

I usually don't review old sermons but this is something that only recently came to my attention after communicating with someone who was unhappy that I was selling a tract on eBay titled, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Problem*. That person, who claimed to believe the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and had never read the tract, thought it was OK for the Bible to have some errors even though Sister White said it was "infallible" and that Pastor Lee Venden had a very good message even though he uses fake bibles.

The video titled "01 Can We Be Friends" was published on YouTube by All About Jesus Seminars on 8/15/18. Pastor Lee Venden is the main speaker and the sermon was given in Michigan. Lee's wife Marji also had a part. Lee was introduced by Pastor Dwight K. Nelson who has been the lead pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church of Andrews University since 1983 (it's now 2022).

A children's story about a coming king is told by Marji starting at 4:43. The moral of the story was intended to be good but could leave a wrong impression on kids. The hero of the story was about a young girl that had nothing to give a king that was coming to visit. A strange man came riding on a donkey who the young lass, without any parental supervision, befriended. At this time it would be dangerous for a young child to interact unsupervised with a stranger no matter how kind the stranger seemed to be and that's what the story seemed to recommend.

Story time lasted thirteen minutes and was followed by prayer by Lee.

At 18:53 Lee said, "I wanna begin with a quotation, actually it's a Scripture, and it's in The Message paraphrase. I like this the way that Eugene Peterson put this together an' so gonna put it up on the screen, and, ah, it starts out like this."

Notice that Lee called The Message "Scripture" and only had good things to say about it. Is it up to Lee to decide what is "Scripture" because he likes what it says? Here are a couple of quotations from The Message followed by that verse from the real Bible. Lee calls it "Scripture" so it should be all good shouldn't it?

"It was Sunday and I was in the Spirit, praying. I heard a loud voice behind me, trumpet-clear and piercing:" Revelation 1:10 from The Message (TM).

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet," Revelation 1:10 from the King James Version (KJV).

"So God knows how to rescue the godly from evil trials. And he knows how to hold the feet of the wicked to the fire until Judgment Day." 2 Peter 2:9 from TM.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" 2 Peter 2:9 from the KJV.

You're probably aware of this, but "the Lord's day" is the seventh day Sabbath and not "Sunday." It should also be easily comprehended that the wicked, according to TM, are burning in Hell or maybe Purgatory while they wait for judgment. The real Bible says the wicked won't be punished until they have been judged.

If Lee were truthful, he should have told his audience that he wanted to use The Message because he liked what it says even though it's "Scripture" crafted by his Satanic Majesty.

Starting at 49:36 Isaiah 53:3-8 is quoted from the New International Version (NIV) with nothing said by Lee about how it's a fake bible with poison in it. Here is one example.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water." 1 Peter 3:18-20 from the NIV.

Notice that it was Jesus' "Spirit" that was made alive as opposed to his flesh and blood body. Jesus' spirit then preached to the spirits of wicked people who had died in the flood. Jesus wouldn't have preached to them if they weren't awake and still possible candidates for salvation. What a fantastic passage to teach the doctrine of purgatory.

At 1:01:30 a verse is quoted from Revelation but the version it's from isn't indicated. Here it is just as he quoted it without quotation marks.

Listen, I am standing at the door knocking. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me. -Revelation 3:20

I looked up that verse in a bunch of bibles and found none that had it worded exactly the way Lee had it. I suspect it's an amalgamation of bibles Lee used because he liked what they said with additional editing by Lee.

Here are some bibles that kind of had it like Lee had it. The word in italics are as Lee had it. Single words are not italicized unless they occurred in the same flow of words Lee used. If a word Lee capitalized was not capitalized in one of the bibles, it was not considered to be the same as Lee used. If you count them (I counted them two or three times and hope I got it right) you will find the same words in the same order as Lee used twenty-five times in The Catholic Living Bible (TCLB), the Modern English Version (MEV) and the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (NWTSH). I suspect Lee kind of used The Living Bible (LB) and the MEV for his amalgamation.

"Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him

and he with me.” Revelation 3:20 from TCLB copyright 1971 with the copyright owned by assignment by the KNT Charitable Trust.

“Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together.” Revelation 3:20 from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) copyright 1995.

“Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 from the MEV.

Look! I am standing at the door and knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his [house] and take the evening meal with him and he with me.” Revelation 3:20 from the NWTBS (a Jehovah’s Witness bible).

In my opinion, Lee feels competent to make his own “Bible.” If Lee can do that what’s wrong with the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roman Catholics, etc., doing the same? Does it give you confidence in “God’s Word” when it says different things? Does it help you memorize Scripture when alleged “Scripture” says different things? If you pretend something is from “the Bible” and there’s not a bible on earth that says what you said it said, is that deceptive? If you use deception, are you a liar? If you are a liar, will you be accepted into heaven anyway just because Jesus wants to be friends?

“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” Revelation 22:15 from the King James Version (KJV).

There is something that should interest you that’s found in some fake bibles but first with a Spirit of Prophecy quotation.

*“Even the manner of His death had been shadowed forth. As the brazen serpent had been uplifted in the wilderness, so was the coming Redeemer to be lifted up, ‘that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16. ‘One shall say unto Him, What are these wound in Thine hands? Then He shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of My friends.’ Zechariah 13:6.” Page 226 of *The Acts of the Apostles*.*

Here's one of the aforementioned verses from the real Bible and from some fakes.

“And 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 from the KJV.

“And if someone asks, ‘Then what are these scars on your chest and our back?’ he will say, ‘I got into a brawl at the home of a friend!’” Zechariah 13:6 from TCLB.

“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 New King James Version (NKJV) of the Andrews Study Bible.

“If someone asks, ‘What are these wounds on your body?’ they will answer, ‘The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.’” Zechariah 13:6 from the NIV Andrews Study Bible.

“Y si alguien le pregunta: ‘¿Qué heridas son estas en tus manos?’, él responderá: ‘Las recibí en casa de mis amigos’”. Zacarías 13:6 from the Reina-Valera 1995 (RV95) Andrews Study Bible.

“Se alguém lhe disser: Que feridas são essas nas tuas mãos?, responderá ele: São as feridas com que fui ferido na casa dos meus amigos.” Zacarias 13:6 from the Almeida Revista e Atualizada (ARA) Andrews Study Bible.

Here are the respective footnotes for that verse in the above bibles.

“Evidently self-inflicted cuts, as practiced by false prophets.” From TCLB.

“When confronted about the ‘wounds’ on his torso (‘between your arms’ probably refers to the chest or back), scars which probably resulted from self-mutilation while participating in idolatrous rituals (1 Kin. 18:28), the false prophet lies about how he received them.” From the NKJV Andrews Study Bible.

“The false prophet lies about the scars, which probably resulted from self-mutilation while participating in idolatrous rituals (1 Ki 18:28).” From the NIV Andrews Study Bible.

“Cuando es confrontado con las heridas en el torso (<<en[-tre] tus manos>>, CI/BJ, significa en realidad <<entre los brazos>>, NBE, en el pecho or la espalda), que probablemente eran resultado de la autoflagelación durante rituales idólatras (1 R 18:28), el falso profeta miente acerca de su origen.” From the RV95 Andrews Study Bible that allegedly has “Ilumina, profundiza, clarifica”.

“Quando confrontado em relação às “feridas” nas mãos (ou no torso, uma provável referência ao peito ou às costas), cicatrizes que provavelmente resultariam da prática de automutilação em rituais idólatras (1Rs 18:28), o falso profeta mentiria sobre como se machucou.” From the ARA Andrews Study Bible.

Even though the Andrews Study Bibles in Spanish (the RV95) and Portuguese (the ARA) say the wounds were in the hands, that verse still has a footnote in the respective language saying the wounds resulted from unholy practices (wounding himself). Does it bother you that a “Bible” and footnote composed by a Seventh-day Adventist Andrews University scholar says those things?

At 1:04:02 a passage is quoted from the New Living Translation (NLT). Once again, Lee didn’t tell his congregation that the NLT is a fake bible with poison in it. Is it possible that Lee doesn’t know that? If Lee knows that and presents the NLT as authoritative Scripture without telling the sheep that, is Lee a liar?

My NLT bible is the Catholic Reference Edition. Here’s a quotation from it.

“When the human population began to grow rapidly on the earth, the sons of God saw the beautiful women of the human race and took any they wanted as their wives. In those days, and even afterward, giants lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with human women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes mentioned in legends of old.” Genesis 6:1-2, 4 from the NLT.

That verse clearly implies that the “sons of God” were other than “human.” In fact, in the Today’s English Version that’s used for some “Scripture” readings in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, it clearly says it was “heavenly beings” that had children with “human women.”

“Of course, if you’re a serious Bible student you have a concordance with which to compare Scripture with Scripture. The other verses that had “sons of God” in the real Bible (the KJV in case you forgot) are Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7, John 1:12, Romans 8:14, Romans 8:19, Philippians 2:15 and 1 John 3:1-2. You won’t find “sons of God” in any of those verses in the NLT. If you go to Romans 8:14 in the real Bible, you will find that “as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

In my opinion there was no false doctrine taught in the sermon except for the implied teaching that it doesn’t matter what “Bible” you use as long as the pastor likes what it says. If it hadn’t been for that, I would have called this an excellent sermon.

SatanIsDead.com

InfallibleBible.com

DeathConfusion.com

AdventistsToday.com

SabbathSchoolGuide.com