones. And always **test** what you **hear** by **God's Word**.

October 13: Tuesday - Functions of Prophets

Read: 1 Samuel 8:4–22; Leviticus 8:10–13; 1 Kings 18:4–19; 2 Chronicles 24:20–22; 34

Summary

- **Prophets** were not **isolated** figures, for they **served God** in many **roles** among His **people**.
- They **warned** kings, and when Israel demanded a king like the other nations, **God** used **Samuel** to **show** them the **consequences** of their **choice**.
- They **confronted unfaithful** kings, calling them back to **obedience**, and some were **harmed** or **killed** for speaking the **truth**.
- They **rebuked priests** too, for even the household of Eli was **confronted** for its **corruption**.
- No one was **above** God's **correction**, not the **king** on the throne nor the **priest** in the **sanctuary**.
- Prophets also **taught** the people and **delivered** God's **messages** to surrounding **nations**.
- They were sometimes **instructed** to **write** down God's messages and **preserve** them for **future** generations.
- Despite their **human weaknesses**, they **devoted** themselves to **prayer**, **God's Word**, and **service** to Him and His people.
- **God** can **use** you in His service too, as you **faithfully follow** His Word and serve according to His **will**.

Question

- How did prophets **function** in relation to kings and priests?

Answer

- Prophets **warned** and **corrected** kings when they **disobeyed God**, and they **rebuked** priests when they became **corrupt**.
- They **delivered** God's messages **regardless** of the **position** or **power** of those who needed to **hear** them.

Reflection

- Am I **willing** to **stand** for **God's truth** and serve Him **faithfully**, even when doing so is **difficult** or **unpopular**?

Takeaway

- **God calls** you to serve Him **faithfully**, not to be **flawless**. **Follow** His Word, **stand** for what is **right**, and let your **life** serve His **purposes**.

October 14: Wednesday - Women Prophets

Read: Exo 15:20–21; Num 12:1–10; Judges 4:4–9; 2 Kings 22:11–20; Neh 6:14; Micah 6:4

Summary

- God called women as well as men to serve as prophets and communicate His messages to His people.
- Miriam was a prophetess who led the women in celebrating God's deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea.
- Yet Miriam's calling did not make her flawless, for she later spoke against Moses and faced God's correction.
- Deborah served as both a prophetess and a judge, sharing God's guidance and helping Israel overcome its enemies.
- Huldah was consulted by the king's officials after the Book of the Law was found, and her message confirmed the seriousness of Judah's disobedience and the coming judgment.
- Noadiah, however, was among those who sought to frighten Nehemiah, reminding us that being associated with prophecy does not automatically mean acting faithfully.
- These accounts show that God entrusted women with important prophetic responsibilities, yet they remained human and in need of His grace.
- Their stories give us hope that our weaknesses need not prevent us from serving God when we humbly depend on Him and remain faithful to His Word.

Question

- What do the lives of these women teach us about God's call and the humanity of His messengers?

Answer

- God called women to deliver His messages and serve His people, but their stories remind us that even those He uses need His grace and must remain faithful to His truth.

Reflection

- When I recognize my own weaknesses, do I trust God's grace to correct me, help me grow, and prepare me for His service?

Takeaway

- God's grace is greater than your weaknesses. Accept His correction, remain faithful to His Word, and allow Him to work through you.

October 15: Thursday - False Prophets

Read: Jeremiah 14:1–15; Jeremiah 23:13–14, 26; Ezekiel 13:2; 1 Kings 22:6–14

Summary

- God's people have always faced a choice between true prophets and false ones.
- In Jeremiah's day, false prophets prophesied peace, even though God had said judgment was near.
- They spoke from their own hearts, not from God, and the people loved them for it.
- A message that makes us feel better can still lead us away from God.
- The same thing happened when King Ahab asked whether he should go to war.
- Four hundred prophets told him to go, and he believed them because their answer suited his plans.
- One man, Micaiah, spoke what God actually said, and the king hated him for it.
- We face the same temptation, for we prefer voices that agree with us and avoid those that challenge us.
- So test everything by Scripture, and love the truth enough to be corrected by it.

Question

- Why is it dangerous to accept a message just because it tells you what you want to hear?

Answer

- Because a message that comforts you can still deceive you, and only God's Word can be trusted to lead you in the right direction.

Reflection

- Do I allow God's Word to correct me, or do I prefer opinions that agree with what I already want to believe?

Takeaway

- Love the truth enough to be corrected by it, and let God's Word guide your choices even when the crowd thinks differently.

October 16: Friday - Not Perfect but Willing

Read: Ellen G. White, Spiritual Gifts, vol. 2, pp. 35–38

Summary

- **God** can **accomplish great things** through people who **recognize** their **need of Him**.
- Yet you may feel too **young**, too **weak**, or too **inexperienced** to **serve Him**.
- You may look at your **weaknesses** and **wonder** what you could possibly **offer**.
- The **responsibility** may even **frighten** you so much that you **wish** someone else would **take it**.
- **Ellen White** **felt** this way when God **called** her at just **seventeen**, but **prayer** and **encouragement** helped her **accept** the work.
- Her **experience** **reminds** us that feeling **unqualified** does not mean **God** cannot **use us**.
- As we **trust His grace** and **follow His leading**, He can help us **grow** and use our **lives** to **bless others**.
- So instead of allowing **fear** to **keep you** from serving, **take the next step** God is **asking you** to take.

Question

- What can we **learn** from the **reluctance** of those **God called** in **Scripture** and in later times?

Answer

- **God** can **work** through people who feel **inadequate** when they **trust His grace** and are **willing** to **follow His leading**.

Reflection

- What **responsibility** might I be **avoiding** because I feel **unqualified**, and what **step** can I take in **faith**?

Takeaway

- Do not let **feelings** of **inadequacy** **keep you** from serving **God**. **Trust His grace** and **take the next step** in **faith**.