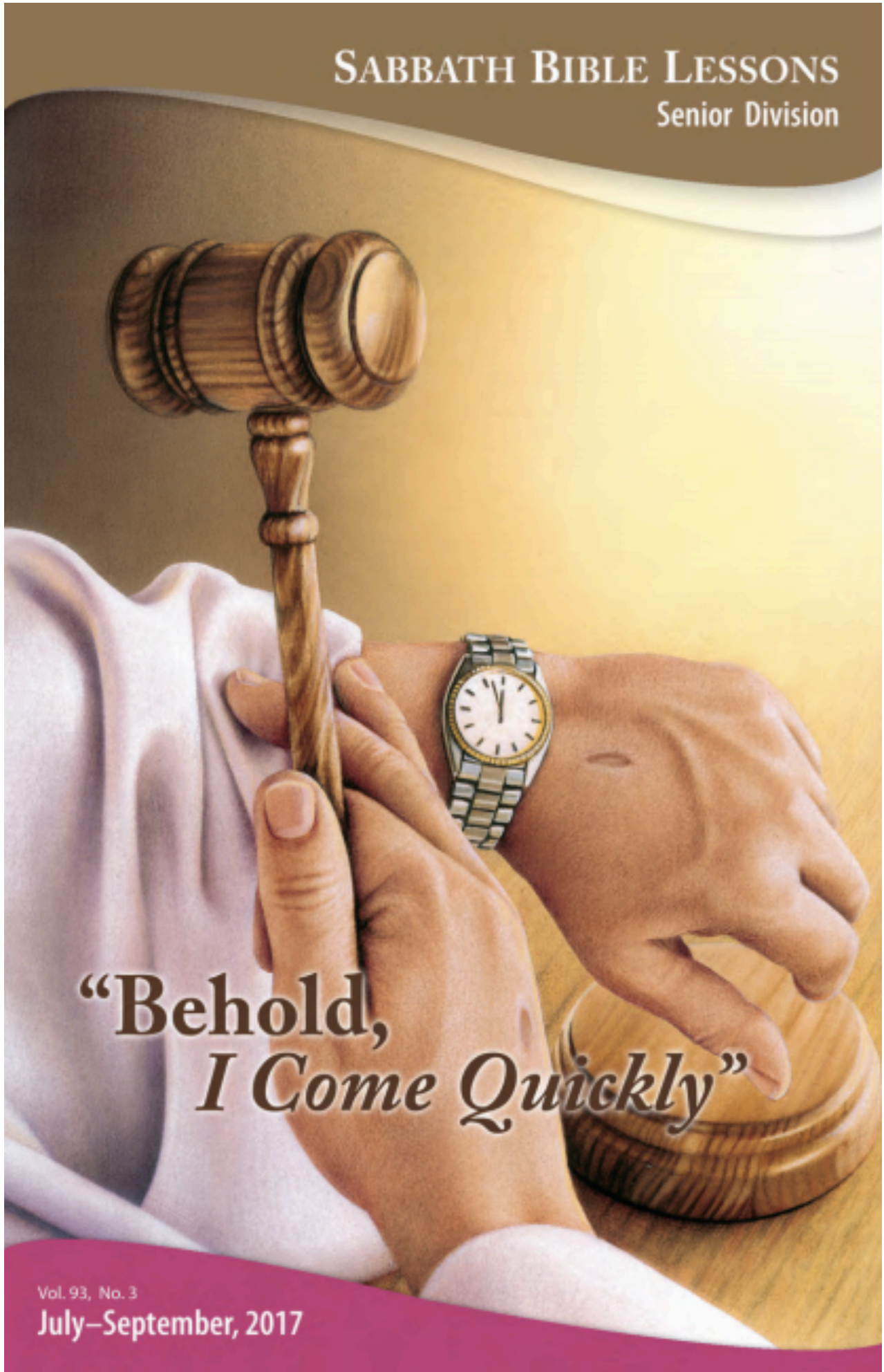


# SABBATH BIBLE LESSONS

Senior Division



**“Behold,  
*I Come Quickly*”**

Vol. 93, No. 3

July–September, 2017

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## Lesson 1 - Sabbath July 1, 2017

# A Glorious, Joy-Inspiring Hope

**“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (Jude 14, last part).**

“To God’s pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in ‘the region and shadow of death,’ a precious, joy-inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is ‘the resurrection and the life,’ to ‘bring home again His banished.’ ”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 299.

**Suggested Reading:** *The Great Controversy*, pp. 299–303.

Sunday, June 25

## 1. ANIMATED BY GOD'S PROMISES

**a. Very early in history, what was the seventh patriarch from Adam shown in vision—and how did it motivate him in a powerful way? Jude 14, 15.**

“By the spirit of prophecy [God] carried [Enoch] down through the generations that should live after the Flood and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. . . .

“In prophetic vision he was instructed concerning the death of Christ and was shown His coming in glory, attended by all the holy angels, to ransom His people from the grave. He also saw the corrupt state of the world when Christ should appear the second time—that there would be a boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation, denying the only God and the Lord Jesus Christ, trampling upon the law, and despising the atonement. He saw the righteous crowned with glory and honor, and the wicked banished from the presence of the Lord, and destroyed by fire.

“Enoch became a preacher of righteousness, making known to the people what God had revealed to him.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 85, 86.

**Jude 1:14-15:** *14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

Monday, June 26

## 2. JOYOUS CONFIDENCE

**a. Describe the way God’s people in Old-Testament times expressed their hope in Christ’s second coming. Psalms 50:1–4; 96:11–13.**

“By the spirit of prophecy [God] carried [Enoch] down through the generations that should live after the Flood and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. . . .

“In prophetic vision he was instructed concerning the death of Christ and was shown His coming in glory, attended by all the holy angels, to ransom His people from the grave. He also saw the corrupt state of the world when Christ should appear the second time—that there would be a boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation, denying the only God and the Lord Jesus Christ, trampling upon the law, and despising the atonement. He saw the righteous crowned with glory and honor, and the wicked banished from the presence of the Lord, and destroyed by fire.

“Enoch became a preacher of righteousness, making known to the people what God had revealed to him.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 85, 86.

**Psalms 50:1-4:** *1 The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. 3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. 4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.*

**Psalms 96:11-13:** *11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice 13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.*

Monday, June 26

## 2. JOYOUS CONFIDENCE

**b. With what exalted language did the prophet Habakkuk describe Jesus' return? Habakkuk 3:3–6.**

**Habakkuk 3:3-6:** *3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. 4 And his brightness was as the light; he had\* horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power. 5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. 6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.*

Monday, June 26

## 2. JOYOUS CONFIDENCE

**c. What comforting, encouraging promise is repeated to New Testament believers, and how should this influence us in a mighty way? Acts 1:10, 11.**

“The Saviour’s parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim.” —Ibid., p. 302.

“[Acts 1:11 quoted.] Precious, indeed, was this promise to those sorrowing disciples, that they should again see Jesus who was greatly beloved by them all. Precious also is this promise to every true follower of Christ. None who truly love Jesus will be sorry that He is coming again. And as they approach nearer to the coming of the Son of man, the true lovers of Jesus will look forward with joyous hope and will seek to get all ready to behold Him whom their souls loveth, who died to redeem them.

“Jesus is coming! But not to listen to the woes of mankind, and to hear the guilty sinner confess his sins, and to speak pardon to him; for everyone’s case will then be decided for life or death. Those who have lived in sin will remain sinners forever. Those who have confessed their sins to Jesus in the sanctuary, have made Him their friend and have loved His appearing, will have pardon written for all their sins, and they, having purified their souls ‘in obeying the truth,’ will remain pure and holy forever.” —The Youth’s Instructor, April 1, 1854.

**Acts 1:10-11:** *10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

Tuesday, June 27

### 3. WORTHY OF OUR SERIOUS PREPARATION

#### a. How can we gain courage from the hope expressed by Paul? Titus 2:11–13.

“We are pilgrims and strangers who are waiting, hoping, and praying for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If we believe this and bring it into our practical life, what vigorous action would this faith and hope inspire; what fervent love one for another; what careful holy living for the glory of God; and in our respect for the recompense of the reward, what distinct lines of demarcation would be evidenced between us and the world.” — Evangelism, p. 220.

“God designs that His people shall fix their eyes heavenward, looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. While the attention of worldlings is turned to various enterprises, ours should be to the heavens; our faith should reach further and further into the glorious mysteries of the heavenly treasure, drawing the precious, divine rays of light from the heavenly sanctuary to shine in our hearts, as they shine upon the face of Jesus. . . .

“The desire of our Lord is that we should be watching, so that when He cometh and knocketh we may open to Him immediately.” — Testimonies, vol. 2, pp. 194, 195.

**Titus 2:11-13:** *11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Tuesday, June 27

### 3. WORTHY OF OUR SERIOUS PREPARATION

**b. How will Jesus appear to those who are eagerly awaiting His return?  
Hebrews 9:28 (last part).**

“Christ, at the close of His work as mediator, will appear ‘without sin unto salvation’ (Hebrews 9:28), to bless His waiting people with eternal life.” — The Great Controversy, p. 485.

“Jesus is coming as He ascended into heaven, only with additional splendor. He is coming with the glory of His Father, and all the holy angels with Him, to escort Him on His way. Instead of the cruel crown of thorns to pierce His holy temples, a crown of dazzling glory will deck His sacred brow. He will not then appear, the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; but His countenance will shine brighter than the noonday sun. He will not wear a plain seamless coat but a garment whiter than snow — of dazzling brightness.” — The Youth’s Instructor, April 1, 1854.

**Hebrews 9:28:** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

Wednesday, June 28

#### 4. LONGING FOR HIS RETURN

**a. What message in Luther's sermons resonated with the teaching of Paul with regard to the final-judgment hour? Hebrews 9:27.**

“Luther declared: ‘I persuade myself verily, that the day of judgment will not be absent full three hundred years. God will not, cannot, suffer this wicked world much longer.’ ‘The great day is drawing near in which the kingdom of abominations shall be overthrown.’ ”—The Great Controversy, p. 303.

**Hebrews 9:27:** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Wednesday, June 28

#### 4. LONGING FOR HIS RETURN

**b. What conviction did other Reformers have, and what is likewise to be our main priority today? Revelation 16:15.**

“ ‘This aged world is not far from its end,’ said Melancthon. Calvin bids Christians ‘not to hesitate, ardently desiring the day of Christ’s coming as of all events most auspicious’; and declares that ‘the whole family of the faithful will keep in view that day.’ ‘We must hunger after Christ, we must seek, contemplate,’ he says, ‘till the dawning of that great day, when our Lord will fully manifest the glory of His kingdom.’

“ ‘Has not the Lord Jesus carried up our flesh into heaven?’ said Knox, the Scotch Reformer, ‘and shall He not return? We know that He shall return, and that with expedition.’ Ridley and Latimer, who laid down their lives for the truth, looked in faith for the Lord’s coming. Ridley wrote: ‘The world without doubt—this I do believe, and therefore I say it—draws to an end. Let us with John, the servant of God, cry in our hearts unto our Saviour Christ, Come, Lord Jesus, come.’ ” —Ibid.

“The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message.

“The blessed hope of the second appearing of Christ, with its solemn realities, needs to be often presented to the people. Looking for the soon appearing of our Lord will lead us to regard earthly things as emptiness and nothingness. . . .

“It cannot now be said by the Lord’s servants, as it was by the prophet Daniel: ‘The time appointed was long’ (Daniel 10:1). It is now but a short time till the witnesses for God will have done their work in preparing the way of the Lord.” —Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 406.

**Revelation 16:15:** *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

Thursday, June 29

## 5. ACTIVELY WAITING FOR THE DAY OF PROMISE

**a. Explain the responsibility of all who are serious about meeting the Master in peace when He returns. Amos 4:12 (last part); Zephaniah 2:3.**

“Christ says, ‘I know thy works’ (Revelation 2:2). He knows whether you are living a life of perfection and if you love to talk and think of Him, and whether it is your joy to praise Him. Do we expect to get to heaven at last and join the heavenly choir? Just as we go into the grave we will come up as far as the character is concerned. . . . Now is the time for washing and ironing. It is the time to wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“When the lawyer came to Christ and asked, ‘What shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ the answer was, ‘Keep the commandments.’ Here a positive question is asked by the lawyer, and he receives an answer just as positive.” —Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, p. 262.

**Amos 4:12:** *Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel:and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*

**Zephaniah 2:3:** *Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’S anger.*

Thursday, June 29

## 5. ACTIVELY WAITING FOR THE DAY OF PROMISE

**b. What will be the deep sentiment of all who wholeheartedly embrace Christ's promise that He will come back soon? Revelation 22:20.**

“I want to honor Him that sitteth on the throne. I want my voice to echo and re-echo through the courts of heaven. Will you be there? Then you must educate your voice to praise Him on earth, and then you can join the heavenly choir and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. God help us, and fill us with all fullness and power, and then we can taste of the joys of the world to come.” — The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 128.

**Revelation 22:20:** *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

Friday, June 30

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What should I consider about the depth of my longing for Jesus' return?**
- 2. Why are the promises concerning Jesus' return to provide us strength?**
- 3. Why is it important to cultivate a real desire to share this truth with others?**
- 4. How did the 16th century Reformers inspire faith in Christ's return?**
- 5. We are saved by faith, so what reveals genuine commitment in our faith?**

## Lesson 2 - Sabbath July 8, 2017

# Signs of Christ's Return

**“So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand” (Luke 21:31).**

“Christ had bidden His people watch for the signs of His advent and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King.” — *The Great Controversy*, p. 308.

**Suggested Reading:** *The Great Controversy*, pp. 31–38, 304–316, 333, 334.

Sunday, July 2

## 1. A PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

**a. What prediction did the Son of man make about the grand temple existing in His day—an event the disciples could not fathom? Matthew 24:1, 2.**

“As Christ’s attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that Rejected One! The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said with sadness, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when ‘there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’ ”—The Desire of Ages, p. 627.

**Matthew 24:1-2:** *1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

Sunday, July 2

## 1. A PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

**b. What questions intrigued the disciples, and how was this intermingled with Christ's prophecies concerning the end of the world? Matthew 24:3.**

“With the overthrow of Jerusalem the disciples associated the events of Christ’s personal coming in temporal glory to take the throne of universal empire, to punish the impenitent Jews, and to break from off the nation the Roman yoke. The Lord had told them that He would come the second time. Hence at the mention of judgments upon Jerusalem, their minds reverted to that coming.” — The Great Controversy, p. 25.

**Matthew 24:3:** *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

Monday, July 3

## 2. PROPHECY FULFILLED AFTER CHRIST'S ASCENSION

**a. What warning should we heed from the spiritual implications of the fate of the temple in A.D. 70, just as Jesus had prophesied? Isaiah 30:12, 13.**

“The blind obstinacy of the Jewish leaders, and the detestable crimes perpetrated within the besieged city, excited the horror and indignation of the Romans. . . . In their fury the soldiers hurled blazing brands into the chambers adjoining the temple, and then with their swords they slaughtered in great numbers those who had found shelter there. Blood flowed down the temple steps like water. Thousands upon thousands of Jews perished. Above the sound of battle, voices were heard shouting: ‘Ichabod!’ — the glory is departed.” — The Great Controversy, p. 33.

“Both the city and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the ground upon which the holy house had stood was ‘plowed like a field’ (Jeremiah 26:18).” — Ibid., p. 35.

**Isaiah 30:12-13:** *12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: 13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.*

Monday, July 3

## 2. PROPHECY FULFILLED AFTER CHRIST'S ASCENSION

**b. Name some interesting points we can glean from how only those who had heeded the words of Jesus were spared. Luke 21:20–22; Psalm 27:5.**

“For seven years a man continued to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, declaring the woes that were to come upon the city. . . . This strange being was imprisoned and scourged, but no complaint escaped his lips. To insult and abuse he answered only: ‘Woe, woe to Jerusalem!’ ‘woe, woe to the inhabitants thereof!’ His warning cry ceased not until he was slain in the siege he had foretold.

“Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who believed His words watched for the promised sign. [Luke 21:20–22 quoted.]” —Ibid., p. 30.

“[Luke 21:20–22 quoted.] This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. . . .

“ ‘Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day,’ Christ said (Matthew 24:20). . . . Forty years after His crucifixion [the Sabbath] was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 630.

**Luke 21:20-22:** *20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

**Psalms 27:5:** *For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.*

Tuesday, July 4

### **3. A PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD — THE DARK AGES**

**a. What would eventually come upon the believers after the general destruction of the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70? Matthew 24:21, 22.**

“From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth’s history—the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two events, there lay open to Christ’s view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony.”—The Desire of Ages, pp. 630, 631.

**Matthew 24:21-22:** *21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.*

Tuesday, July 4

### **3. A PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD — THE DARK AGES**

**b. How was this same historic period of tribulation depicted in prophecy in the book of Revelation? Revelation 11:2, 3; 13:5.**

**Revelation 11:2-3:** *2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. 3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

**Revelation 13:5:** *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him\* to continue forty and two months.*

Tuesday, July 4

### 3. A PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD — THE DARK AGES

**c. What scriptural guideline about prophetic time helps us understand how to calculate mathematically the actual length of this period, keeping in mind that the prophetic reckoning is a 30-day month with 360 days each year? Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.**

“The suppression of the Scriptures under the dominion of Rome, the terrible results of that suppression, and the final exaltation of the word of God, are vividly portrayed by the prophetic pencil. To John the exile on lonely Patmos was given a view of the 1260 years during which the papal power was permitted to trample upon God’s word.” — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, p. 188.

“The forty and two months are the same as the ‘time and times and the dividing of time,’ three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7—the time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people. This period began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798. At that time the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled, ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity’ (Revelation 13:10).” — The Great Controversy, p. 439.

**Numbers 14:34:** *After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

**Ezekiel 4:6:** *And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.*

Wednesday, July 5

#### 4. THREE LANDMARK EVENTS

**a. Just before the end of the 1260-year-prophetic-time period (since the actual persecution was “shortened”), what signs in nature showed that Jesus’ return was soon? Matthew 24:29, 30; Mark 13:24–26; Revelation 6:12, 13.**

**Matthew 24:29-30:** *29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

**Mark 13:24-26:** *24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. 26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

**Revelation 6:12-13:** *12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.*

Wednesday, July 5

#### 4. THREE LANDMARK EVENTS

**b. Examining these prophecies one by one: According to the record of Inspiration and history, which occurred first? Revelation 6:12.**

“In fulfillment of this prophecy [of Revelation 6:12] there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles.” — The Great Controversy, p. 304.

**Revelation 6:12:** *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;*

Wednesday, July 5

#### 4. THREE LANDMARK EVENTS

##### c. How was the prophecy about the sun and the moon fulfilled? Mark 13:24.

“The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened.” — Ibid., p. 306.

“May 19, 1780, stands in history as ‘The Dark Day.’ Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, . . . ‘The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come’ (Joel 2:31).” — Ibid., p. 308.

**Mark 13:24:** *But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,*

Thursday, July 6

## 5. PROVIDED TO MAKE AN IMPACT

**a. Besides the three great natural events Christ gave as signs of His soon return, name some other signs, and explain how they are rapidly fulfilling more and more. Matthew 24:6–12; Mark 13:7–9; Luke 21:9–11, 25–27.**

**Matthew 24:6-12:** *6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

**Mark 13:7-9:** *7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. 8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows. 9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.*

**Luke 21:9-11:** *9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. 10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: 11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*

**Luke 21:25-27:** *25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

Thursday, July 6

## 5. PROVIDED TO MAKE AN IMPACT

**b. What should we recall in seeing these signs? Luke 17:26; Jeremiah 8:11, 12.**

“Calamities, earthquakes, floods, disasters by land and by sea, will increase. God is looking upon the world today as He looked upon it in Noah’s time. He is sending His message to people today as He sent it in the days of Noah. There is in this age of the world a repetition of the wickedness of the world before the flood.” — The Advocate, December 1, 1900.

**Luke 17:26:** *And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.*

**Jeremiah 8:11-12:** *11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. 12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.*

Thursday, July 6

## 5. PROVIDED TO MAKE AN IMPACT

**c. Why can we be encouraged by prophecies being fulfilled? 1 Samuel 12:16; 1 Peter 2:9.**

“Those who accepted the advent doctrine were roused to the necessity of repentance and humiliation before God. Many had long been halting between Christ and the world; now they felt that it was time to take a stand. ‘The things of eternity assumed to them an unwonted reality. Heaven was brought near, and they felt themselves guilty before God.’ . . . Christians were quickened to new spiritual life. They were made to feel that time was short, that what they had to do for their fellow men must be done quickly.” — The Great Controversy, p. 340.

**1 Samuel 12:16:** *Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.*

**1 Peter 2:9:** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Friday, July 7

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. In A.D. 70, why did God allow the magnificent temple to be destroyed?**
- 2. Why was the lone man pronouncing woe against Jerusalem not spared?**
- 3. How do we know that a day in prophetic time often equals a year?**
- 4. Name the dates of the great three-landmark-signs of Christ's soon return.**
- 5. As I see the signs fulfilling, what impact should I allow it to make on me?**

## Lesson 3 - Sabbath July 15, 2017

# Messages of Warning for Our Day

**“Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isaiah 1:9).**

“The voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 166.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Great Controversy*, p. 270;  
                                  *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 156–170.

Sunday, July 9

## 1. THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE

a. To what time in the history of the world did Jesus compare our days?

**Matthew 24:37–39; Genesis 6:5, 13.**

“The same sins exist in our day which brought the wrath of God upon the world in the days of Noah. Men and women now carry their eating and drinking to gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah and led to general corruption, until their violence and crimes reached to heaven, and God washed the earth of its moral pollution by a flood.” — Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 163.

**Matthew 24:37-39:** *37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

**Genesis 6:5:** *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

**Genesis 6:13:** *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Sunday, July 9

## 1. THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE

### b. What do believers have to face today? 2 Peter 3:3–6.

“The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 635.

**2 Peter 3:3-6:** *3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

Monday, July 10

## 2. LEARN FROM A STARTLING EVENT

**a. Besides comparing these last days to Noah's time, to what other historical scene did the Lord compare the hour of His return? Luke 17:28–30.**

“The state of the world now is similar to that which existed in the days of Lot, when Sodom's corruption called for the angel's visit to that wicked city, to see whether the cries coming up before heaven were of such a character that the inhabitants of beautiful Sodom—a city that had been so highly favored of God—had so corrupted their ways before the Lord that there was no hope of their redemption. God's wrath was revealed so signally because the corruption of the Sodomites was so deep.”—Southern Union Worker, October 16, 1913.

**Luke 17:28-30:** *28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*

Monday, July 10

## 2. LEARN FROM A STARTLING EVENT

**b. What sin was prominent in Lot's day? Genesis 19:5–7; Romans 1:21, 26, 27.**

“[The Sodomites] crowded about the house of Lot, and as the crowd increased, vile speeches were made which revealed the state of corruption that existed among the people, and the worst suggestions were received and acted upon. The crowd became more clamorous in their cries to have Lot bring forth the strangers to them; for they had become so base through the indulgence of evil passions, that every good thought had been uprooted, and reason was so clouded that they would even do violence to the angels of heaven.” — The Signs of the Times, October 9, 1893.

**Genesis 19:5-7:** *5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. 6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, 7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.*

**Romans 1:21:** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Romans 1:26-27:** *26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

Tuesday, July 11

### 3. BECOMING BETTER STEWARDS OF OUR LIVES

#### a. What warnings are given about Sodom's spiritual decline? Ezekiel 16:49.

“Many of those who have so long rejected divine guidance and guardianship are rushing on in the path of levity and selfish pleasure, yea, more, into baser acts and defilement of the body. As a consequence their minds are polluted, and religion is distasteful to them. Some have gone so far in this downward course, and followed so earnestly in the path of the Sodomites, that they are today nigh unto cursing, and the voice of reproof and warning is lost upon them.”—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 39.

**Ezekiel 16:49:** *Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*

Tuesday, July 11

### 3. BECOMING BETTER STEWARDS OF OUR LIVES

**b. How are we, who are entrusted with great light, warned of degradations more serious even than those of Sodom? Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 1:24–30, 33.**

“The Redeemer of the world, the compassionate Friend of man, discloses to our eyes the fact that there is a sin greater than the sin of Sodom. It is that of sinning against greater light. To those who have heard and have not heeded the gospel invitation to repent and have faith in Christ, the sin is greater than was the sin of Sodom. To those who have professed the name of Jesus, who have professed to know God, and to keep His commandments, and yet who have misrepresented Christ in their daily life and character, who have been warned and entreated, and still dishonor their Redeemer by their unconsecrated lives, the sin is greater than that of Sodom.”—The Signs of the Times, October 16, 1893.

“Many who profess to believe the truth do not want God in their thoughts, any more than did the antediluvians or Sodomites. One sensible thought of God, awakened by the Holy Spirit, would spoil all their schemes. Self, self, self, has been their god, their alpha and their omega.”—Counsels on Stewardship, p. 141.

“The sins of Sodom are repeated in our day, and the earth is destroyed and corrupted under the inhabitants thereof; but the worst feature of the iniquity of this day is a form of godliness without the power thereof. Those who profess to have great light are found among the careless and indifferent, and the cause of Christ is wounded in the house of its professed friends.”—The Signs of the Times, October 16, 1893.

**Hosea 4:6:** *6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

**VERSES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**Proverbs 1:24-30:** *24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; 25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; 27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.*

**Proverbs 1:33:** *But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.*

Wednesday, July 12

#### 4. CHOOSING BETTER PRIORITIES

**a. To avoid Lot's mistake that had led his family in a downward path, what must we realize? Genesis 13:12, 13; 19:30–38; 1 Corinthians 15:33.**

“The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness.”—The Great Controversy, p. 269.

“When Lot entered Sodom he fully intended to keep himself free from iniquity and to command his household after him. But he signally failed. The corrupting influences about him had an effect upon his own faith, and his children's connection with the inhabitants of Sodom bound up his interest in a measure with theirs. The result is before us.

“Many are still making a similar mistake. In selecting a home they look more to the temporal advantages they may gain than to the moral and social influences that will surround themselves and their families. They choose a beautiful and fertile country, or remove to some flourishing city, in the hope of securing greater prosperity; but their children are surrounded by temptation, and too often they form associations that are unfavorable to the development of piety and the formation of a right character. The atmosphere of lax morality, of unbelief, of indifference to religious things, has a tendency to counteract the influence of the parents. Examples of rebellion against parental and divine authority are ever before the youth; many form attachments for infidels and unbelievers, and cast in their lot with the enemies of God.

“In choosing a home, God would have us consider, first of all, the moral and religious influences that will surround us and our families. We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; and whenever duty calls us, God will enable us to stand uncorrupted, if we watch and pray, trusting in the grace of Christ. But we should not needlessly expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character. When we voluntarily place ourselves in an atmosphere of worldliness and unbelief, we displease God and drive holy angels from our homes.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 168, 169.

**VERSES ON NEXT PAGE**

**Genesis 13:12-13:** *12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.*

**Genesis 19:30-38:** *30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: 32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. 33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. 34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. 35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. 36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. 37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. 38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.*

**1 Corinthians 15:33:** *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

Wednesday, July 12

#### 4. CHOOSING BETTER PRIORITIES

**b. Give various reasons why we must avoid the typical attitudes characteristic of today's culture. 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Isaiah 1:9.**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5:** *1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

**Isaiah 1:9:** *Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.*

Thursday, July 13

## 5. CHOOSING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

### a. What does God say about where His people can prosper? Isaiah 32:18, 19.

“My warning is: Keep out of the cities. Build no sanitariums in the cities. Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children. . . .

“Our restaurants must be in the cities; for otherwise the workers in these restaurants could not reach the people and teach them the principles of right living. And for the present we shall have to occupy meeting houses in the cities. But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities that those who wish to leave them will not be able.”—The General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903.

“Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation, where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh meat, which is so corrupting to the lifeblood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities.”—Medical Ministry, p. 310.

**Isaiah 32:18-19:** *18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; 19 When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place.*

Thursday, July 13

## 5. CHOOSING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

### b. Why must we heed the appeals for country living? Proverbs 15:31, 32.

“There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So it was in the days of Noah; so with Lot; so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 166.

**Proverbs 15:31-32:** *31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. 32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that\*heareth reproof getteth understanding.*

Friday, July 14

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. In facing those who scoff at Christ's return, what should we keep in mind?**
- 2. Why do all need to be aware of the history of Sodom and Gomorrah?**
- 3. What impact should the fate of these cities exert on the people of God?**
- 4. Am I in danger of repeating the mistake of Lot—and if so, how?**
- 5. What are the benefits of country living?**

## Lesson 4 - Sabbath July 22, 2017

# False Ideas at the Time of the End

**“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).**

“There are dangerous heresies that will be presented as Bible doctrines; and we are to become acquainted with the Bible so that we may know how to meet them. The faith of every individual will be tested.”—*Evangelism*, pp. 590, 591.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 210–212.

Sunday, July 16

## 1. VIGILANCE NEEDED

**a. What strategy does the enemy of souls use to entice many sincere souls who believe in Jesus' soon return? Matthew 24:11, 24.**

“Satan’s angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light and will proclaim it as new and wonderful; yet while in some respects the message may be truth, it will be mingled with human inventions and will teach for doctrine the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it.”—Evangelism, p. 590.

“The testimony of the Spirit of God is true. Change not your faith for any phase of doctrine, however pleasing it may appear, that will seduce the soul.

“The fallacies of Satan are now being multiplied, and those who swerve from the path of truth will lose their bearings. Having nothing to which to anchor, they will drift from one delusion to another, blown about by the winds of strange doctrines. Satan has come down with great power.”—Ibid., p. 362.

**Matthew 24:11:** *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

**Matthew 24:24:** *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Monday, July 17

## 2. DANGEROUS DELUSIONS

**a. Explain the clever trick used by God’s adversary as a deceptive ploy in Moses’ time—and repeated today. Exodus 7:10–13; 2 Timothy 3:5–9.**

“The magicians . . . showed signs and wonders; for they wrought not by their own skill alone, but by the power of their god, Satan, who assisted them in counterfeiting the work of Jehovah.

“The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to produce this appearance. It was beyond the power of Satan to change the rods to living serpents. The prince of evil, though possessing all the wisdom and might of an angel fallen, has not power to create, or to give life; this is the prerogative of God alone. But all that was in Satan’s power to do, he did; he produced a counterfeit. To human sight the rods were changed to serpents. Such they were believed to be by Pharaoh and his court.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 264.

**Exodus 7:10-13:** *10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods. 13 And he hardened Pharaoh’s heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.*

**2 Timothy 3:5-9:** *5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.*

Monday, July 17

## 2. DANGEROUS DELUSIONS

### **b. What deception is the enemy of souls soon to employ? Revelation 13:13.**

“Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not what they pretend to do.” — The Great Controversy, p. 553.

**Revelation 13:13:** *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,*

Monday, July 17

## 2. DANGEROUS DELUSIONS

**c. With what warning did Christ prophesy of the occult? Matthew 24:25, 26.**

“Have not thousands gone forth into the desert, hoping to find Christ? And from thousands of gatherings where men profess to hold communion with departed spirits is not the call now heard, ‘Behold, He is in the secret chambers’? This is the very claim that spiritism puts forth.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 631.

**Matthew 24:25-26:** *25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

Monday, July 17

## 2. DANGEROUS DELUSIONS

**d. As we see the prophecies against the enchanting wiles of spiritualism fulfilling throughout the world, what must we realize? Ephesians 6:11, 12.**

**Ephesians 6:11-12:** *11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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.*

Tuesday, July 18

### 3. REALISTIC MIRACLES AND GHOSTS

**a. As the end approaches, what special warnings are given to us to avoid trusting in signs and wonders, and why? Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24, 25.**

“As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

“We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness. . . .

“Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith in God’s word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.”—Maranatha, p. 208.

**Matthew 24:4-5:** *4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

**Matthew 24:11:** *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

**Matthew 24:24-25:** *24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before.*

Tuesday, July 18

### 3. REALISTIC MIRACLES AND GHOSTS

**b. Why do we need to be aware of one of Satan's favorite occult ploys? 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.**

“[Satan] has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear ‘to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils’ (1 Timothy 4:1).” — The Great Controversy, p. 552.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12:** *9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

**Ecclesiastes 9:5-6:** *5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. 6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.*

Wednesday, July 19

#### 4. AVOIDING A SMOOTH, EASY COUNTERFEIT

**a. How does the preaching of Noah relate to us as we teach present truth—including the light entrusted on health? Luke 17:26, 27; 1 Peter 2:11.**

“Noah preached to the people of his time that God would give them one hundred and twenty years in which to repent of their sins and find refuge in the ark; but they refused the gracious invitation. Abundant time was given them to turn from their sins, overcome their bad habits, and develop righteous characters; but inclination to sin, though weak at first with many, strengthened through repeated indulgence and hurried them on to irretrievable ruin.” —The Review and Herald, October 20, 1885.

**Luke 17:26-27:** *26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

**1 Peter 2:11:** *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

Wednesday, July 19

#### 4. AVOIDING A SMOOTH, EASY COUNTERFEIT

**b. Instead of giving us a smooth, easy path, why does God give us a character-building health message that requires self-denial? Matthew 7:13–15.**

“Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test.” — Maranatha, p. 209.

“The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way; for Satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God’s servants today could not work by means of miracles; because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine, will be wrought.

“For this reason the Lord has marked out a way in which His people are to carry forward a work of physical healing, combined with the teaching of the Word. Sanitariums are to be established, and with these institutions are to be connected workers who will carry forward genuine medical missionary work. Thus a guarding influence is thrown around those who come to the sanitariums for treatment.

“This is the provision the Lord has made whereby gospel medical missionary work is to be done for many souls. These institutions are to be established out of the cities, and in them educational work is to be intelligently carried forward.” — Medical Ministry, p. 14.

**Matthew 7:13-15:** *13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Thursday, July 20

## 5. SEEING SHOULD NOT BE BELIEVING

### a. Describe the ultimate delusion Satan will perform. 2 Corinthians 11:14.

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13–15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.” — Maranatha, p. 276.

**2 Corinthians 11:14:** *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

Thursday, July 20

## 5. SEEING SHOULD NOT BE BELIEVING

**b. In view of such peril, what must be our focus? 2 Corinthians 4:8–10, 18.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-10:** *8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

**2 Corinthians 4:18:** *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Friday, July 21

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why are present-truth Bible doctrines so important at the end of time?**
- 2. How can we explain the apparent miracle of Pharaoh's magicians?**
- 3. Name some of the archenemy's ploys especially aimed at God's remnant.**
- 4. As a general rule, why are we advised not to expect instant healings today?**
- 5. How are we to identify the impending counterfeit of Christ's soon return?**

## Lesson 5 - Sabbath July 29, 2017

# Jesus Really Is Coming Again!

**“I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).**

“One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ’s second coming to complete the great work of redemption.”—The Great Controversy, p. 299.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Early Writings, pp. 13–18, 285, 286.*

Sunday, July 23

## 1. BEHOLD, HE IS COMING!

### a. According to the Bible, what will Jesus' coming be like? Acts 1:11.

“The most precious fact to the disciples in the ascension of Jesus was that He went from them into heaven in the tangible form of their divine Teacher. The very same Jesus, who had walked, and talked, and prayed with them . . . had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. And the heavenly messengers had assured them that the very same Jesus whom they had seen go up into heaven, should come again in like manner as He had ascended. This assurance has ever been, and will be till the close of time, the hope and joy of all true lovers of Christ.” — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, p. 254.

*Acts 1:11: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

Sunday, July 23

## 1. BEHOLD, HE IS COMING!

**b. To whom will Jesus' appearing be visible? Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30.**

“Those who mocked and smote Him will be there. The priests and rulers will behold again the scene in the judgment hall. Every circumstance will appear before them, as if written in letters of fire. Then those who prayed, ‘His blood be on us, and on our children,’ will receive the answer to their prayer. Then the whole world will know and understand.” —The Desire of Ages, pp. 739, 740.

**Revelation 1:7:** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

**Matthew 24:30:** *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Monday, July 24

## 2. AN AMAZING HOPE

**a. What is the purpose of Jesus' coming, and how should our confidence in this awesome, unsurpassed event be affecting us? John 14:1–3.**

“Those who really love the Saviour cannot but hail with joy a message founded upon the word of God, the He in whom their hopes of eternal life are centered is coming again, not to be insulted, despised, and rejected, as at His first advent, but in power and glory, to redeem His people. The proclamation of Christ's coming should now be, as when made by the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem, good tidings of great joy. There can be no more conclusive evidence that the churches have departed from God than the irritation and animosity excited by this Heaven-sent message.

“It is those who do not love the Saviour that desire Him to remain away, and such eagerly receive the testimony borne by unfaithful servants, ‘My Lord delayeth his coming’ (Matthew 24:48). While they refuse to search the Scriptures to learn if these things are so, they grasp every fable which will put off the coming of Christ into the distant future, or make it spiritual, fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem, or taking place at death.”—The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, pp. 216, 217.

**John 14:1-3:** *1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Monday, July 24

## 2. AN AMAZING HOPE

**b. Describe the sweetness of this hope, and with what is it to be closely connected? Philippians 3:20, 21.**

“The truths of prophecy are bound up together, and as we study them, they form a beautiful cluster of practical Christian truth. All the discourses that we give are plainly to reveal that we are waiting, working, and praying for the coming of the Son of God. His coming is our hope. This hope is to be bound up with all our words and works, with all our associations and relationships.” — Evangelism, p. 220.

“Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, Your warfare is accomplished.” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 34.

**Philippians 3:20-21:** *20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

Tuesday, July 25

### 3. A GLORY BEYOND DESCRIPTION

#### a. What sign in the heavens will indicate Jesus' coming? Mark 13:26.

“Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer, and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over it.”—Spiritual Gifts, vol. 2, p. 32.

**Mark 13:26:** *And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.*

Tuesday, July 25

### 3. A GLORY BEYOND DESCRIPTION

**b. Explain the threefold glory at Christ's return—noticing where He will meet His redeemed ones. Will His feet touch the ground at His second coming? Luke 9:26 (last part); 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.**

“On [the cloud] sat the Son of man, on His head were crowns, His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders. His feet had the appearance of fire, in His right hand was a sharp sickle, in His left a silver trumpet. His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through. Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless? Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke, Those who have clean hands and a pure heart shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you. At this, our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sung again while the cloud drew still nearer the earth. Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven and cried, Awake! Awake! Awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise. Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, Hallelujah! as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. We all entered the cloud together.” —Ibid., pp. 32, 33.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:** *16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Tuesday, July 25

### 3. A GLORY BEYOND DESCRIPTION

**c. What is different about Christ's third coming after 1,000 years, in contrast to His second coming? Zechariah 14:4. (See also Early Writings, pp. 17, 18.)**

(This note was added in, as suggested in the question,  
and was not in printed lesson)

“With Jesus at our head we all descended from the city down to this earth, on a great and mighty mountain, which could not bear Jesus up, and it parted asunder, and there was a mighty plain. Then we looked up [p:18]and saw the great city, with twelve foundations, and twelve gates, three on each side, and an angel at each gate. We all cried out, “The city, the great city, it’s coming, it’s coming down from God out of heaven,” and it came and settled on the place where we stood. Then we began to look at the glorious things outside of the city. There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. In each was a golden shelf. I saw many of the saints go into the houses, take off their glittering crowns and lay them on the shelf, then go out into the field by the houses to do something with the earth; not as we have to do with the earth here; no, no. A glorious light shone all about their heads, and they were continually shouting and offering praises to God.” — Early Writings, pp. 17,18

**Zechariah 14:4:** *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

Wednesday, July 26

#### 4. WITH POWER AND AUTHORITY

**a. What will happen in nature at Jesus' second coming, and why? Revelation 6:14; Isaiah 24:1–6.**

“God would have His people clearly understand that they will be visited according to their obedience or transgression. Wickedness and disease have increased with every successive generation. The land has labored under the curse which man has brought upon it because of continued disobedience.” — Spiritual Gifts, vol. 4a, p. 123.

“The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 641, 642.

**Revelation 6:14:** *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*

**Isaiah 24:1-6:** *1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. 2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the\* priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. 3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. 4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*

Wednesday, July 26

#### **4. WITH POWER AND AUTHORITY**

**b. How does prophecy depict the divine judgments that are soon to fall upon the world at His coming? Isaiah 24:17–23.**

“The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying: ‘It is done’ (Revelation 16:17).

“That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great’ (Verse 18). The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of a hurricane like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters.” —Ibid., pp. 636, 637.

**VERSES ON NEXT PAGE**

**Isaiah 24:17-23:** *17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. 18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. 19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. 23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and\* before his ancients gloriously.*

Thursday, July 27

## 5. THE FULFILLMENT OF LONG-HELD HOPES

### a. Describe the joy of the holy angels with Jesus at His return. Jude 14.

“With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend [Jesus] on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms— ‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands’ (Revelation 5:11). No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor.” — The Great Controversy, p. 641.

**Jude 1:14:** *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

Thursday, July 27

## 5. THE FULFILLMENT OF LONG-HELD HOPES

**b. What task are the holy angels to perform (based on the investigative judgment which will already be over), and what will the earth's inhabitants ultimately realize? Matthew 13:41, 49; 25:32; Romans 7:12.**

“The trumpet of the Archangel will soon startle the living and wake the dead. At that day the wicked will be separated from the just, as the shepherd divides the goats from the sheep.” —Child Guidance, p. 561.

“Christ would have all understand the events of His second appearing. The judgment scene will take place in the presence of all the worlds; for in this judgment the government of God will be vindicated, and His law will stand forth as ‘holy, and just, and good’ (Romans 7:12). Then every case will be decided, and sentence will be passed upon all. Sin will not then appear attractive but will be seen in all its hideous magnitude. All will see the relation in which they stand to God and to one another.” —The Review and Herald, September 20, 1898.

**Matthew 13:41:** *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

**Matthew 13:49:** *So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,*

**Matthew 25:32:** *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

**Revelation 7:12:** *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

Friday, July 28

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Explain what groups of people will witness the second coming of Christ.**
- 2. Why is Jesus returning, and what should this event make us consider?**
- 3. Why should we know whether or not Christ's feet will touch the ground?**
- 4. How will the huge upheaval in creation relate to the moral law of God?**
- 5. With this joyful yet solemn hour ahead, what should we deeply consider?**

## Lesson 6 - Sabbath August 5, 2017

# With Great Power and Glory

**“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).**

“The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen [the people of God] look up steadfastly into heaven and see the glory of God and the Son of man seated upon His throne.” — *The Great Controversy*, p. 636.

**Suggested Reading:**      *The Great Controversy*, pp. 479–484; 641–645.

Sunday, July 30

## 1. INCREDIBLE WOE, WOE, WOE

**a. When Christ arrives, what reveals the fearful reaction to come upon those who have despised His offer of salvation? Revelation 6:15–17; Nahum 2:10.**

“Upon the rejecters of God’s mercy falls the terror of eternal despair.” — The Great Controversy, p. 641.

“When sinners are compelled to look upon Him who clothed His divinity with humanity, and who still wears this garb, their confusion is indescribable. The scales fall from their eyes, and they see that which before they would not see. They realize what they might have been had they received Christ, and improved the opportunities granted them. They see the law which they have spurned, exalted even as God’s throne is exalted. They see God Himself giving reverence to His law.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 106

**Revelation 6:15-17:** *15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

**Nahum 2:10:** *She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.*

Sunday, July 30

## 1. INCREDIBLE WOE, WOE, WOE

**b. What will actually happen to them, and why? 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; 2:8.**

“The light of the glory of God, which imparts life to the righteous, will slay the wicked.” — The Desires of Ages, p. 108.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10:** *7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire\* taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

**2 Thessalonians 2:8:** *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

Monday, July 31

## 2. THE SPECIAL RESURRECTION

**a. From among all who, throughout history, went to their graves trusting in God, which category of believers will have already been raised just before Christ's arrival? Revelation 14:12, 13; Daniel 12:1, 2.**

“Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, shaking the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.” — Early Writings, p. 285.

**Revelation 14:12-13:** *12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord\* from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

**Daniel 12:1-2:** *1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Monday, July 31

## 2. THE SPECIAL RESURRECTION

**b. Who from among the wicked will be resurrected just prior to Christ's return? Matthew 26:62–64; Revelation 1:7.**

“Those who derided [Christ's] claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic scepter, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life now turn from His piercing gaze and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse. With awful distinctness do priests and rulers recall the events of Calvary.” —The Great Controversy, p. 643.

**Matthew 26:62-64:** *62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

**Revelation 1:7:** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Monday, July 31

## 2. THE SPECIAL RESURRECTION

**c. How is this special resurrection distinct from the resurrections that take place at the voice of Jesus? John 5:28, 29. Compare with Daniel 12:2 (“many” versus “all”).**

**John 5:28-29:** *28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

**Daniel 12:2:** *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Tuesday, August 1

### 3. UNSPEAKABLE AWE

**a. What will be the initial response of all mortals—including God’s faithful few—as they first behold the arrival of the awesome Creator of the universe seated on His throne in majestic splendor? Jeremiah 30:6.**

“The righteous cry with trembling: ‘Who shall be able to stand?’ The angels’ song is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence.”—The Great Controversy, p. 641.

**Jeremiah 30:6:** *Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?*

Tuesday, August 1

### 3. UNSPEAKABLE AWE

**b. What heart-warming assurance promptly comforts those genuinely longing for their Lord's appearing? 2 Corinthians 12:9 (first part).**

“Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: ‘My grace is sufficient for you’ (2 Corinthians 12:9). The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart. And the angels strike a note higher and sing again as they draw still nearer to the earth.” —Ibid.

**2 Corinthians 12:9:** *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Tuesday, August 1

### 3. UNSPEAKABLE AWE

**c. What will Christ's followers say at the return of Him in whom their hopes have centered, and how should this motivate us now? Isaiah 25:9.**

“To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven; for they have heaven in their hearts.

“With uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteous-ness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom.” —Christ's Object Lessons, p. 421.

“Are we preparing to meet the Saviour in peace, or are we absorbed in worldly business and pleasure? Shall we not strive to be among the number who will welcome Christ?” —The Signs of the Times, April 17, 1901.

**Isaiah 25:9:** *And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

Wednesday, August 2

#### 4. HONOURABLE DISCHARGE FROM EARTH

a. Describe the amazing miracle to occur at the resurrection of the just. 1 Corinthians 15:51–55.

“The Son of God . . . looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: ‘Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!’ Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live.” — The Great Controversy, p. 644.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-55:** *51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

Wednesday, August 2

#### 4. HONOURABLE DISCHARGE FROM EARTH

**b. How does this relate to the investigative judgment that had accounted them worthy of eternity, and what should this make us pause to consider? 1 Peter 4:17–19; Luke 20:35 (first part), 36.**

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. . . .

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.”—Ibid., p. 483.

**1 Peter 4:17-19:** *17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*

**Luke 20:35-36:** *35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.*

Wednesday, August 2

#### **4. HONOURABLE DISCHARGE FROM EARTH**

**c. What happens to the righteous—both those who are alive when Jesus returns plus those who are resurrected at His voice? 1 Corinthians 15:49.**

“At the voice of God [the living righteous] were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.”—  
Ibid., p. 645.

**1 Corinthians 15:49:** *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

Thursday, August 3

## 5. THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTIONS

**a. Explain the timing of the general resurrection of the just, and describe the joy of it. Revelation 20:1–6 (compare again 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).**

“Until that triumphant hour, when the last trump shall sound and the vast army shall come forth to eternal victory, every sleeping saint will be kept in safety and will be guarded as a precious jewel, who is known to God by name. By the power of the Saviour that dwelt in them while living and because they were partakers of the divine nature, they are brought forth from the dead.” — The Faith I Live By, p. 185.

**Revelation 20:1-6:** *1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17:** *16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Thursday, August 3

## 5. THE FIRST AND SECOND RESURRECTIONS

**b. We studied how the wicked guilty of crucifying Christ are raised up at the special resurrection; but when do the rest of the wicked dead face their Maker before their final destruction, and why is this a sobering thought? 1 Corinthians 6:3 (first part); Revelation 20:4, 5, 12–15.**

“At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the redeemed and attended by a retinue of angels. As He descends in terrific majesty, He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. . . . What a contrast to those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.”—Ibid., p. 355.

“Day by day God is testing and proving His people. The inspired Word plainly declares that by our works we are deciding our eternal destiny.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 278.

**1 Corinthians 6:3:** *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

**Revelation 20:4-5:** *4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

**Revelation 20:12-15:** *12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Friday, August 4

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Who is instantly slain when Christ comes in the clouds, and why?**
- 2. For whom is the special resurrection, and what is its twofold purpose?**
- 3. Am I focusing on the Isaiah 25:9-moment, or am I hoping He will delay?**
- 4. Why must the investigative judgment occur before Jesus arrives?**
- 5. Why must the thousand years occur before the wicked face their doom?**

## Lesson 7 - Sabbath August 12, 2017

# Waiting and Watching

**“[Our Saviour Jesus Christ] gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14).**

“[Christ] showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 325.

**Suggested Reading:**      *Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 353–365.*

Sunday, August 6

## 1. CALLED FOR SERVICE

**a. What parable did Jesus present in connection with His return? Matthew 25:13–15.**

“The man traveling into a far country represents Christ, who, when speaking this parable, was soon to depart from this earth to heaven. The ‘bondservants’ (RV), or slaves, of the parable, represent the followers of Christ. . . .

“Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their fellow men.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 325, 326.

**Matthew 25:13-15:** *13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. 14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

Sunday, August 6

## 1. CALLED FOR SERVICE

**b. With what were the talents compared, and how are they significant? 1 Corinthians 12:7–11.**

“All gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual . . . are to be employed in Christ’s service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.” — Ibid., p. 328.

**Corinthians 12:7-11:** *7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

Monday, August 7

## 2. A RIGHT USE OF ENTRUSTED GOODS

**a. In view of the seriousness of our times, what should we learn from Christ's parable about the use of the talents entrusted to us? Matthew 25:16–18.**

“The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.” —Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 329, 330.

**Matthew 25:16-18:** *16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

Monday, August 7

## 2. A RIGHT USE OF ENTRUSTED GOODS

### b. What can be achieved by a right use of our gifts? Matthew 25:19, 20, 22.

“[The Lord] does not supernaturally endow us with the qualifications we lack; but while we use that which we have, He will work with us to increase and strengthen every faculty. By every wholehearted, earnest sacrifice for the Master’s service our powers will increase. While we yield ourselves as instruments for the Holy Spirit’s working, the grace of God works in us to deny old inclinations, to overcome powerful propensities, and to form new habits. As we cherish and obey the promptings of the Spirit, our hearts are enlarged to receive more and more of His power, and to do more and better work. Dormant energies are aroused, and palsied faculties receive new life. . . .

“Through faith in the power of God, it is wonderful how strong a weak man may become, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results. He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself.” — Ibid., pp. 353, 354.

**Matthew 25:19-20:** *19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*

**Matthew 25:22:** *He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*

Tuesday, August 8

### 3. GRATEFUL OR GRUMBLING?

**a. How was the unfaithful servant reproached for having misused his talent, and why is such an attitude a warning for us? Matthew 25:24–28.**

“There are many who in their hearts charge God with being a hard master because He claims their possessions and their service. But we can bring to God nothing that is not already His. . . . All things are God’s, not only by creation, but by redemption. All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard master, reaping where He has not sown, is false.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 362.

**Matthew 25:24-28:** *24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.*

Tuesday, August 8

### 3. GRATEFUL OR GRUMBLING?

**b. How does Inspiration depict our tendency to complain and make excuses for ourselves, and why should we heed the Master's earnest desire for every one of us before His return? Proverbs 30:15, 16; Isaiah 29:24.**

“Fretting, faultfinding, and making strong statements must be given up. What time have you set to gain the victory over your perverse will and the defects in your character? With the advancement you now make, your probation may close before you have made the determined efforts essential to give you the victory over self. You will, in the providence of God, be placed in positions where your peculiarities, if existing, will be tried and revealed.” — Testimonies, vol. 4, pp. 341, 342.

“Many decide to serve themselves and Satan by not making determined efforts to overcome their defects of character. While many are petting sinful propensities, expecting to be overcomers sometime, they are deciding for perdition. . . . In the name of Jesus Christ you may be victorious even now ‘in this thy day’ (Luke 19:42). Do not plan and study for self. You cannot be wholly the Lord’s while encouraging any degree of selfishness. Such great love as the Redeemer has shown you should be received with great humility and continual rejoicing. In order to be happy, you must control your thoughts and words. It will require a masterly effort on your part; nevertheless it must be done if you are to be the acknowledged children of God. Be not weary in your efforts. Satan is battling for your souls, and he must be disappointed.” — Ibid., p. 344.

**Proverbs 30:15-16:** *15 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not,\* It is enough: 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.*

**Isaiah 29:24:** *They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.*

Wednesday, August 9

#### 4. UNMASK THE DECEPTION AND FLEE FROM IT!

**a. How does the Son of God's example refute the false accusations of the archenemy of our souls? Genesis 3:4, 5; Philippians 2:5–8.**

“Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.”—Steps to Christ, p. 11.

“Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 24.

“Could our eyes be opened, we should see forms of evil angels around us, trying to invent some new way to annoy and destroy us. And we should also see angels of God guarding us from their power; for God's watchful eye is ever over Israel for good, and He will protect and save His people, if they put their trust in Him. . . .

“Said the angel, ‘Remember, thou art on the enchanted ground.’ I saw that we must watch and have on the whole armor and take the shield of faith, and then we shall be able to stand, and the fiery darts of the wicked cannot harm us.”—Early Writings, p. 60.

**Genesis 3:4-5:** *4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

**Philippians 2:5-8:** *5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Wednesday, August 9

#### 4. UNMASK THE DECEPTION AND FLEE FROM IT!

**b. What reveals God’s eager willingness to help us overcome our defects and slothfulness? Psalms 20:1, 2, 7–9; 94:17, 18.**

“Every impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God is noted in the books of heaven.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 361.

“The Lord desires His people to reach the highest round of the ladder that they may glorify Him by possessing the ability He is willing to bestow. Through the grace of God every provision has been made for us to reveal that we act upon better plans than those upon which the world acts. . . .

“Those who have not a large endowment of gifts need not become discouraged. Let them use what they have, faithfully guarding every weak point in their characters, seeking by divine grace to make it strong.”—Ibid., p. 358.

**Psalms 20:1-2:** *1 The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; 2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;*

**Psalms 20:7-9:** *7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. 8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright. 9 Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.*

**Psalms 94:17-18:** *17 Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18 When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.*

Thursday, August 10

## 5. VICTORIOUS LABOURERS WITH GOD

**a. As we prepare for our Lord's return in full surrender to His service, what is our main interest, and His? Titus 2:13, 14; Luke 17:10; Psalm 145:10–12.**

“When the Lord takes account of His servants, the return from every talent will be scrutinized. The work done reveals the character of the worker.

“Those who have received the five and the two talents return to the Lord the entrusted gifts with their increase. In doing this they claim no merit for themselves. Their talents are those that have been delivered to them; they have gained other talents, but there could have been no gain without the deposit. They see that they have done only their duty. The capital was the Lord's; the improvement is His. Had not the Saviour bestowed upon them His love and grace, they would have been bankrupt for eternity.

“But when the Master receives the talents, He approves and rewards the workers as though the merit were all their own. His countenance is full of joy and satisfaction. He is filled with delight that He can bestow blessings upon them. For every service and every sacrifice He requites them, not because it is a debt He owes, but because His heart is overflowing with love and tenderness.”—Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 360, 361.

“Our heavenly Father requires no more nor less than He has given us ability to do. He lays upon His servants no burdens that they are not able to bear. ‘He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust’ (Psalm 103:14). All that He claims from us we through divine grace can render.”—Ibid., p. 362.

**Titus 2:13-14:** *13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

**Luke 17:10:** *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

**VERSES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**Psalms 145:10-12:** *10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. 11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; 12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.*

Friday, August 11

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is often misunderstood about God's purpose in giving talents?**
- 2. Although you may be weak and faulty, what is God's plan for helping you?**
- 3. Compare the servant with one talent to typical human behavior of today.**
- 4. How can we bypass the enemy's strategy to try to block our sanctification?**
- 5. Explain how we can gain the victory to become real, active agents for God.**

## Lesson 8 - Sabbath August 19, 2017

# A Personal Relationship With Jesus

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

“When we turn toward the Sun of Righteousness, when we come in touch with Christ, the whole soul is aglow with the brightness of the divine presence.”—  
Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 40.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Ministry of Healing, pp. 81–85;*  
                                  *Selected Messages, bk1, pp. 40–48.*

Sunday, August 13

## 1. LIGHT SHINES AMID THE DARKNESS

**a. How does Scripture depict our hopeless state? Job 14:4; Romans 3:23; 8:7.**

“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them.” — Steps to Christ, p. 18.

“Many are unhappy because they are unholy. Purity of heart, innocence of mind, only can be blessed of God. When sin is cherished, it can in the end produce nothing but unhappiness.” — Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 53.

**Job 14:4:** *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*

**Romans 3:23:** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Romans 8:7:** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

Sunday, August 13

## 1. LIGHT SHINES AMID THE DARKNESS

**b. In His great love and mercy, what has God revealed to us in the last days, and how is it to affect our life in a practical way? Romans 3:24–26; 8:1–4.**

“Our Lord and Saviour laid aside His dominion, His riches and glory, and sought after us, that He might save us from misery and make us like Himself. He humbled Himself and took our nature that we might be able to learn of Him and, imitating His life of benevolence and self-denial, follow Him step by step to heaven.”—Ibid., vol. 2, p. 170.

**Romans 3:24-26:** *24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

**Romans 8:1-4:** *1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Monday, August 14

## 2. GOD'S LOVE FOR US

### a. Explain the completeness of the plan of salvation. 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:19–21.

“Christ gave Himself, an atoning sacrifice, for the saving of a lost world. He was treated as we deserve, in order that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. ‘With His stripes we are healed’ (Isaiah 53:5).

“Christ was tempted in all points like as we are, by the one who once stood in loyalty by His side in the heavenly courts. Behold the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation, in the time of greatest weakness assailed by the fiercest temptation. See Him during the years of His ministry, attacked on every side by the forces of evil. See Him in His agony on the cross. All this He suffered for us.” — Testimonies, vol. 8, pp. 208, 209.

**1 Corinthians 1:30:** *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

**2 Corinthians 5:19-21:** *19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Monday, August 14

## 2. GOD'S LOVE FOR US

**b. Who can experience the blessings of God's love? Matthew 11:28; John 6:37.**

“Coming to Christ does not require severe mental effort and agony; it is simply accepting the terms of salvation that God has made plain in His Word. The blessing is free to all. . . .

“In the name that is above every name, the only name given among men whereby men can be saved, claim the promise of God, saying, ‘Lord, forgive my sin; I put my hands into Thy hand for help, and I must have it, or perish. I now believe.’ ” — Selected Messages, bk1, pp. 333, 334.

“A deep sense of our need and a great desire for the things for which we ask must characterize our prayers, else they will not be heard. But we are not to become weary and cease our petitions because the answer is not immediately received. ‘The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force’ (Matthew 11:12). The violence here meant is a holy earnestness, such as Jacob manifested. We need not try to work ourselves up into an intense feeling, but calmly, persistently, we are to press our petitions at the throne of grace.” — That I May Know Him, p. 272.

**Matthew 11:28:** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

**John 6:37:** *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

Tuesday, August 15

### 3. A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**a. What new attitude and behavior become apparent as we trust in Jesus? 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:6; Philippians 2:12, 13.**

“The faith which avails to bring us in vital contact with Christ expresses on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire consecration. This faith works by love and purifies the soul. It works in the life of the follower of Christ true obedience to God’s commandments; for love to God and love to man will be the result of vital connection with Christ.” —Selected Messages, bk1, p. 334.

“Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and imbue souls with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself with love for those for whom He died. . . . When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is supplied, a new motive power is given, and he loves the things that God loves. . . .

“But those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin will be disappointed. We have no reason to fear while looking to Jesus, no reason to doubt but that He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him; but we may constantly fear lest our old nature will again obtain the supremacy, that the enemy shall devise some snare whereby we shall again become his captives.” —Ibid., pp. 336, 337.

**Corinthians 5:17:** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

**Galatians 5:6:** *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

**Philippians 2:12-13:** *12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Tuesday, August 15

### 3. A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**b. What deep desire is to continually fill the heart of every believer, and how is this to affect us on a consistent basis? John 15:4, 5, 10; Romans 6:6, 10, 11.**

“Union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained. . . . This is no casual touch, no off-and-on connection. . . .

“Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 676.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.”—Steps to Christ, p. 48.

**John 15:4-5:** *4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

**John 15:10:** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

**Romans 6:6:** *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

**Romans 6:10-11:** *10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Wednesday, August 16

#### 4. GROWTH IN GRACE

**a. When the heart is surrendered to Christ with prayer for His enlightenment, what change occurs in the character? Galatians 5:22, 23; Psalm 119:18.**

“By beholding we are to become changed; and as we meditate upon the perfections of the divine Model, we shall desire to become wholly transformed and renewed in the image of His purity. It is by faith in the Son of God that transformation takes place in the character, and the child of wrath becomes the child of God. He passes from death unto life; he becomes spiritual and discerns spiritual things. The wisdom of God enlightens his mind, and he beholds wondrous things out of His law. As a man is converted by the truth, the work of transformation of character goes on. He has an increased measure of understanding. In becoming a man of obedience to God, he has the mind of Christ, and the will of God becomes his will.” —Selected Messages, bk1, p. 338.

**Galatians 5:22-23:** *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

**Psalms 119:18:** *Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*

Wednesday, August 16

#### 4. GROWTH IN GRACE

##### **b. Why is open-hearted study and meditation on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy an important key in this process? Psalm 119:24–27.**

“It is not alone those who openly reject the Testimonies, or who cherish doubt concerning them, that are on dangerous ground. To disregard light is to reject it.” — Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 680.

“Says the psalmist, ‘Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path’ (Psalm 119:105). But this is not the case when it is left unopened and unread.” — The Review and Herald, January 4, 1881.

“By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith, we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to the soul as a Comforter. By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature. Love takes the place of hatred, and the heart receives the divine similitude. This is what it means to live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’ (Matthew 4:4). This is eating the Bread that comes down from heaven.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 391.

**Psalms 119:24-27:** *24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and \* my counsellors. 25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. 26 I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes. 27 Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.*

Thursday, August 17

## 5. REFLECTING THE LIGHT

### a. What is the most pressing need of this dark world? Matthew 5:14–16.

“It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour’s love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 419.

**Matthew 5:14-16:** *14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Thursday, August 17

## 5. REFLECTING THE LIGHT

**b. What is to be the focus of our life, and what results will be achieved through this? Galatians 2:20; Isaiah 60:1–3.**

“ ‘Abiding in Christ is choosing only the disposition of Christ, so that His interests are identified with yours. Abide in Him, to be and to do only what He wills. These are the conditions of discipleship, and unless they are complied with, you can never find rest.’ ” —Selected Messages, bk1, p. 110.

“Through the Holy Spirit, God’s word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory — His character — is to shine forth in His followers.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 414.

**Galatians 2:20:** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Isaiah 60:1-3:** *1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

Friday, August 18

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Explain the predicament of the human race, and what can be done about it.**
- 2. Why is a casual connection with Christ insufficient?**
- 3. What would you tell a person who is disappointed with the gospel?**
- 4. What role do the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy have in our sanctification?**
- 5. Explain how your influence can become a source of refreshment to others.**

## Lesson 9 - Sabbath August 26, 2017

# Getting Ready

**“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).**

“Do we, by our lives and holy conversation, show to those around us that we are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?” —Early Writings, p. 111.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 217–228, 743–746.*

Sunday, August 20

## 1. AVOIDING A COMMON SNARE

**a. What dangerous lie is increasingly taught in the professedly religious world today, and how does Scripture refute it? James 2:14, 20–22, 24.**

“From the pulpits of today the words are uttered: ‘Believe, only believe. Have faith in Christ; you have nothing to do with the old law, only trust in Christ.’ How different is this from the words of the apostle who declares that faith without works is dead.” —Faith and Works, p. 89.

“The desire for an easy religion that requires no striving, no self-denial, no divorce from the follies of the world, has made the doctrine of faith, and faith only, a popular doctrine; but what saith the word of God? . . . [James 2:14, 21, 22, 24 quoted.]

“The testimony of the word of God is against this ensnaring doctrine of faith without works. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions upon which mercy is to be granted; it is presumption; for genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

“Let none deceive themselves with the belief that they can become holy while willfully violating one of God’s requirements. The commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit and separates the soul from God. ‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’ And ‘whosoever sinneth [transgresseth the law] hath not seen Him, neither known Him’ (1 John 3:4, 6).” —The Great Controversy, p. 472.

**James 2:14:** *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

**James 2:20-22:** *20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

**James 2:24:** *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

Monday, August 21

## 2. TRULY ACCEPTING THE PLAN OF SALVATION

### a. What are the first steps toward real salvation? Acts 2:37, 38; Romans 5:1.

“As we behold the Lamb of God upon the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begins to unfold to our minds and the goodness of God leads us to repentance. In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul.” —Steps to Christ, pp. 26, 27.

“Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.” —Ibid., p. 23.

**Acts 2:37-38:** *37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

**Romans 5:1:** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Monday, August 21

## 2. TRULY ACCEPTING THE PLAN OF SALVATION

**b. For Christ's followers, what important truth is of supreme importance?  
Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13–16.**

“Holiness is agreement with God.”—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 743.

“When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to ‘go unto perfection;’ to grow up ‘unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.’ ”—The Great Controversy, p. 470.

“Through the merits of Christ, through His righteousness, which by faith is imputed unto us, we are to attain to the perfection of Christian character. Our daily and hourly work is set forth in the words of the apostle: ‘Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith’ (Hebrews 12:2). . . .

“The manifestation of God’s love, His mercy and His goodness, and the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart to enlighten and renew it, place us, through faith, in so close connection with Christ that, having a clear conception of His character, we are able to discern the masterly deceptions of Satan. . . .

“Brethren and sisters, it is by beholding that we become changed. By dwelling upon the love of God and our Saviour, by contemplating the perfection of the divine character and claiming the righteousness of Christ as ours by faith, we are to be transformed into the same image.”—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 744.

**Hebrews 12:14:** *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

**1 Peter 1:13-16:** *13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Tuesday, August 22

### 3. AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL

**a. What is God's plan for us in our preparation to meet our Lord in peace?**

**Matthew 5:48; Psalm 101:2.**

“While Christ is cleansing the sanctuary, the worshipers on earth should carefully review their life, and compare their character with the standard of righteousness. As they see their defects, they should seek the aid of the Spirit of God to enable them to have moral strength to resist the temptations of Satan, and to reach the perfection of the standard. They may be victors over the very temptations which seemed too strong for humanity to bear; for the divine power will be combined with their human effort.”—Reflecting Christ, p. 296.

“Besetting sins must be battled with and overcome. Objectionable traits of character, whether hereditary or cultivated, should be taken up separately and compared with the great rule of righteousness; and in the light reflected from the word of God, they should be firmly resisted and overcome, through the strength of Christ.”—Christian Education, p. 113.

**Matthew 5:48:** *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

**Psalm 101:2:** *I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.*

Tuesday, August 22

### 3. AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL

**b. Why should we strive for perfection by walking in the light of God's revealed will? 1 Corinthians 9:24, 25; Philippians 3:12–14.**

“To walk in the light means to resolve, to exercise thought, to exert will power, in an earnest endeavor to represent Christ in sweetness of character. It means to put away all gloom. You are not to rest satisfied simply in saying, ‘I am a child of God.’ Are you beholding Jesus, and, by beholding, becoming changed into His likeness? To walk in the light means advancement and progress in spiritual attainments.”—Sons and Daughters of God, p. 200.

“Whatever the mistakes or failures of the past, we may, with the help of God, rise above them.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 516.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-25:** *24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

**Philippians 3:12-14:** *12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Tuesday, August 22

### 3. AN ACHIEVABLE GOAL

**c. What is promised to those who yearn for genuine moral righteousness?  
Ephesians 3:16; Matthew 5:6.**

**Ephesians 3:16:** *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

**Matthew 5:6:** *lessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Wednesday, August 23

#### **4. SERIOUS STRENGTH FOR OUR URGENT NEED**

##### **a. How only can we be equipped to stand in the final conflict? Jeremiah 15:16**

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 593, 594.

**Jeremiah 15:16:** *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.*

Wednesday, August 23

#### 4. SERIOUS STRENGTH FOR OUR URGENT NEED

**b. How can we benefit by increased dedication in our devotional habits to better know God's will? 1 John 5:14; Psalm 119:129–131.**

“The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.

“Let each put the question to his own heart: ‘How have we fallen into this state of spiritual feebleness and dissension? Have we not brought upon ourselves the frown of God because our actions do not correspond with our faith?’ ” — Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 217.

“Beware how you neglect secret prayer and a study of God's word. These are your weapons against him who is striving to hinder your progress heavenward. The first neglect of prayer and Bible study makes easier the second neglect.” — Messages to Young People, p. 96.

**1 John 5:14:** *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

**Psalms 119:129-131:** *129 Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. 130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. 131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.*

Wednesday, August 23

#### 4. SERIOUS STRENGTH FOR OUR URGENT NEED

**c. Why is it crucial to render wholehearted, 100 percent obedience to God's will as plainly revealed in written form by Inspiration? James 1:21–25.**

“Satan leads many to believe that God will overlook their unfaithfulness in the minor affairs of life; but the Lord shows in His dealings . . . that He will in no wise sanction or tolerate evil. All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan.”—The Great Controversy, p. 620.

“God works mightily for a faithful people who obey His word without questioning or doubt.”—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 164.

**James 1:21-25:** *21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

Thursday, August 24

## 5. SUBMITTING TO PURIFICATION

### a. Explain the sanctification process. 1 John 3:1–3; Hebrews 5:12–14; 6:1.

“Obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ’s righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience. The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. . . .

“Day by day God labors for man’s sanctification, and man is to cooperate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. . . . Our Saviour is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to His faithful ones. Gladly He grants them the blessings they need in their struggle against the evils that beset them.”—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 532.

**1 John 3:1-3:** *1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

**Hebrews 5:12-14:** *12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**Hebrews 6:1:** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

Thursday, August 24

## 5. SUBMITTING TO PURIFICATION

**b. Why is it crucial that we do not stubbornly resist this process? Ephesians 4:30.**

“The first resistance to the Spirit’s pleading prepares the way for the second resistance. Thus the heart is hardened, and the conscience seared.

“On the other hand, every resistance of temptation makes resistance more easy. Every denial of self makes self-denial easier. Every victory gained prepares the way for a fresh victory. Each resistance of temptation, each self-denial, each triumph over sin, is a seed sown unto eternal life.” —Messages to Young People, pp. 96, 97.

**Ephesians 4:30:** *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption*

Friday, August 25

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What false idea leads many professed Christians into presumption?**
- 2. How can I discern whether my level of repentance has been too shallow?**
- 3. How can I be sure that God is really willing to help me overcome my faults?**
- 4. How much time do I spend with the Testimonies compared to other books?**
- 5. Explain the method by which God motivates us to sow seeds for eternal life.**



Sunday, August 27

## 1. COWORKERS WITH THE LORD OF LORDS

**a. On what basis is every Christian believer—whether male, female, married, single, rich, poor, and of any age or ethnic background whatsoever—officially authorized and commanded to witness for their Lord and Master Jesus Christ? John 15:16; Galatians 3:27, 28.**

“ ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature’ (Mark 16:15), is Christ’s command to His followers. Not that all are called to be ministers or missionaries in the ordinary sense of the term; but all may be workers with Him in giving the ‘glad tidings’ to their fellow men. To all, great or small, learned or ignorant, old or young, the command is given.”—Education, p. 264.

“When I think of the cities in which so little work has been done, in which there are so many thousands to be warned of the soon coming of the Saviour, I feel an intensity of desire to see men and women going forth to the work in the power of the Spirit filled with Christ’s love for perishing souls.”—Evangelism, p. 69.

**John 15:16:** *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

**Galatians 3:27-28:** *27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Sunday, August 27

## 1. COWORKERS WITH THE LORD OF LORDS

**b. What group is definitely included also in having a special part in the closing work of the gospel? 1 John 2:14 (second half).**

**1 John 2:14:** *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

Monday, August 28

## 2. DEDICATION TO THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

**a. What special significance does the “everlasting gospel” have in our time? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Revelation 14:6, 7.**

“The proclamation of the judgment is an announcement of Christ’s second coming as at hand. And this proclamation is called the everlasting gospel. Thus the preaching of Christ’s second coming, the announcement of its nearness, is shown to be an essential part of the gospel message.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 227, 228.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14:** *13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

**Revelation 14:6-7:** *6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

Monday, August 28

## 2. DEDICATION TO THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

**b. Name one factor that is closely connected with the Advent message—and actually helps us to understand it better. Romans 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.**

“The health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. It is as closely connected with the third angel’s message as the hand is with the body.”—Counsels on Health, pp. 20, 21.

“The gospel and the medical missionary work are to advance together. The gospel is to be bound up with the principles of true health reform. . . . We are to present the principles of health reform before the people, doing all in our power to lead men and women to see the necessity of these principles and to practice them.”—Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 442.

**Romans 12:1:** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:23:** *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Monday, August 28

## 2. DEDICATION TO THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

c. What impels believers to spread the wonderful message of salvation? 2  
Corinthians 5:14, 15.

“Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father’s care. . . .

“No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart.” — Steps to Christ, pp. 77, 78.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15:** *14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

Tuesday, August 29

### 3. EMPTIED TO BE FILLED

**a. What admonition carries a distinctive force for us who are living in the last days? 1 Thessalonians 5:1, 2, 6–8.**

“Let us not be found sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works, ‘My Lord delayeth his coming.’ Let the message of Christ’s soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation; for we little know what is before us. Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields.” — Maranatha, p. 106.

“Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. But we can never come into possession of this spirit by trying to love others. What is needed is the love of Christ in the heart. When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously. The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within.” — Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 384.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2:** *1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:6-8:** *6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

Tuesday, August 29

### 3. EMPTIED TO BE FILLED

**b. What should you do if you honestly don't feel as enthusiastic about this message as you know you should? 1 John 4:20, 21; Revelation 2:2–5; 3:18, 19.**

“We need the message to the Laodicean church. You have left your first love, and there is hardness and coldness and want of sympathy—except for the favorite few. That will never answer in the world. We are to seek and save that which is lost.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, p. 61.

“Return to your first experience, when your soul was filled with love for Christ. Gather to your heart the obedience of a faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Obedience to the law of the Lord makes men pure, holy, undefiled. . . .

“O that there might be seen among our people a deep and thorough work of repentance and reformation! O that they would fall on the Rock and be broken!”—The Review and Herald, February 24, 1903.

“There is hope for all who will hear the truth and repent of their evil works.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 11, p. 216.

**1 John 4:20-21:** *20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

**Revelation 2:2-5:** *2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

**Revelation 3:18-19:** *18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

Wednesday, August 30

## 4. GOD'S GLORY MANIFESTED

### a. What is the call of the hour, and how shall we respond to it? Isaiah 56:1–8.

“[The Lord] is now calling upon His church on the earth to awake from the lethargy that Satan has sought to bring upon them, and fulfill their heaven-appointed work of enlightening the world. . . .

“The world today is in crying need of a revelation of Christ Jesus in the person of His saints. God desires that His people shall stand before the world a holy people. Why?—because there is a world to be saved by the light of gospel truth; and as the message of truth that is to call men out of darkness into God’s marvelous light is given by the church, the lives of its members, sanctified by the Spirit of truth, are to bear witness to the verity of the messages proclaimed.” —The Review and Herald, March 31, 1910.

**Isaiah 56:1-8:** *1 Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye\* judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. 2 Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. 3 Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. 4 For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; 5 Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. 6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; 7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. 8 The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.*

Wednesday, August 30

#### 4. GOD'S GLORY MANIFESTED

##### **b. Describe Christ's methods in working to save souls. Luke 14:23; John 4:27.**

“The Lord desires that His word of grace shall be brought home to every soul. “To a great degree this must be accomplished by personal labor. This was Christ’s method. His work was largely made up of personal interviews. He had a faith regard for the one-soul audience. Through that one soul the message was often extended to thousands.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 229.

**Luke 14:23:** *And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

**John 4:27:** *And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?*

Wednesday, August 30

#### 4. GOD'S GLORY MANIFESTED

##### c. What spirit is needed in laboring for God? Acts 10:38; 2 Corinthians 12:15.

“Study Christ’s definition of a true missionary: ‘Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me’ (Mark 8:34).

Following Christ, as spoken of in these words, is not a pretense, a farce. Jesus expects His disciples to follow closely in His footsteps, enduring what He endured, suffering what He suffered, overcoming as He overcame. He is anxiously waiting to see His professed followers revealing the spirit of self-sacrifice.” — Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 209.

*Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

*2 Corinthians 12:15: And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.*

Thursday, August 31

## 5. A TREMENDOUS PRIVILEGE

**a. How can each one of us cooperate in soul-saving, and what should be our most fervent desire and prayer? Romans 10:13–17; Luke 11:13.**

“We need greater earnestness in the cause of Christ. The solemn message of truth should be given with an intensity that would impress unbelievers that God is working with our efforts, that the Most High is our living source of strength.” — Evangelism, p. 697.

“Some minds are led away from present truth and a love of the Holy Bible by reading other exciting books; others are filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink, and wear. Some are looking too far off for the coming of the Lord. Time has continued a few years longer than they expected; therefore they think it may continue a few years more, and in this way their minds are being led from present truth, out after the world. In these things I saw great danger; for if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God. I saw that the time for Jesus to be in the most holy place was nearly finished and that time can last but a very little longer. What leisure time we have should be spent in searching the Bible, which is to judge us in the last day.

“My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over.” — Early Writings, p. 58.

**VERSES ON NEXT PAGE**

**Romans 10:13-17:** *13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**Luke 11:13:** *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Friday, September 1

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why is no one excused from sharing the present truth with others?**
- 2. What are we to understand by “everlasting gospel”?**
- 3. Why is the Laodicean message needed when proselytizing is out of fashion?**
- 4. What has been causing the world to doubt the truthfulness of our message?**
- 5. What thoughts can I cut out of my mind to make more space for the truth?**

Lesson 11 - Sabbath September 9, 2017

# The Wisdom of God's Timing

**“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).**

“It is true that time has continued longer than we expected in the early days of this message. Our Saviour did not appear as soon as we hoped. But has the Word of the Lord failed? Never! It should be remembered that the promises and the threatenings of God are alike conditional.” — Evangelism, p. 695.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Selected Messages, bk1, pp. 185–192.*  
                                  *Early Writings, pp. 56–58, 69–73, 111–114.*

Sunday, September 3

## 1. GOD'S COMPASSION

### a. Explain God's goal for every human He has created. 1 Timothy 2:3–6.

“God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is past, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth and He will destroy without remedy.” —The Youth's Instructor, March 28, 1905.

**1 Timothy 2:3-6:** *3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Sunday, September 3

## 1. GOD'S COMPASSION

**b. Why couldn't the Lord permit the people of Israel to take direct possession of the promised land? Hebrews 3:7–11.**

“God did not design that His people, Israel, should wander forty years in the wilderness. He promised to lead them directly to the land of Canaan and establish them there a holy, healthy, happy people. But those to whom it was first preached went not in ‘because of unbelief’ (Hebrews 3:19).” —Evangelism, p. 696.

**Hebrews 3:7-11:** *7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*

Monday, September 4

## 2. REASONS FOR THE APPARENT DELAY

### a. As believers, what danger do we face today? Hebrews 3:12, 13.

“For forty years did unbelief, murmuring, and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.” —Evangelism, p. 696.

**Hebrews 3:12-13:** *12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

Monday, September 4

## 2. REASONS FOR THE APPARENT DELAY

### b. Why does it seem that the Lord is delaying His coming? 2 Peter 3:9.

“The long night of gloom is trying, but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready. God’s unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason of so long delay.” —Ibid., p. 694.

“In mercy to the world, Jesus delays His coming, that sinners may have an opportunity to hear the warning and find in Him a shelter before the wrath of God shall be poured out.” —The Great Controversy, p. 458.

**2 Peter 3:9:** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Monday, September 4

## 2. REASONS FOR THE APPARENT DELAY

**c. Who is in a position to relieve much of the spiritual gloom that envelops our planet? 2 Peter 3:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 15:34.**

“The Lord in compassion is seeking to enlighten the understanding of those who are now groping in the darkness of error. He is delaying His judgments upon an impenitent world, in order that His light bearers may seek and save that which is lost.”—The Review and Herald, March 31, 1910.

**2 Peter 3:11-12:** *11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

**1 Corinthians 15:34:** *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

Monday, September 4

## 2. REASONS FOR THE APPARENT DELAY

### d. How can we hasten Jesus' coming? 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 24:14.

“By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 633.

**2 Corinthians 5:20:** *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

**Matthew 24:14:** *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

Tuesday, September 5

### 3. EXTRA POWER TO SPEED THINGS ALONG

a. How will the sharing of the gospel reach its climax in the last days?

**Zechariah 10:1; Joel 2:23.**

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close.”—The Great Controversy, pp. 611. 612.

**Zechariah 10:1:** *Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.*

**Joel 2:23:** *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

Tuesday, September 5

### 3. EXTRA POWER TO SPEED THINGS ALONG

**b. What is needed to be entrusted with the latter rain—the outpouring of God’s Spirit without measure? Joel 2:17, 18; Acts 3:19, 20.**

“I saw that none could share the ‘refreshing’ unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.” —Early Writings, p. 71.

“The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now.” —Testimonies to Ministers, p. 507.

“For the baptism of the Spirit every worker should be pleading with God. Companies should be gathered together to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should men pray that God will baptize His missionaries with the Holy Spirit.

“The presence of the Spirit with God’s workers will give the presentation of the truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give. The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency, amidst the unfriendliness of relatives, the hatred of the world, and the realization of their own imperfections and mistakes.” —Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 22.

**Joel 2:17-18:** *17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? 18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.*

**VERSES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**Acts 3:19-20:** *19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*  
*20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:*

Wednesday, September 6

#### 4. THE OMNISCIENT KNOWS BEST

**a. Even as we advance in the knowledge of God, what information does He still reserve the right to withhold from us, and why? Acts 1:6, 7.**

“God has not revealed to us the time when this message will close, or when probation will have an end. . . . Let us not seek to know that which has been kept secret in the councils of the Almighty.”—Selected Messages, bk1, p. 191.

“There will never again be a message for the people of God that will be based on time. We are not to know the definite time either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ. . . .

“ ‘The Lord showed me that the message must go, and that it must not be hung on time; for time will never be a test again. I saw that some were getting a false excitement, arising from preaching time, that the third angel’s message can stand on its own foundation, and that it needs not time to strengthen it, and that it will go with mighty power, and do its work, and will be cut short in righteousness.’ ”—Ibid., p. 188.

*Acts 1:6-7: 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

Wednesday, September 6

#### 4. THE OMNISCIENT KNOWS BEST

**b. Why should we be satisfied with God's wisdom in this matter?**

**Deuteronomy 29:29.**

“The preaching of a definite time for the Judgment, in the giving of the first message, was ordered of God. The computation of the prophetic periods on which that message was based, placing the close of the 2300 days in the autumn of 1844, stands without impeachment. The repeated efforts to find new dates for the beginning and close of the prophetic periods, and the unsound reasoning necessary to sustain these positions, not only lead minds away from the present truth, but throw contempt upon all efforts to explain the prophecies. The more frequently a definite time is set for the second advent, and the more widely it is taught, the better it suits the purposes of Satan. After the time has passed, he excites ridicule and contempt of its advocates, and thus casts reproach upon the great advent movement of 1843 and 1844. Those who persist in this error will at last fix upon a date too far in the future for the coming of Christ. Thus they will be led to rest in a false security, and many will not be undeceived until it is too late.” — The Great Controversy, p. 457.

**Deuteronomy 29:29:** *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Thursday, September 7

## 5. THE IMPENDING PROCLAMATION

**a. What declaration is soon to be pronounced from Heaven, and why is this of such solemn importance to every mortal? Revelation 22:11.**

“Many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.

“I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of ‘refreshing’ and the ‘latter rain’ to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. . . . [Revelation 22:11 quoted.]” —Early Writings, p. 71.

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent efforts they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.” —The Review and Herald, January 17, 1907.

**Revelation 22:11:** *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

Friday, September 8

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What should we learn from the delay in Israel's entrance into Canaan?**
- 2. Who is the chief culprit in delaying today's entrance into heavenly Canaan?**
- 3. How is the latter rain related to this event, and what enables it to come?**
- 4. Explain the main purpose of the latter rain and the timing of it.**
- 5. What do I need for God to be able to trust me with this refreshing?**



Sunday, September 10

## 1. RESTORATION TAUGHT WITH POWER

**a. What prophecy carries special significance in the preparation to meet the Lord? Malachi 4:5.**

“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1184.

**Malachi 4:5:** *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

Sunday, September 10

## 1. RESTORATION TAUGHT WITH POWER

**b. How did Jesus explain to His disciples the first application of this prophecy, and how does this relate to our work now? Matthew 17:11–13.**

“Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ’s first advent. The great subject of reform is to be agitated, and the public mind is to be stirred. Temperance in all things is to be connected with the message, to turn the people of God from their idolatry, their gluttony, and their extravagance in dress and other things.”—Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 62.

**Matthew 17:11-13:** *11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*

Monday, September 11

## 2. PREPARERS OF THE LORD'S WAY

**a. What powerful message did John the Baptist proclaim, and why is it appropriate that we be doing likewise? Luke 1:16, 17; Matthew 3:2, 8.**

“[John the Baptist] saw his people deceived, self-satisfied, and asleep in their sins. He longed to rouse them to a holier life. The message that God had given him to bear was designed to startle them from the lethargy, and cause them to tremble because of their great wickedness. Before the seed of the gospel could find lodgement, the soil of the heart must be broken up. Before they would seek healing from Jesus, they must be awakened to their danger from the wounds of sin.

“God does not send messengers to flatter the sinner. He delivers no message of peace to lull the unsanctified into fatal security. He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces the soul with arrows of conviction.” —  
The Desire of Ages, pp. 103, 104.

**Luke 1:16-17:** *16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

**Matthew 3:2:** *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

**Matthew 3:8:** *Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*

Monday, September 11

## 2. PREPARERS OF THE LORD'S WAY

**b. Give examples of how the Elijah message is to restore family life—including how it was prefigured in John the Baptist's work. Malachi 2:13–17; 4:6.**

“John was acquainted with the fact that [Herod] was about to marry his brother's wife, while her husband was yet living, and faithfully told Herod that this was not lawful.”—Early Writings, p. 154.

**Malachi 2:13-17:** *13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal\* treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. 17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?*

**Malachi 4:6:** *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

Tuesday, September 12

### 3. THE FINAL WORK

#### a. What summarizes the urgent call of the hour? Revelation 14:6–13; 18:1–4.

“In the closing work of God in the earth, the standard of His law will be again exalted. False religion may prevail, iniquity may abound, the love of many may wax cold, the cross of Calvary may be lost sight of, and darkness, like the pall of death, may spread over the world; the whole force of the popular current may be turned against the truth; plot after plot may be formed to overthrow the people of God; but in the hour of greatest peril the God of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced. In the populous cities of the land, and in the places where men have gone to the greatest lengths in speaking against the Most High, the voice of stern rebuke will be heard. Boldly will men of God’s appointment denounce the union of the church with the world. Earnestly will they call upon men and women to turn from the observance of a man-made institution to the observance of the true Sabbath.” —Prophets and Kings, pp. 186, 187.

**Revelation 14:6-13:** *6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

**VERSES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

*11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

**Revelation 18:1-4:** *1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the\* abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

Tuesday, September 12

### 3. THE FINAL WORK

**b. What must always be evident in our speech and life? John 1:29; 14:12; 2 Corinthians 4:5–7.**

“The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.

“The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works—in words of truth and deeds of holiness.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 415, 416.

**John 1:29:** *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

**John 14:12:** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

**2 Corinthians 4:5-7:** *5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Tuesday, September 12

### 3. THE FINAL WORK

#### c. How will God's work ultimately be finished? Zechariah 4:6; Isaiah 28:21.

“The Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning.” — Evangelism, p. 118.

**Zechariah 4:6:** *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**Isaiah 28:21:** *For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.*

Wednesday, September 13

#### 4. HOW TO RECEIVE THE REFRESHING

**a. What must we continually realize about a key quality essential to experiencing the Holy Spirit in the fullness of latter-rain power? Isaiah 57:15.**

“There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands.”—Evangelism, p. 118.

“Men with one talent may reach a class that those with two or five talents cannot approach. Great and small alike are chosen vessels to bear the water of life to thirsting souls. Let not those who preach the word lay their hands upon the humblest worker and say: ‘You must labor in this channel or not work at all.’ Hands off, brethren. Let everyone work in his own sphere, with his own armor on, doing whatever he can do in his humble way. Strengthen his hands in the work. This is no time for pharisaism to control. Let God work through whom He will. The message must go.”—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 462.

**Isaiah 57:15:** *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Wednesday, September 13

#### 4. HOW TO RECEIVE THE REFRESHING

**b. Why is the latter rain given, and why should we be inspired by the motivation of the early disciples? Acts 1:8; 4:33; Jeremiah 30:5–7.**

“Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. . . .

“The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. . . .

“Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.” — Ibid., vol. 8, pp. 20, 21.

“As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble.” — Ibid., vol. 1, p. 353.

**Acts 1:8:** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

**Acts 4:33:** *And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.*

**Acts 30:5-7:** *5 For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*

Thursday, September 14

## 5. TREMENDOUSLY GRATIFYING!

### a. What opportunity is before us right now? Titus 2:13; 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2.

“My brethren and sisters, study your plans; grasp every opportunity of speaking to your neighbors and associates or of reading something to them from books that contain present truth. Show that you regard as of first importance the salvation of the souls for whom Christ has made so great a sacrifice.

“In working for perishing souls, you have the companionship of angels. Thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand angels are waiting to cooperate with members of our churches in communicating the light that God has generously given, that a people may be prepared for the coming of Christ.” — Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 129.

**Titus 2:13:** *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2:** *1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

Thursday, September 14

## 5. TREMENDOUSLY GRATIFYING!

**b. Describe the amazing results to occur when the Holy Spirit is poured out without measure. Zechariah 8:23; Isaiah 44:3, 4; 61:11.**

“The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides.” — The Great Controversy, p. 612.

**Zechariah 8:23:** *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

**Isaiah 44:3-4:** *3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4 And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.*

**Isaiah 61:11:** *For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

Friday, September 15

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What parallels exist between our work and that of Elijah and John the Baptist?**
- 2. How does the restoration needed today relate to the Ten Commandments?**
- 3. Summarize the character qualities of those who will receive the latter rain.**
- 4. On what basis might I be in danger of missing this amazing privilege?**
- 5. Why are the results of the latter rain so incredibly gratifying to see?**

## Lesson 13 - Sabbath September 23, 2017

# From Midnight Into Dawn

**“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him” (Psalm 50:3).**

“Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a ‘Man of Sorrows,’ to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth. . . . No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor.” — *The Great Controversy*, p. 641.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Great Controversy*, pp. 618–622, 638–652.

Sunday, September 17

## 1. WHILE THE LAST MOMENTS LINGER...

### a. Explain Christ's plan for us in contrast to Satan's. Luke 22:31; John 9:4.

“Satan . . . knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.

“Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God.” — The Great Controversy, p. 488.

“Zeal for God moved the disciples to bear witness to the truth with mighty power. Should not this zeal fire our hearts with a determination to tell the story of redeeming love, of Christ and Him crucified? Is not the Spirit of God to come today, in answer to earnest, persevering prayer, and fill men with power for service?” — Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 22.

“Every power lent us of heaven is to be used in doing the work assigned us by the Lord for those who are perishing in ignorance. The warning message is to be sounded in all parts of the world. There must be no delay. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the earth. Obstacles must be met and surmounted. A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth for this time.” — The Review and Herald, November 23, 1905.

**Luke 22:31:** *And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

**John 9:4:** *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Monday, September 18

## 2. THE INTENSITY ESCALATES...

**a. What must we realize about the threefold confederacy aiming to tear down God's law on a global level? Revelation 16:13, 14; 1 Thessalonians 5:3, 4.**

“As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite.” — Maranatha, p. 172.

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. . . .

“Papists, Protestants, and worldling will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” — Ibid., p. 190.

**Revelation 16:13-14:** *13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:3-4:** *3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*



Monday, September 18

## 2. THE INTENSITY ESCALATES...

### **b. What sentiment of the psalmist can surely be echoed today? Psalm 119:126**

“The time in which we live is one of marked depravity. Religious restraint is thrown off, and men reject the law of God as unworthy of their attention. A more than common contempt is placed upon this holy law. . . .

“Men are now passing the boundary line, and the Lord is permitting the enemy to do his will. . . . The tread of the Lord will be heard upon the land and upon the water. For His own honor’s sake, God is now about to repress iniquity. He will soon, very soon, vindicate the claims of His law.”—The Review and Herald, November 23, 1905.

**Psalm 119:126:** *It is time for thee, LORD, to work:for they have made void thy law.*

Tuesday, September 19

### 3. THE FINAL EXIT

**a. Name one warning Christ gave that has a distinct application in our day—as a final sign that the mission is accomplished. Matthew 24:15–19. What factors should we consider at this late hour? Revelation 3:11.**

“It is no time now for God’s people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now, instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory in giving the warning to the world. God has a work for His colaborers to do in the cities. Our missions must be sustained; new missions must be opened. To carry forward this work successfully will require no small outlay. Houses of worship are needed, where the people may be invited to hear the truths for this time. For this very purpose, God has entrusted a capital to His stewards. Let not your property be tied up in worldly enterprises, so that this work shall be hindered. Get your means where you can handle it for the benefit of the cause of God. Send your treasures before you into heaven.” — Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 464, 465.

**Matthew 24:15-19:** *15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*

**Revelation 3:11:** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

Tuesday, September 19

### 3. THE FINAL EXIT

#### **b. Amid the impending woe, where does God want us to focus? Isaiah 26:3, 4.**

“Think of Jesus. He is in His holy place, not in a state of solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand of heavenly angels who wait to do His bidding. And He bids them go and work for the weakest saint who puts his trust in God. High and low, rich and poor, have the same help provided.” — The Faith I Live By, p. 205.

**Isaiah 26:3-4:** *3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

Wednesday, September 20

#### 4. KEEPING OUR FOCUS

**a. Explain the real issue at stake in the final test—and how, according to the apostle Peter, we are to be daily preparing to meet it. Revelation 13:11, 15–17; Acts 5:29.**

“The time will come when men will not only forbid Sunday work, but they will try to force men to labor on the Sabbath, and to subscribe to Sunday observance or forfeit their freedom and their lives.”—The Review and Herald, April 6, 1911.

**Revelation 13:11:** *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

**Revelation 13:15-17:** *15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

**Acts 5:29:** *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

Wednesday, September 20

#### 4. KEEPING OUR FOCUS

**b. What gracious promises reveal the tender watchcare of our heavenly Father in that trying hour? Psalms 31:19, 20; 91:5–7; Isaiah 26:20, 21.**

“[Isaiah 26:20 quoted.] What are the chambers in which [God’s people] are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth.

“I saw the saints leaving the cities and villages, and associating together in companies, and living in the most solitary places. Angels provided them food and water, while the wicked were suffering from hunger and thirst.

“During the night a very impressive scene passed before me. There seemed to be great confusion and the conflict of armies. A messenger from the Lord stood before me, and said, ‘Call your household. I will lead you; follow me.’ He led me down a dark passage, through a forest, then through the clefts of mountains, and said, ‘Here you are safe.’ There were others who had been led to this retreat. The heavenly messenger said. ‘The time of trouble has come as a thief in the night, as the Lord warned you it would come.’

“In the time of trouble just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels; but there will be no security for the transgressor of God’s law. Angels cannot then protect those who are disregarding one of the divine precepts.

“In the closing period of earth’s history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right.” — Maranatha, p. 270.

**Psalms 31:19-20:** *19 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! 20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.*

**VERSES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**Psalms 91:5-7:** *5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.*

**Isaiah 26:20-21:** *20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. 21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*

Thursday, September 21

## 5. A GLORIOUS DELIVERANCE

**a. With what sober thoughts should we be fortifying the mind right now?**

**Mark 8:38; Revelation 22:7, 12.**

“We are anxiously awaiting [the Lord’s] coming. We need to keep the armor on. We need to be all that the name Christian signifies. We need to live in habitual communion with God our Saviour, abiding in Him.

“Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. . . . Shall we then be timid and cowardly because of the trials we meet as we advance? Shall we not meet them without repining and complaints?” —

Manuscript Releases, vol. 10, p. 167.

**Mark 8:38:** *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

**Revelation 22:7:** *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

**Revelation 22:12:** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Thursday, September 21

## 5. A GLORIOUS DELIVERANCE

### b. What happens when Jesus returns? Psalm 50:3–6; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18.

“Soon appeared the great white cloud. On it sat the Son of man. . . .

“No language can describe the glory of the scene. The living cloud of majesty and unsurpassed glory came still nearer, and we could clearly behold the lovely person of Jesus. He did not wear a crown of thorns but a crown of glory. . . .

“On either side of the cloudy chariot were wings, and beneath it were living wheels; and as the cloudy chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, Holy, and the wings, as they moved, cried, Holy, and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. And the saints in the cloud cried, Glory, Alleluia. And the chariot rolled upward to the holy city.” —Spiritual Gifts, vol. 1, pp. 206, 208.

**Psalms 50:3-6:** *3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. 4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. 5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. 6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18:** *16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

Friday, September 22

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Today, as everyone is so busy, what plot does the enemy of souls have?**
- 2. Explain the threefold union of Revelation 16 and its global deceptive power.**
- 3. The serious message of country living has been taught since the 1880s, but at what point does it become irreversibly necessary for the believers' safety?**
- 4. Is the test looming on the horizon simply about resting on Sunday? Explain.**
- 5. What should be foremost in our mind as we prepare for Jesus' return?**



Sunday, September 24

## 1. THE DOOM OF A FALLEN PLANET

**a. What happens to planet Earth when its Maker returns? Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 6; Jeremiah 4:23–26.**

“At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth —consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the City of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants. . . .

“The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness. The ruins of cities and villages destroyed by the earthquake, uprooted trees, ragged rocks thrown out by the sea or torn out of the earth itself, are scattered over its surface.” —The Great Controversy, p. 657.

**Isaiah 24:1:** *Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.*

**Isaiah 24:3:** *The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.*

**Isaiah 24:5-6:** *5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*

**Jeremiah 4:23-26:** *23 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*

Sunday, September 24

## 1. THE DOOM OF A FALLEN PLANET

### b. What happens to the one who corrupted the planet? Revelation 20:1, 2.

“[Jeremiah 4:23–26 quoted.] Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years.” —Ibid., p. 659.

**Revelation 20:1-2:** *1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

Monday, September 25

## 2. THE THOUSAND YEARS

**a. Explain the sense in which Satan is chained for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:3.**

“Limited to the earth, [Satan] will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound: there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight. . . .

“Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan, and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought. . . .

“For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense.”—The Great Controversy, pp. 659, 660.

**Revelation 20:3:** *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

Monday, September 25

## 2. THE THOUSAND YEARS

**b. What task is done in heaven by the saved from all generations who will ascend to meet Christ in the air? Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.**

“In union with Christ [the saints] judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. . . .

“Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people.”—Ibid., p. 661.

**Revelation 20:4:** *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

**Revelation 20:6:** *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

**1 Corinthians 6:2-3:** *2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

*con the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

**Zechariah 14:9:** *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

**Revelation 21:1:** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

Monday, September 25

## 2. THE THOUSAND YEARS

**d. What is the attitude of the people raised at the resurrection that follows the thousand years? Revelation 20:5 (first part), 7, 8.**

**Revelation 20:5:** *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

**Revelation 20:7-8:** *7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

Tuesday, September 26

### 3. DECEPTION INTO DESTRUCTION

**a. Explain the last deceptive ploy of Satan, and how its results are executed. Revelation 20:9–15; Malachi 4:1.**

“As the wicked dead are raised and [Satan] sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy. He will marshal all the armies of the lost under his banner and through them endeavor to execute his plans. The wicked are Satan’s captives. In rejecting Christ they have accepted the rule of the rebel leader. They are ready to receive his suggestions and to do his bidding. Yet, true to his early cunning, he does not acknowledge himself to be Satan. He claims to be the prince who is the rightful owner of the world and whose inheritance has been unlawfully wrested from him. He represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the most cruel tyranny. The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God. . . .

“With military precision the serried ranks advance over the earth’s broken and uneven surface to the City of God. By command of Jesus, the gates of the New Jerusalem are closed, and the armies of Satan surround the city and make ready for the onset.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 663, 664.

“Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. . . .

“The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. . . . Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished ‘according to their deeds’ (Psalm 28:4). The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived.

**NOTE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.” —Ibid., pp. 672, 673.

**Revelation 20:9-15:** *9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and\* hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Malachi 4:1:** *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

Wednesday, September 27

#### 4. PRESERVED FOR ETERNITY

**a. How does Christ protect the just from the unquenchable fire? Psalm 84:11.**

“While the earth was wrapped in the fire of destruction, the righteous abode safely in the Holy City.” — The Great Controversy, p. 673.

**Psalm 84:11:** *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

Wednesday, September 27

#### 4. PRESERVED FOR ETERNITY

**b. What glorious event crowns the cleansing of the earth? Revelation 21:1.**

“The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin.”—Ibid., p. 674.

**Revelation 21:1:** *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

Wednesday, September 27

#### 4. PRESERVED FOR ETERNITY

**c. For us today, dwelling still on a planet ridden with suffering and problems, where should we look for our eternal home? 2 Peter 3:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9.**

“The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour’s love.” —Early Writings, p. 289.

“A fear of making the saints’ inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon the new earth as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them. Those who accept the teachings of God’s Word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode.” —The Story of Redemption, p. 430.

**2 Peter 3:13:** *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9:** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Wednesday, September 27

#### 4. PRESERVED FOR ETERNITY

**d. What magnificent description does John give us of the new earth?**

**Revelation 21:3, 4; 22:1–5.**

“There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.” — The Great Controversy, p. 675.

**Revelation 21:3-4:** *3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

**Revelation 22:1-5:** *1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Thursday, September 28

## 5. EVERLASTING JOY

**a. What condition is to be restored on the new earth? Isaiah 35:5–10; 65:25. How is the heavenly life depicted?**

“I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union.”—Early Writings, p. 18.

“The fierce will become gentle, and the timid trustful.”—Education, p. 304.

**Isaiah 35:5-10:** *5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. 9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

**Isaiah 65:25:** *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

Thursday, September 28

## 5. EVERLASTING JOY

**b. Around whom will everything center for all eternity, and how will this be acknowledged? Zechariah 13:6; Revelation 7:15–17; 5:13.**

“No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin. One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion.” —The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, p. 489.

“The years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. . . .

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.” —The Great Controversy, p. 678.

**Zechariah 13:6:** *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.*

**Revelation 7:15-17:** *15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

**Revelation 5:13:** *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

Friday, September 29

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why is it so important to prepare for the soon return of Christ?**
- 2. Clarify the often misunderstood purpose of the millennium.**
- 3. Explain the last ploy of Satan, and why people will be tricked by it.**
- 4. What do we need to realize about life in the earth made new?**
- 5. What is the theme of eternity, and why should we appreciate it now?**