LESSON 6 | SUNDAY

The Call to Write

QUESTION SCRIPTURE WORD STUDY KEY POINT

LESSON FOCUS: God directed prophetic messages to be written so they could be preserved, understood, and carried to future generations.

I. Memory Text

Romans 15:4, KJV

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

"written aforetime" = prographō (προγράφω) (Greek) - to write beforehand / pre-write; Strong's also uses "before ordain" as a broader rendering elsewhere.

II. Revelation Comes From God

- God reveals.
- God inspires.
- God speaks.
- Divine authority does not depend on ink and paper.
- Divine authority depends on the source: God Himself.

III. Modes of Prophetic Communication

Among three modes of prophetic communication which we have been considering:

- Speech
- Script / writing
- Symbolic action

Early divine communication could be oral, symbolic, or given through dreams.

IV. Writing Preserves God's Message

Exodus 17:14, KJV

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

Q. Why was the message written?

For a memorial in a book.

Hebrew: zikkārôn (זִכָּרוֹן) - memorial, reminder, remembrance; here, specifically a memorial record. Elsewhere it may refer to a memorial sign/object.

V. Writing Calls People to Salvation

Jeremiah 36:2-3, KJV

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.

3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

KEY POINT: The written message calls people to repentance, forgiveness, and salvation.

VI. Preservation for Future Generations

Writing is one way of doing that.

VII. God Uses Writers in Every Circumstance

- Moses wrote in the wilderness.
- Daniel wrote in exile.
- Paul wrote from prison.

Q. Why did God use writers in such different circumstances?

KEY POINT: No circumstance can prevent an inspired message from accomplishing God's purpose.

VIII. The Gospels Preserve the Life of Christ

- The Sermon on the Mount
- The account of the Transfiguration
- The Cross

IX. Prophets May Not Fully Understand Every Message

Ellen G. White says that prophets “often could not understand the meaning of the words they wrote upon the paper.”

Ellen G. White - Sabbath-School Worker - Aug 1, 1892 - par. 7

Compare Daniel 12:8-9: Daniel heard the revelation and explicitly said, “I understood not.”

A prophet does not have to understand every detail in order to record faithfully what God has given.

The writer's responsibility is faithful transmission.

The message belongs to God.

The writer is the human vessel.

KEY POINT: The written Word carries God's message forward to future generations.