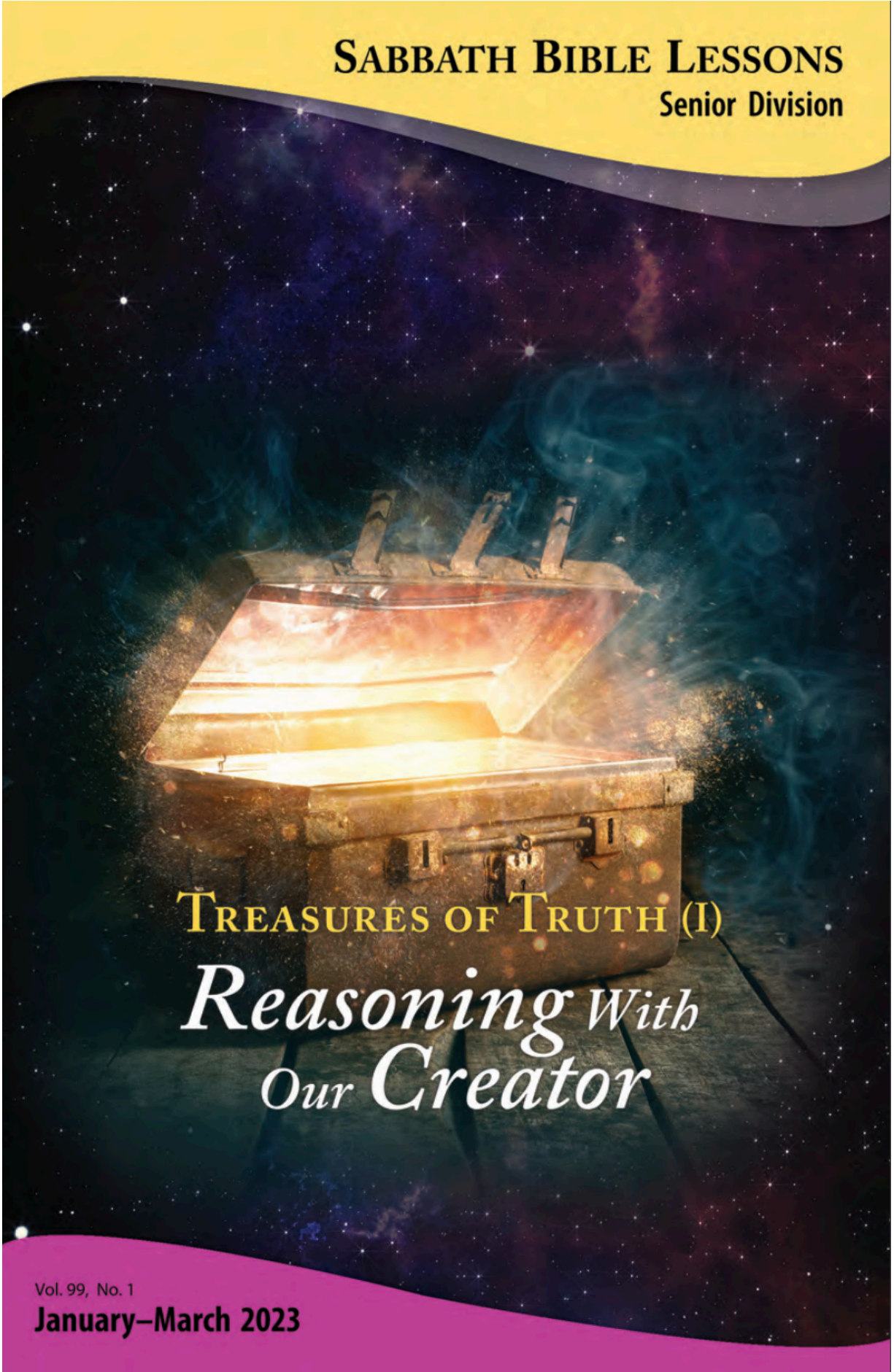


**SABBATH BIBLE LESSONS**  
**Senior Division**



**TREASURES OF TRUTH (I)**  
*Reasoning With  
Our Creator*

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**January–March 2023**

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## Foreword

It is indeed an amazingly awesome creation that the Almighty One has fashioned and upheld here on the earth for over 6,000 years. And the crowning pinnacle of His grand creation is the human race made in His own image! This is the race of created beings designed to inhabit this planet and exercise dominion over it. Due to the intelligence and reasoning power bestowed upon humanity, this species—homo sapiens—has been entrusted with this privilege—yet above all, it is the only one on earth being offered the opportunity to live forever in the joyous presence of the majestic Creator throughout eternity.

Like any privilege and responsibility, this comes with conditions. The just and merciful Creator of the universe lays these conditions plainly before us and invites us to reason with Him so we can comprehend the provisions of His covenant.

Therefore, for the next three months, Sabbath school students all around the world will be studying the essential topic, “Reasoning With Our Creator.” This is the first part of a year-long series entitled “Treasures of Truth,” providing essential understanding on wonderful gems of truth bearing tremendous value to equip for eternity. All who would be saved must have deep, genuine faith in God and a victorious Christian experience that will endure even the trying ordeals of the final hour in earth’s history.

“A religion that is addressed to intelligent creatures will produce reasonable evidences of its genuineness, for there will be marked results in heart and character. The grace of Christ will be made manifest in their daily conduct. We may safely ask those who profess to be sanctified, Do the fruits of the Spirit appear in your life? Do you manifest the meekness and lowliness of Christ, and reveal the fact that you are learning daily in the school of Christ, shaping your life after the pattern of His unselfish life?

“The best evidence that any of us can have of our connection with the God of heaven is that we keep His commandments. The best proof of faith in Christ is distrust of self and dependence upon God. The only reliable proof of our abiding in Christ is to reflect His image. Just so far as we do this we give evidence that we are sanctified through the truth, for the truth is exemplified in our daily life.”—*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 121.

“There are many who, though striving to obey God’s commandments, have little peace or joy. This lack in their experience is the result of a failure to exercise faith. They walk as if they were in a salt land, a parched wilderness. They claim little, when they might claim much; for there is no limit to the promises of God.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 563.

It is our prayer that we all may be enriched by the Sabbath Bible Lessons this quarter, and our faith abundantly fortified by indeed reasoning with the Omniscient One!

*The General Conference Sabbath School Department*

## January - First Sabbath Offering an Educational and Health Center in Adygea, North Caucasus, Russia

The territory of Russia is 17,125,191 square kilometers (6,612,073 square miles) with a population of approximately 146,780,000 people, of which 111 million are Russians. Among the remaining 35 million are representatives of more than 180 nationalities. The main religion is Orthodox (42%), the next is Islam (30%). Other religions include Catholicism (3%), Old Believers (a branch of Eastern Orthodox Christians) and Protestantism (2%), Buddhism, Judaism and Greek Catholicism (1%).

Since 1925, the Reform message has been proclaimed here in very difficult circumstances. Many brethren were imprisoned for the Word of God. Some sacrificed their lives for the sake of the truth. In the 1990's our church had opportunity to preach freely and they actively used this opportunity. In June 2018, the Russian Union was organized. During the last few years, our opportunities for open preaching have become very limited, so we have been looking for a piece of land out in nature to hold camp meetings and for the wellness missionary work. The Lord has allowed us to buy about 5 hectares on a hillside in the Caucasus mountains with views of the amazing mountain landscapes. As it's very difficult to find water in the mountain region, the price of the plot of land was rather low. But the Lord took care of this and helped us to find a spring of water on the plot not only for drinking, but for a pond also. We are thankful to Him for this great blessing of His Providence! In the summer of 2019, we had the first camp meeting on this land, although we could build only summer structures for the meetings, a dining hall, and a small, two-room house. A doctor was invited to hold a wellness seminar there. In accordance with the light from the Spirit of Prophecy and taking into account our circumstances, we see great potential for medical missionary work if the appropriate premises for this purpose would be built.

We believe that by the mercy of God and with assistance of the brethren from the whole world, the Lord will help us accomplish this project that is impossible for our local brethren to pay by themselves. May the Lord bless everyone who wants to support this project with prayers and finances.

*Your brothers and sisters from the Russian Union*

Lesson 1 - Sabbath, January 7, 2023

# God's Word to Humanity Today

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:5).

“In His mercy and faithfulness God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man and making flesh our arm.” — The Ministry of Healing, p. 486.

**Suggested Readings:**     *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 460-463;*  
                                  *Fundamentals of Christian Education, pp. 129-137.*

Sunday, January 1

## 1. HOW WAS THE BIBLE GIVEN?

**a. In what manner were the Scriptures given? (Provide specifics.) 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Numbers 12:6.**

**2 Timothy 3:16:** *16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

**2 Peter 1:21:** *21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

**Numbers 12:6:** *6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.*

“It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man’s words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words and thoughts receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God.”—Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 21.

***PRQ1. How is divine inspiration given to humanity?***

Sunday, January 1

## 1. HOW WAS THE BIBLE GIVEN?

**b. When seeking guidance from God, what must we realize about dreams and visions? Deuteronomy 13:1–5; Jeremiah 29:8.**

**Deuteronomy 13:1–5:** *1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

**Jeremiah 29:8:** *8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.*

**PRQ1. How is divine inspiration given to humanity?**

Sunday, January 1

## 1. HOW WAS THE BIBLE GIVEN?

c. What are some other causes for dreams? Ecclesiastes 5:3, 7.

**Ecclesiastes 5:3:** *3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fools voice is known by multitude of words.*

**Ecclesiastes 5:7:** *7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.*

**PRQ1.** *How is divine inspiration given to humanity?*

Sunday, January 1

## 1. HOW WAS THE BIBLE GIVEN?

**d. How are we to test the prophets? 1 Corinthians 14:32; Isaiah 8:19, 20.**

**1 Corinthians 14:32:** *32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

**Isaiah 8:19-20:** *19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

***PRQ1. How is divine inspiration given to humanity?***

Monday, January 2

## 2. ARE THE SCRIPTURES INFALLIBLE?

**a. To what extent can we trust the purity of God’s Word? Psalm 12:6, 7.**

**Psalm 12:6-7:** *6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

“We have a Bible full of the most precious truth. It contains the alpha and the omega of knowledge.” —Gospel Workers, p. 309.

“In the Bible we have the unerring counsel of God. Its teachings, practically carried out, will fit men for any position of duty. It is the voice of God speaking every day to the soul. How carefully should the young study the word of God and treasure up its sentiments in the heart, that its precepts may be made to govern the whole conduct.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 441.

“In His Word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.” —The Faith I Live By, p. 13.

“[The youth] need an unerring counselor, an infallible guide. This they will find in the Word of God. Unless they are diligent students of that Word, they will make grave mistakes, which will mar their happiness and that of others, both for the present and the future life.” —Messages to Young People, p. 443.

***PRQ2. To what extent can we trust the Bible, and why?***

Monday, January 2

## 2. ARE THE SCRIPTURES INFALLIBLE?

**b. How lasting are the principles found in Scripture? Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:160; Isaiah 40:8.**

**Matthew 24:35:** *35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

**Psalm 119:160:** *160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

**Isaiah 40:8:** *8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

“[Christ] taught that the word of God was to be understood by all. He pointed to the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority, and we should do the same. The Bible is to be presented as the word of the infinite God, as the end of all controversy and the foundation of all faith.” — Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 39, 40.

“The Bible, fully received and studied as the voice of God, tells the human family how to reach the abodes of eternal happiness, and secure the treasures of heaven.” — Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 444.

“Shall not the education given in our schools be of that character which will give a more decided knowledge of God’s word, and which will bring the soul into a vital connection with God, keeping God before the mind’s eye, and arousing every better feeling of the soul? This is the kind of education which is as enduring as eternity.” — General Conference Daily Bulletin, March 6, 1899.

***PRQ2. To what extent can we trust the Bible, and why?***

Tuesday, January 3

### 3. RECEIVING THE WRITINGS OF DIVINE INSPIRATION

a. What must we realize when God speaks through His prophets? Jeremiah 1:4–9; 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

**Jeremiah 1:4–9:** *4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. 7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

**1 Thessalonians 2:13:** *13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

“Christ taught His disciples that they were to open their minds to instruction, and be ready to believe. He pronounced a blessing upon them because they saw and heard with eyes and ears that believed. . . .

“Only he who receives the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to himself is a true learner. He trembles at the word; for to him it is a living reality.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 59.

“The Bible points to God as its author; yet it was written by human hands; and in the varied style of its different books it presents the characteristics of the several writers. The truths revealed are all ‘given by inspiration of God’ (2 Timothy 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to whom the truth was thus revealed, have themselves embodied the thought in human language.”—Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 25.

**PRQ3.** *What is the purpose of giving prophetic writings, and what authority do all inspired writings bring with them?*

Tuesday, January 3

### 3. RECEIVING THE WRITINGS OF DIVINE INSPIRATION

**b. What does God often reveal through His prophets in order to help us understand the all-knowing and eternal nature of Deity? Amos 3:7; Isaiah 46:9, 10.**

*Amos 3:7: 7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

*Isaiah 46:9-10: 9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

“History and prophecy testify that the God of the whole earth revealeth secrets through His chosen light-bearers to the world. A skeptical world, talking and writing of higher education, is prating of things which it does not understand. It does not see that true, higher education comprehends a more perfect knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent. There are few who understand that all true human science is from the God of science, and that God demonstrates to the world that He is King over all.”—Bible Training School, December 1, 1912.

“In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.”—Prophets and Kings, pp. 499, 500.

*PRQ3. What is the purpose of giving prophetic writings, and what authority do all inspired writings bring with them?*

Wednesday, January 4

#### 4. WHAT IS NECESSARY ON OUR PART?

**a. What type of attitude are we to possess when studying the Bible? Isaiah 66:1, 2; John 7:17; Acts 17:10, 11.**

**Isaiah 66:1-2:** *1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? 2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

**John 7:17:** *17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

**Acts 17:10-11:** *10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 324.

“To controvert, to question, to criticize, to ridicule, is the education many have received and the fruit they bear. They refuse to admit evidence. The natural heart is in warfare against light, truth, and knowledge. Jesus Christ has been in every sleeping room where you have been entertained. How many prayers went up to heaven from these rooms?”—The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 140.

“There is no assurance that our doctrine is right and free from all chaff and error unless we are daily doing the will of God. If we do His will, we shall know of the doctrine. We shall see the truth in its sacred beauty. We shall accept it with reverence and godly fear, and then we can present that which we know is truth to others. There should be no feeling of superiority or self-exaltation in this solemn work.”—Ibid., p.46.

**PRQ4. How does attitude affect Bible study?**

Wednesday, January 4

#### 4. WHAT IS NECESSARY ON OUR PART?

**b. What part of the Bible is more important than the rest? Romans 15:4; Luke 24:27; Isaiah 28:10.**

**Romans 15:4:** *4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

**Luke 24:27:** *27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

**Isaiah 28:10:** *10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:*

“Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament, no less than the New, should receive attention. As we study the Old Testament we shall find living springs bubbling up where the careless reader discerns only a desert.

“The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ.”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 462.

***PRQ4. How does attitude affect Bible study?***

Thursday, January 5

## 5. NOT ENOUGH JUST TO READ AND STUDY

a. What are we to do with the things that we learn while studying Holy Writ?  
**Proverbs 2:1–5; Psalm 119:11, 16.**

**Proverbs 2:1–5:** *1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

**Psalm 119:11:** *11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

**Psalm 119:16:** *16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

“The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God’s word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate the soul with spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation.

“The words of truth will grow in importance, and assume a breadth and fullness of meaning of which we have never dreamed. The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character. The light of heavenly love will fall upon the heart as an inspiration.” — Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 132.

**PRQ5. How do we build our life on a sure foundation?**

Thursday, January 5

## 5. NOT ENOUGH JUST TO READ AND STUDY

**b. If we take these things to heart, to what are we compared? Luke 6:46–49.**

**Luke 6:46–49:** *46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

“The heart that is stored with the precious truths of God’s Word is fortified against the temptation of Satan, against impure thoughts and unholy actions.” —My Life Today, p. 28.

***PRQ5. How do we build our life on a sure foundation?***

Thursday, January 5

## **5. NOT ENOUGH JUST TO READ AND STUDY**

**c. What are we to ask the Lord to do for us—and why? Psalm 119:133.**

**Psalm 119:133:** *133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*

“Divine wisdom will order the steps of those who put their trust in the Lord. Divine love will encircle them, and they will realize the presence of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.”—Our High Calling, p. 324.

***PRQ5. How do we build our life on a sure foundation?***

Friday, January 6

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How is divine inspiration given to humanity?**
- 2. To what extent can we trust the Bible, and why?**
- 3. What is the purpose of giving prophetic writings, and what authority do all inspired writings bring with them?**
- 4. How does attitude affect Bible study?**
- 5. How do we build our life on a sure foundation?**

## Lesson 2 - Sabbath, January 14, 2023

# The Powerful Word of God

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

“Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God’s promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons.” — The Great Controversy, p. 600.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Fundamentals of Christian Education, pp. 123-128.*

Sunday, January 8

## 1. SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

**a. Of what must we constantly be aware in our sojourn on earth? 1 Peter 5:8. How does Paul therefore compare the life of a Christian? 2 Timothy 2:3.**

**1 Peter 5:8:** *8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

**2 Timothy 2:3:** *3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

“Nothing can be more helpless, nothing can be more dependent, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly upon the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour. The Christian life is a life of warfare, of continual conflict. It is a battle and a march. But every act of obedience to Christ, every act of self-denial for His sake, every trial well endured, every victory gained over temptation, is a step in the march to the glory of final victory.” — That I May Know Him, p. 253.

***PRQ1. How serious is the Christian’s warfare with evil?***

Sunday, January 8

## 1. SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

**b. How only can we be victorious at the end? Ephesians 6:11–17.**

**Ephesians 6:11–17:** *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. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

“Those who will put on the whole armor of God and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer and to the study of the Scriptures will be connected with heaven and will have a saving, transforming influence upon those around them. Great thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty to God, will be theirs. . . . This class will have a sanctified boldness to come into the presence of the Infinite One. They will feel that heaven’s light and glories are for them, and they will become refined, elevated, ennobled by this intimate acquaintance with God. Such is the privilege of true Christians.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 112, 113.

**PRQ1. How serious is the Christian’s warfare with evil?**

Monday, January 9

## 2. POWER IN THE WORD

**a. How penetrating is the Word when truly received into the soul? Hebrews 4:12.**

**Hebrews 4:12:** *12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

“The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the river of the water of life. Our Saviour prayed that the minds of the disciples might be opened to understand the Scriptures. And whenever we study the Bible with a prayerful heart, the Holy Spirit is near to open to us the meaning of the words we read.”—Our High Calling, p. 205.

“Practical truth must be brought into the life, and the Word, like a sharp, two-edged sword, must cut away the surplus of self that there is in our characters.

“The Word makes the proud humble, the perverse meek and contrite, the disobedient obedient. The sinful habits natural to man are interwoven with the daily practice. But the Word cuts away the fleshly lusts. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the mind. It divides the joints and marrow, cutting away the lusts of the flesh, making men willing to suffer for their Lord.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 928.

***PRQ2. What important place does the Word have in this warfare?***

Monday, January 9

## 2. POWER IN THE WORD

**b. In the beginning, how quickly did the Word create the heaven and the earth? Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6, 9.**

**Genesis 1:1:** *1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

**Psalm 33:6:** *6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*

**Psalm 33:9:** *9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

**PRQ2.** *What important place does the Word have in this warfare?*

Monday, January 9

## 2. POWER IN THE WORD

**c. From what material did God create the worlds using His word? Hebrews 11:3. After creating the worlds, did God leave the creation to fend for itself? Hebrews 1:3.**

**Hebrews 11:3:** *3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

**Hebrews 1:3:** *3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

“The same creative energy that brought the world into existence is still exerted in upholding the universe and continuing the operations of nature. The hand of God guides the planets in their orderly march through the heavens. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth continues her motion round the sun and produces her bounties. The word of God controls the elements. He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth. He makes the valleys fruitful and ‘grass to grow upon the mountains;’ Psalm 147:8. It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom.” —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, pp. 185, 186.

***PRQ2. What important place does the Word have in this warfare?***

Tuesday, January 10

### 3. RECOGNIZING SIN

**a. What was David's desire after he had committed the sin against God and against Bathsheba? Psalm 51:1–4.**

**Psalm 51:1–4:** *1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

**PRQ3.** *How is it possible to understand the depth of the destructive nature of sin?*

Tuesday, January 10

### 3. RECOGNIZING SIN

**b. In reading David’s expressions of repentance preserved in the divine record, which were his deepest concerns—the consequences he would face—or restoring his relationship with God? Psalm 51:5–10.**

**Psalm 51:5–10:** *5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

“For a whole year after his fall David lived in apparent security; there was no outward evidence of God’s displeasure. But the divine sentence was hanging over him. Swiftly and surely a day of judgment and retribution was approaching, which no repentance could avert, agony and shame that would darken his whole earthly life. Those who, by pointing to the example of David, try to lessen the guilt of their own sins, should learn from the Bible record that the way of transgression is hard. Though like David they should turn from their evil course, the results of sin, even in this life, will be found bitter and hard to bear.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 723, 724.

“David’s repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his crime. No desire to escape the judgments threatened, inspired his prayer. But he saw the enormity of his transgression against God; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. David did not in despair give over the struggle. In the promises of God to repentant sinners he saw the evidence of his pardon and acceptance.” —Ibid., p.725.

*Continued...*

“David was pardoned of his transgression because he humbled his heart before God in repentance and contrition of soul, and believed that God’s promise to forgive would be fulfilled. He confessed his sin, repented, and was reconverted. In the rapture of the assurance of forgiveness, he exclaimed, ‘Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.’ Psalm 32:1, 2. The blessing comes because of pardon; pardon comes through faith that the sin, confessed and repented of, is borne by the great Sin Bearer. Thus from Christ cometh all our blessings. His death is an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He is the great Medium through whom we receive the mercy and favor of God.”—Our High Calling, p. 83.

*PRQ3. How is it possible to understand the depth of the destructive nature of sin?*

Wednesday, January 11

#### 4. POWER TO CHANGE A HUMAN HEART

**a. What gives hope of the possibility to transform the filthy, sinful life into one of purity? Job 14:4; Jeremiah 13:23; Ezekiel 36:26, 27.**

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

**Jeremiah 13:23:** *23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.*

**Ezekiel 36:26-27:** *26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

“It is true that there may be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions. By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on?” —Steps to Christ, p. 58.

“God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armory where we may equip for the struggle.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 502.

***PRQ4. How does the transformation of the soul take place?***

Wednesday, January 11

#### 4. POWER TO CHANGE A HUMAN HEART

**b. What is the only way for the corrupt human heart to be changed into one that delights in righteousness? John 3:3.**

**John 3:3:** *3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

“The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure.” — Steps to Christ, p. 58.

***PRQ4. How does the transformation of the soul take place?***

Wednesday, January 11

#### 4. POWER TO CHANGE A HUMAN HEART

c. What are the evidences of that change? Galatians 5:22, 23.

**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.*

“The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ. When men who claim to be Christians retain all their natural defects of character and disposition, in what does their position differ from that of the worldling? They do not appreciate the truth as a sanctifier, a refiner. They have not been born again.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1101.

***PRQ4. How does the transformation of the soul take place?***

Thursday, January 12

## 5. BORN BY THE WORD OF GOD

**a. What has power to make such a radical change in the heart of a corrupt, wicked individual? Romans 1:16; John 1:1; 15:3; 1 Peter 1:23.**

**Romans 1:16:** *16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

**John 1:1:** *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**John 15:3:** *3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

**1 Peter 1:23:** *23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

“The Bible is the most wonderful of all histories, for it is the production of God, not of the finite mind. It carries us back through the centuries to the beginning of all things, presenting the history of times and scenes which would otherwise never have been known. It reveals the glory of God in the working of His providence to save a fallen world. It presents in the simplest language the mighty power of the gospel, which, received, would cut the chains that bind men to Satan’s chariot.” —  
Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 377.

***PRQ5. How do we maintain our relationship with Christ?***

Thursday, January 12

## 5. BORN BY THE WORD OF GOD

**b. What does the Word activate in us, and why is that so necessary for a victorious life? Romans 10:17; 1 John 5:4. How do we maintain that same type of victory for the rest of our lives? Colossians 2:6.**

**Romans 10:17:** *17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**1 John 5:4:** *4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

**Colossians 2:6:** *6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

“As faith thus receives and assimilates the principles of truth, they become a part of the being and the motive power of the life. The word of God, received into the soul, molds the thoughts, and enters into the development of character.

“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.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 391.

***PRQ5. How do we maintain our relationship with Christ?***

Friday, January 13

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How serious is the Christian's warfare with evil?**
- 2. What important place does the Word have in this warfare?**
- 3. How is it possible to understand the depth of the destructive nature of sin?**
- 4. How does the transformation of the soul take place?**
- 5. How do we maintain our relationship with Christ?**

## Lesson 3 - Sabbath, January 21, 2023

# Fiery Serpents

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study.” — Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 244.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Desire of Ages, pp. 48, 49, 114-123.*

Sunday, January 15

## 1. ABRAHAM'S SEED

**a. Describe a seriously dangerous attitude that affects spiritual life. John 8:33.**

**John 8:33:** *33 They answered him, We be Abrahams seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

**PRQ1.** *What lessons can we learn from the Jews being Abraham's children?*

Sunday, January 15

## 1. ABRAHAM'S SEED

### b. What makes us slaves to sin? John 8:34, 39–44.

**John 8:34:** *34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

**John 8:39–44:** *39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abrahams children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

“The Pharisees had declared themselves the children of Abraham. Jesus told them that this claim could be established only by doing the works of Abraham. The true children of Abraham would live, as he did, a life of obedience to God. They would not try to kill One who was speaking the truth that was given Him from God. In plotting against Christ, the rabbis were not doing the works of Abraham. A mere lineal descent from Abraham was of no value. Without a spiritual connection with him, which would be manifested in possessing the same spirit, and doing the same works, they were not his children.” — The Desire of Ages, pp. 466, 467.

**PRQ1.** *What lessons can we learn from the Jews being Abraham's children?*

Sunday, January 15

## 1. ABRAHAM'S SEED

**c. How is it possible to be delivered from this tyranny of a cruel master? John 8:32, 36; Galatians 3:29.**

**John 8:32:** *32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**John 8:36:** *36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

**Galatians 3:29:** *29 And if ye be Christs, then are ye Abrahams seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

***PRQ1. What lessons can we learn from the Jews being Abraham's children?***

Monday, January 16

## 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “KNOW”?

**a. What all-important question did Pilate ask in the judgment hall? John 18:38 (first part). What answer would he have received if he had stopped a moment to listen to the Saviour’s response? John 14:6.**

**John 18:38:** *38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

**John 14:6:** *6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

“Pilate had a desire to know the truth. His mind was confused. He eagerly grasped the words of the Saviour, and his heart was stirred with a great longing to know what it really was, and how he could obtain it. ‘What is truth?’ he inquired. But he did not wait for an answer. The tumult outside recalled him to the interests of the hour; for the priests were clamorous for immediate action. Going out to the Jews, he declared emphatically, ‘I find in Him no fault at all.’ ”—The Desire of Ages, p. 727.

***PRQ2. How is it possible to totally miss the point of the Bible while studying it?***

Monday, January 16

## 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “KNOW”?

**b. Explain what can happen when a person studies the Word yet does not know God. Mark 12:24; 2 Timothy 3:7.**

**Mark 12:24:** *24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?*

**2 Timothy 3:7:** *7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

“The Sadducees had flattered themselves that they of all men adhered most strictly to the Scriptures. But Jesus showed that they had not known their true meaning.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 605.

***PRQ2. How is it possible to totally miss the point of the Bible while studying it?***

Monday, January 16

## 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “KNOW”?

**c. How is it possible to be drawn to Someone that our fallen nature does not desire? John 12:32; 8:28; Matthew 11:28–30.**

**John 12:32:** *32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

**John 8:28:** *28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

**Matthew 11:28–30:** *28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

“Whenever the law is presented before the people, let the teacher of truth point out the throne arched with the rainbow of promise, the righteousness of Christ. The glory of the law is Christ; He came to magnify the law, and make it honorable. Make it distinct that mercy and truth have met together in Christ, and righteousness and peace have embraced each other. It is when you are looking to His throne, offering up your penitence and praise and thanksgiving to God, that you perfect Christian character, and represent Christ to the world. You abide in Christ, and Christ abides in you; you have that peace that passeth all understanding. We need constantly to meditate upon Christ and His attractive loveliness. We must direct minds to Jesus, fasten them upon Him. In every discourse dwell upon the divine attributes.” — The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 730.

“Study carefully the divine-human character, and constantly inquire, ‘What would Jesus do were He in my place?’ ” — The Ministry of Healing, p. 491.

**PRQ2. How is it possible to totally miss the point of the Bible while studying it?**

Tuesday, January 17

### 3. SERPENTS IN THE WILDERNESS

**a. What remedy did God provide for those stung by poisonous snakes in the desert? What was required for healing to take place? Numbers 21:6–9.**

**Numbers 21:6–9:** *6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*

“Because they had been shielded by divine power [the children of Israel] had not realized the countless dangers by which they were continually surrounded. In their ingratitude and unbelief they had anticipated death, and now the Lord permitted death to come upon them. The poisonous serpents that infested the wilderness were called fiery serpents, on account of the terrible effects produced by their sting, it causing violent inflammation and speedy death. As the protecting hand of God was removed from Israel, great numbers of the people were attacked by these venomous creatures. . . .

“Moses was divinely commanded to make a serpent of brass resembling the living ones, and to elevate it among the people. To this, all who had been bitten were to look, and they would find relief. He did so, and the joyful news was sounded throughout the encampment that all who had been bitten might look upon the brazen serpent and live. Many had already died, and when Moses raised the serpent upon the pole, some would not believe that merely gazing upon that metallic image would heal them; these perished in their unbelief. Yet there were many who had faith in the provision which God had made. . . . If these, though faint and dying, could only once look, they were perfectly restored.

*Continued...*

“The people well knew that there was no power in the serpent of brass to cause such a change in those who looked upon it. The healing virtue was from God alone. In His wisdom He chose this way of displaying His power. By this simple means the people were made to realize that this affliction had been brought upon them by their sins. They were also assured that while obeying God they had no reason to fear, for He would preserve them.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 429, 430.

*PRQ3. What lessons can I learn from the deadly serpents in the wilderness?*

Tuesday, January 17

### 3. SERPENTS IN THE WILDERNESS

**b. How does this experience parallel that of those suffering from the sting of that old serpent (Revelation 12:9) and desire healing? John 3:14, 15; 1:29.**

**Revelation 12:9:** *9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

**John 3:14-15:** *14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

**John 1:29:** *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.*

“Let the repenting sinner fix his eyes upon ‘the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world’ (John 1:29); and by beholding, he becomes changed. His fear is turned to joy, his doubts to hope. Gratitude springs up. The stony heart is broken. A tide of love sweeps into the soul. Christ is in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 439.

**PRQ3. What lessons can I learn from the deadly serpents in the wilderness?**

Wednesday, January 18

#### 4. WHO IS JESUS?

**a. Christ lived a perfect life on earth (1 Peter 2:21, 22), yet instead of being drawn to Him and His faithful followers, what is the response of most people? 2 Timothy 3:12; John 3:19, 20.**

**1 Peter 2:21-22:** *21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

**2 Timothy 3:12:** *12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

**John 3:19-20:** *19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

“The early Christians were indeed a peculiar people. Their blameless deportment and unswerving faith were a continual reproof that disturbed the sinner’s peace. Though few in numbers, without wealth, position, or honorary titles, they were a terror to evildoers wherever their character and doctrines were known. Therefore they were hated by the wicked, even as Abel was hated by the ungodly Cain. For the same reason that Cain slew Abel, did those who sought to throw off the restraint of the Holy Spirit, put to death God’s people. It was for the same reason that the Jews rejected and crucified the Saviour—because the purity and holiness of His character was a constant rebuke to their selfishness and corruption. From the days of Christ until now His faithful disciples have excited the hatred and opposition of those who love and follow the ways of sin.”—The Great Controversy, p. 46.

**PRQ4. What makes it possible to be drawn to the Man of Calvary?**

Wednesday, January 18

#### 4. WHO IS JESUS?

**b. What supreme power is manifested in the Saviour of the world that has that capacity to draw humanity? 1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1–3; Hebrews 1:8.**

**1 Timothy 3:16:** *16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

**John 1:1–3:** *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

**Hebrews 1:8:** *8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

“If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore.” — Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 247.

“In the thick darkness, God veiled the last human agony of His Son. All who had seen Christ in His suffering had been convicted of His divinity. That face, once beheld by humanity, was never forgotten. As the face of Cain expressed his guilt as a murderer, so the face of Christ revealed innocence, serenity, benevolence — the image of God. But His accusers would not give heed to the signet of heaven.

Through long hours of agony Christ had been gazed upon by the jeering multitude. Now He was mercifully hidden by the mantle of God.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 754.

“Think of Christ’s humiliation. He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin. He took our sorrows, bearing our grief and shame. He endured all the temptations wherewith man is beset. He united humanity with divinity; a divine spirit dwelt in a temple of flesh.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1147.

**PRQ4. What makes it possible to be drawn to the Man of Calvary?**

Thursday, January 19

## 5. GOD BECAME FLESH

**a. What did this Divine Being become in order to rescue humanity from its terrible misery and hopeless condition? John 1:14; Hebrews 2:9.**

**John 1:14:** *14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**Hebrews 2:9:** *9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

**PRQ5.** *Why did Jesus take on sinful human nature?*

Thursday, January 19

## 5. GOD BECAME FLESH

**b. Describe what Jesus took upon His spotless divine nature. Hebrews 2:10, 11, 14, 17.**

**Hebrews 2:10-11:** *10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

**Hebrews 2:14:** *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

**Hebrews 2:17:** *17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

**PRQ5. Why did Jesus take on sinful human nature?**

Thursday, January 19

## 5. GOD BECAME FLESH

**c. To what extent did Jesus have to humble Himself so there is drawing power in the cross of Calvary? Hebrews 2:14; Philippians 2:6–8; 2 Timothy 2:8.**

**Hebrews 2:14:** *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

**Philippians 2:6–8:** *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.*

**2 Timothy 2:8:** *8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:*

“In consideration of this, can men have one particle of exaltation? As they trace down the life and sufferings and humiliation of Christ, can they lift their proud heads as if they were to bear no trials, no shame, no humiliation? I say to the followers of Christ, Look to Calvary, and blush for shame at your self-important ideas. All this humiliation of the Majesty of heaven was for guilty, condemned man. He went lower and lower in His humiliation, until there were no lower depths that He could reach, in order to lift man up from his moral defilement.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, pp. 1127, 1128.

“What do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all! I am ashamed to hear it spoken of, ashamed to write it.

“God does not require us to give up anything that it is for our best interest to retain. In all that He does, He has the well-being of His children in view. Would that all who have not chosen Christ might realize that He has something vastly better to offer them than they are seeking for themselves.” — Steps to Christ, p. 46.

**PRQ5. Why did Jesus take on sinful human nature?**

Friday, January 20

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What lessons can we learn from the Jews being Abraham's children?**
- 2. How is it possible to totally miss the point of the Bible while studying it?**
- 3. What lessons can I learn from the deadly serpents in the wilderness?**
- 4. What makes it possible to be drawn to the Man of Calvary?**
- 5. Why did Jesus take on sinful human nature?**

## Lesson 4 - Sabbath, January 28, 2023

# Give Me Oil in My Lamp

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

“Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfilment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf. Doing this you will reveal to the world the principles of righteousness.” —The Signs of the Times, June 19, 1901.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 47-56.*

Sunday, January 22

## 1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**a. How long has the Holy Spirit existed? Genesis 1:2; Psalm 51:11; Hebrews 9:14.**

**Genesis 1:2:** *2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

**Psalm 51:11:** *11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

**Hebrews 9:14:** *14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

***PRQ1. How do we know that the Holy Spirit was an active Agent during Old Testament times?***

Sunday, January 22

## 1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**b. Describe and explain the extensive nature of God’s Spirit. Psalm 139:7–12; 1 Corinthians 2:9–12; 2 Peter 1:21.**

**Psalm 139:7–12:** *7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

**1 Corinthians 2:9–12:** *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. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

**2 Peter 1:21:** *21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

“During the Jewish economy the influence of God’s Spirit had been seen in a marked manner, but not in full. For ages prayers had been offered for the fulfillment of God’s promise to impart His Spirit, and not one of these earnest supplications had been forgotten.”—My Life Today, p. 36.

“Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege. By the plan of redemption, however, a way has been opened whereby the inhabitants of the earth may still have connection with heaven. God has communicated with men by His Spirit, and divine light has been imparted to the world by revelations to His chosen servants.”—God’s Amazing Grace, p. 190.

**PRQ1. How do we know that the Holy Spirit was an active Agent during Old Testament times?**

Monday, January 23

## 2. IS HE A PERSONAL BEING?

**a. Name some traits of character that show the personality of the Holy Spirit.**

- (1) The Spirit knows. 1 Corinthians 2:9–12.**
- (2) Able to love. Romans 15:30.**
- (3) Able to commune. 2 Corinthians 13:14.**
- (4) Because He can commune, He must speak. 1 Timothy 4:1.**
- (5) Thus He is able to teach. 1 Corinthians 2:13.**
- (6) He is able to be a witness. Romans 8:16.**

**1 Corinthians 2:9-12:** *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. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

**Romans 15:30:** *Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;*

**2 Corinthians 13:14:** *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

**1 Timothy 4:1:** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

**1 Corinthians 2:13:** *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

**Romans 8:16:** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*Continued...*

“Christ gave His followers a positive promise that after His ascension He would send them His Spirit. ‘Go ye therefore,’ He said, ‘and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father [a personal God], and of the Son [a personal Prince and Saviour], and of the Holy Ghost [sent from heaven to represent Christ]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.’ ”—The Review and Herald, October 26, 1897.

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.

“The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. . . .

“The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. ‘For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.’ ”—Evangelism, pp. 616, 617.

“Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. The Holy Spirit is Himself divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof. He would represent Himself as present in all places by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, p. 23.

“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio: in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.”—Evangelism, p. 615.

***PRQ2. What are the evidences of the personality of the Holy Spirit?***

Tuesday, January 24

### 3. IS HE A PERSONAL BEING? (continued)

- a. What are some other traits that show the personality of the Holy Spirit?
- (1) He intercedes in our behalf when we pray. Romans 8:26, 27.
  - (2) He is the distributor of special gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:7–11.
  - (3) He also invites the sinner to repentance. Revelation 22:17.
  - (4) He not only invites the sinner to repent, He also seals or settles him in the faith. Ephesians 1:13.
  - (5) Because He seals or settles us, against what are we warned? Ephesians 4:30.
  - (6) Because He is a personal being, Jesus applied the personal pronoun “He” and “Him” to the Holy Spirit 24 times. One such example is John 14:16, 17.

**Romans 8:26-27:** *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 26 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11:** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 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: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

**Revelation 22:17:** *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

**Ephesians 1:13:** *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

*Continued...*

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

**John 14:16-17:** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, pp. 1077, 1078.

“Happiness is composed of little things and great things. . . . If we would become like Christ and receive His fashion of character, we must in little things train the soul to daily progressive sanctification. We have no time to lose. Would you impress the seal to obtain a clear impression upon the wax, you do not dash it on by a violent action, but you place the seal carefully and firmly and press it down until the wax receives the mold. Just so the Lord is dealing with our souls. . . . Not now and then, but constantly the new life is implanted by the Holy Spirit after Christ’s likeness.”—In Heavenly Places, p. 66.

“The Holy Spirit indites all genuine prayer. I have learned to know that in all my intercessions the Spirit intercedes for me and for all saints; but His intercessions are according to the will of God, never contrary to His will. ‘The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities;’ and the Spirit, being God, knoweth the mind of God; therefore in every prayer of ours for the sick, or for other needs, the will of God is to be regarded.”—The Signs of the Times, October 3, 1892.

**PRQ3.** *What is the difference between the intercessory work of Christ and that of the Holy Spirit?*

Wednesday, January 25

#### 4. WHAT IS HIS WORK?

**a. As Jesus went to intercede in our behalf at the right hand of the throne of God, what shows that the Holy Spirit is the personal representative of the Saviour? John 15:26; 16:13, 14.**

**John 15:26:** *26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

**John 16:13-14:** *13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Wednesday, January 25

#### **4. WHAT IS HIS WORK?**

**b. What does the Holy Spirit supply to our lonely heart in the absence of our beloved Friend? John 16:7.**

**John 16:7:** *7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

Wednesday, January 25

## 4. WHAT IS HIS WORK?

**c. How does He lead us to conversion? John 16:8 (margin); Zechariah 4:6.**

**John 16:8:** *8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

**Zechariah 4:6:** *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.*

“The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

“The image of Christ engraved upon the heart is reflected in character, in practical life, day by day, because we represent a personal Saviour. The Holy Spirit is promised to all who will ask for it. When you search the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is by your side, personating Jesus Christ.” — *The General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 15, 1895.

“The preaching of the word is of no avail without the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit; for this Spirit is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life. A minister may be able to present the letter of the word of God; he may be familiar with all its commands and promises; but his sowing of the gospel seed will not be successful unless this seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven. Without the co-operation of the Spirit of God, no amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light.” — *Gospel Workers*, p. 284.

**PRQ4.** *What are some of the most important roles of the Holy Spirit in the plan of salvation?*

Thursday, January 26

## **5. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

**a. How does a person come to a full knowledge of the truth? John 16:13.**

**John 16:13:** *13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

Thursday, January 26

## **5. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

**b. Since this is the work of the Holy Spirit, what is His role in helping us find the true church? 1 Timothy 3:15.**

**1 Timothy 3:15:** *15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Thursday, January 26

## 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

**c. Since the Holy Spirit is so important to have in our lives, what should we be doing in order to have the full power of the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:9–13.**

**Luke 11:9–13:** *9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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?*

“The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.” —Evangelism, p. 617.

“Just as long as the church are satisfied with small things, they are disqualified to receive the great things of God. But why do we not hunger and thirst after the gift of the Holy Spirit, since it is the means whereby the heart may be kept pure? The Lord designs that divine power shall cooperate with human effort. It is all-essential for the Christian to understand the meaning of the promise of the Holy Spirit just prior to the coming of our Lord Jesus the second time. Talk of it, pray of it, preach concerning it; for the Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit than parents are to give good gifts to their children.” —The Review and Herald, November 15, 1892.

***PRQ5. What is the Holy Spirit's involvement in helping people understand the true church?***

Friday, January 27

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How do we know that the Holy Spirit was an active Agent during Old Testament times?**
- 2. What are the evidences of the personality of the Holy Spirit?**
- 3. What is the difference between the intercessory work of Christ and that of the Holy Spirit?**
- 4. What are some of the most important roles of the Holy Spirit in the plan of salvation?**
- 5. What is the Holy Spirit's involvement in helping people understand the true church?**

## February - First Sabbath Offering for World Disaster Relief

Natural disasters are becoming more and more frequent and severe worldwide. These include—but are not limited to—earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and volcanic eruptions. “Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given. . . . He scattereth his bright cloud: and it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy” (Job 37:9–13). The Almighty One always has in mind the ultimate best interests of this beautiful planet and the creatures He has made—yet today, many strange and extreme weather occurrences are coming specifically from the arsenal of the archenemy of souls: “While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, [Satan] will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. ‘The earth mourneth and fadeth away,’ ‘the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant’ Isaiah 24:4, 5.” —The Great Controversy, pp. 589, 590.

Whatever may happen, how are God’s children called to respond to the tremendous human suffering that results from natural disasters?

The Lord bids us follow His own example on earth by reaching out to relieve suffering wherever found. The basic necessities of life are abruptly lost when a natural disaster occurs, so it is our Christian duty to help however and wherever we can. Your generous donation for World Disaster Relief helps make that possible. Thank you in advance!

*Your brethren from the General Conference*

## Lesson 5 - Sabbath, February 4, 2023

# The Gospel in the Old Testament

**MEMORY TEXT:** “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

“Jesus came to this world to save His people from their sins. He will not save us in our sins, for He is not the minister of sin. We must respond to the divine drawing of Christ, and repent of our sins, and unite ourselves to Christ as the branch is united to the vine.”—The Signs of the Times, February 15, 1892.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 63-70.*

Sunday, January 29

## 1. LESSONS FROM HISTORY

a. What is the major reason that we need to study history, especially sacred history? Ecclesiastes 3:15.

**Ecclesiastes 3:15:** *15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*

“The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. The principles of God’s dealing with men are ever the same. The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time.” —The Great Controversy, p. 343.

**PRQ1.** *How are the principles of Bible history applicable to our own time?*

Sunday, January 29

## 1. LESSONS FROM HISTORY

**b. Since the study of history extends to us the hope of the gospel (Romans 15:4), what does this hope offer to the sin-sick soul? Romans 1:16; Luke 19:10.**

**Romans 15:4:** *4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

**Romans 1:16:** *16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

**Luke 19:10:** *10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

“Every part of the Bible is given by inspiration of God and is profitable. The Old Testament no less than the New should receive attention. As we study the Old Testament we shall find living springs bubbling up where the careless reader discerns only a desert.” —Education, p. 191.

***PRQ1. How are the principles of Bible history applicable to our own time?***

Monday, January 30

## 2. THE PERFECTION OF CREATION

**a. What type of character did the first man and woman possess when they came fresh from the hands of their Creator? Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29.**

**Genesis 1:31:** *31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

**Ecclesiastes 7:29:** *29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

“Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is ‘the express image’ (Hebrews 1:3) of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God and in perfect obedience to His will.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 45.

***PRQ2. What requirement since Eden shows that God does not change?***

Monday, January 30

## 2. THE PERFECTION OF CREATION

**b. What was required in order for the human race to remain in this perfect state and to live forever? Genesis 2:16, 17 (margin).**

**Genesis 2:16:** *16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

“Christ does not lessen the claims of the law. In unmistakable language He presents obedience to it as the condition of eternal life—the same condition that was required of Adam before his fall. The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden—harmony with God’s law, which is holy, just, and good.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 391.

***PRQ2. What requirement since Eden shows that God does not change?***

Monday, January 30

## 2. THE PERFECTION OF CREATION

**c. Since man failed/sinned (Genesis 3), what were the consequences not only for our first parents, but for the entire race? Romans 5:12; 6:23.**

**Romans 5:12:** *12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

**Romans 6:23:** *23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

“In obedience to God’s law, man is surrounded as with a hedge and kept from the evil. He who breaks down this divinely erected barrier at one point has destroyed its power to protect him; for he has opened a way by which the enemy can enter to waste and ruin.

“By venturing to disregard the will of God upon one point, our first parents opened the floodgates of woe upon the world. And every individual who follows their example will reap a similar result. The love of God underlies every precept of His law, and he who departs from the commandment is working his own unhappiness and ruin.” —Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 52.

***PRQ2. What requirement since Eden shows that God does not change?***

Tuesday, January 31

### 3. SIN DEFINED

**a. How do we know that Adam’s transgression included violation of the law of God? Romans 7:7; compare Exodus 20:17; 1 John 3:4.**

**Romans 7:7:** *7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

**Exodus 20:17:** *17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbours wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbours.*

**1 John 3:4:** *4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

“Many who teach that the law of God is not binding upon man, urge that it is impossible for him to obey its precepts. But if this were true, why did Adam suffer the penalty of transgression? The sin of our first parents brought guilt and sorrow upon the world, and had it not been for the goodness and mercy of God, would have plunged the race into hopeless despair. Let none deceive themselves. ‘The wages of sin is death.’ Romans 6:23. The law of God can no more be transgressed with impunity now than when sentence was pronounced upon the father of mankind.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 61.

“Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God’s law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ. The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ.”—The Great Controversy, p. 468.

***PRQ3. What is the purpose of Jesus coming to this world in reference to the sin problem?***

Tuesday, January 31

### 3. SIN DEFINED

**b. When we read these texts, how does the Bible show that Jesus actually came to save us from the transgression of the law? Matthew 1:21.**

**Matthew 1:21:** *21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

“Jesus died to save His people from their sins, and redemption in Christ means to cease the transgression of the law of God and to be free from every sin; no heart that is stirred with enmity against the law of God is in harmony with Christ, who suffered on Calvary to vindicate and exalt the law before the universe.” —Faith and Works, p. 95.

“We have a wonderful friend in Jesus, who came to save His people from the transgression of the law. What is sin? The only definition of sin is that it is the transgression of the law. Then here is Jesus Christ, who comes right in and imparts His righteousness to us; we cannot overcome in our own strength, but by faith in Him. If you will believe on Jesus Christ, you will have Him today. You must believe that He is your Saviour now, and that He imputes to you His righteousness because He has died, and because He has been obedient unto every requirement of that transgressed law of God. If you do this, you will have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Adam and Eve lost Eden because they transgressed that law, but you will lose heaven if you transgress it.” —The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 128.

***PRQ3. What is the purpose of Jesus coming to this world in reference to the sin problem?***

Wednesday, February 1

#### 4. THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

**a. Why is the Old Testament patriarch Abraham known as the father of the faithful? Galatians 3:6–9.**

**Galatians 3:6–9:** *6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.*

“Abraham’s test was the most severe that could come to a human being. Had he failed under it, he would never have been registered as the father of the faithful. Had he deviated from God’s command, the world would have lost an inspiring example of unquestioning faith and obedience. The lesson was given to shine down through the ages, that we may learn that there is nothing too precious to be given to God. It is when we look upon every gift as the Lord’s, to be used in His service, that we secure the heavenly benediction. Give back to God your intrusted possession, and more will be intrusted to you. Keep your possessions to yourself, and you will receive no reward in this life, and will lose the reward of the life to come.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 1, p. 1094.

“The spot on which the temple was built had long been regarded as a consecrated place. It was here that Abraham, the father of the faithful, had revealed his willingness to sacrifice his only son in obedience to the command of Jehovah. Here God had renewed with Abraham the covenant of blessing, which included the glorious Messianic promise to the human race of deliverance through the sacrifice of the Son of the Most High.” — Prophets and Kings, p. 37.

**PRQ4. How was the faith of Abraham shown by his deeds?**

Wednesday, February 1

#### 4. THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

**b. How does the promise of the seed show the preaching of the gospel even in the time of Abraham? Genesis 22:15–18; Galatians 3:16.**

**Genesis 22:15–18:** *15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

**Galatians 3:16:** *16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

“This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise, ‘In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.’ Genesis 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. So Abraham understood it (see Galatians 3:8, 16), and he trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith that was accounted unto him for righteousness. The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God’s law.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 370.

**PRQ4. How was the faith of Abraham shown by his deeds?**

Wednesday, February 1

#### 4. THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

**c. Why was Abraham singled out as a recipient of the gospel, and many others in his time were not? Genesis 26:5; James 2:19–24.**

**Genesis 26:5:** *5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*

**James 2:19–24:** *19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 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? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

“Abraham believed God. How do we know that he believed? His works testified to the character of his faith, and his faith was accounted to him for righteousness.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 936.

**PRQ4. How was the faith of Abraham shown by his deeds?**

Thursday, February 2

## 5. THE LAW IN THE REST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**a. What other examples do we have that the law existed before God literally spoke it on Mount Sinai (Deuteronomy 5:22–26)? Exodus 15:26; 16:28.**

**Deuteronomy 5:22–26:** *22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. 23 And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; 24 And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. 25 Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?*

**Exodus 15:26:** *26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.*

**Exodus 16:28:** *28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?*

“Every week during their long sojourn in the wilderness the Israelites witnessed a threefold miracle, designed to impress their minds with the sacredness of the Sabbath: a double quantity of manna fell on the sixth day, none on the seventh, and the portion needed for the Sabbath was preserved sweet and pure, when if any were kept over at any other time it became unfit for use.

“In the circumstances connected with the giving of the manna, we have conclusive evidence that the Sabbath was not instituted, as many claim, when the law was given at Sinai. Before the Israelites came to Sinai they understood the Sabbath to be

obligatory upon them. In being obliged to gather every Friday a double portion of manna in preparation for the Sabbath, when none would fall, the sacred nature of the day of rest was continually impressed upon them. And when some of the people went out on the Sabbath to gather manna, the Lord asked, ‘How long refuse ye to keep My commandments and My laws?’ ” — Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 296, 297. [Emphasis by author.]

Thursday, February 2

## 5. THE LAW IN THE REST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**b. What did God intend for Israel to do with the spoken and written moral law of Ten Commandments? Deuteronomy 6:1–9.**

**Deuteronomy 6:1–9:** *1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy sons son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.*

Thursday, February 2

## 5. THE LAW IN THE REST OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**c. How do we know that the Lord maintained this position all the way through the end of the Old Testament? Malachi 4:4; 3:6.**

**Malachi 4:4:** *4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.*

**Malachi 3:6:** *6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

**PRQ5.** *What should our relationship be with the law of God?*

Friday, February 3

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How are the principles of Bible history applicable to our own time?**
- 2. What requirement since Eden shows that God does not change?**
- 3. What is the purpose of Jesus coming to this world in reference to the sin problem?**
- 4. How was the faith of Abraham shown by his deeds?**
- 5. What should our relationship be with the law of God?**

## Lesson 6 - Sabbath, February 11, 2023

# The Eternal Law of God

**MEMORY TEXT:** “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

“[Christ] has bidden us love one another even as He has loved us. Religion is founded upon love to God, which also leads us to love one another. It is full of gratitude, humility, long-suffering. It is self-sacrificing, forbearing, merciful, and forgiving. It sanctifies the whole life and extends its influence over others.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 223.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 303-314.*

Sunday, February 5

## 1. THE CHANGELESS CREATOR

**a. What must we realize about Christ's relation to God's moral law while He lived here on this earth as the Son of man? Matthew 5:17, 18.**

**Matthew 5:17-18:** *17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

**PRQ1. How did Jesus maintain the character of God while living in humanity?**

Sunday, February 5

## 1. THE CHANGELESS CREATOR

**b. How particular were the Jewish leaders regarding the outward observance of the law? Matthew 23:23; Philippians 3:4.**

**Matthew 23:23:** *23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

**Philippians 3:4:** *4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*

“[The Jewish leaders] were zealous to maintain an appearance of holiness, but they neglected holiness of heart. While they were sticklers for the letter of the law, they were constantly violating its spirit. Their great need was that very change which Christ had been explaining to Nicodemus—a new moral birth, a cleansing from sin, and a renewing of knowledge and holiness.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 174.

**PRQ1. How did Jesus maintain the character of God while living in humanity?**

Sunday, February 5

## 1. THE CHANGELESS CREATOR

**c. What can we observe about Jesus' trial that reveals that He was not a lawbreaker? Matthew 26:59, 60.**

**Matthew 26:59-60:** *59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; 60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,*

“Neither the Saviour nor His followers broke the law of the Sabbath. Christ was a living representative of the law. No violation of its holy precepts was found in His life. Looking upon a nation of witnesses who were seeking occasion to condemn Him, He could say unchallenged, ‘Which of you convicteth Me of sin?’ John 8:46, R.V.”—Ibid., p.287.

***PRQ1. How did Jesus maintain the character of God while living in humanity?***

Monday, February 6

## 2. THE LAW IN THE HEART OF JESUS

a. What was prepared for Jesus when He came to earth? Hebrews 10:5–10.

**Hebrews 10:5–10:** *5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

“It was not a chance, but a design that the world’s Redeemer should lay off His crown, lay aside His kingly robe, and come to our world as a man. He clothed His divinity with the garb of humanity, that He might stand at the head of the human family, His humanity mingled with the humanity of the race fallen because of Adam’s disobedience.”—The Southern Work, p. 85.

**PRQ2.** *How is the same character of Christ manifested in true believers?*

Monday, February 6

## 2. THE LAW IN THE HEART OF JESUS

**b. When we read the same passage in the Old Testament about Christ, what was prophesied to be in His heart? Psalm 40:6–8.**

**Psalm 40:6–8:** *6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

“It was the transgression of the law that resulted in sin, sorrow, and death. Satan declared that he would prove to the worlds which God has created, and to the heavenly intelligences, that it was an impossibility to keep the law of God. When Adam yielded to the temptation of the enemy, and fell from his high and holy estate, Satan and his angels exulted. But from the throne of God a voice was heard speaking words of mysterious import. [Psalm 40:6–8 quoted.] When man fell, Christ announced His purpose of becoming man’s substitute and surety.” — The Review and Herald, September 3, 1901.

***PRQ2. How is the same character of Christ manifested in true believers?***

Monday, February 6

## 2. THE LAW IN THE HEART OF JESUS

**c. When we accept Christ into our heart, what are we accepting inseparably with Him? Psalm 119:70, 72, 77, 174.**

**Psalm 119:70:** *70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.*

**Psalm 119:72:** *72 The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver. JOD.*

**Psalm 119:77:** *77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.*

**Psalm 119:174:** *174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.*

“The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan’s ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 329.

“Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and ‘God is love.’ 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for ‘all Thy commandments are righteousness’ (Psalm 119:172), and ‘love is the fulfilling of the law’ (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.” — Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 18.

**PRQ2. How is the same character of Christ manifested in true believers?**

Tuesday, February 7

### 3. ACCORDING TO THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

**a. When Jesus was explaining to the disciples that His life was living proof that He was the Messiah, what texts did He use? Luke 24:27, 44.**

**Luke 24:27:** *27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

**Luke 24:44:** *44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

“It was His purpose to enlighten their understanding and to fasten their faith upon the ‘sure word of prophecy.’ He wished the truth to take firm root in their minds, not merely because it was supported by His personal testimony, but because of the unquestionable evidence presented by the symbols and shadows of the typical law, and by the prophecies of the Old Testament. It was needful for the followers of Christ to have an intelligent faith, not only in their own behalf, but that they might carry the knowledge of Christ to the world. And as the very first step in imparting this knowledge, Jesus directed the disciples to ‘Moses and all the prophets.’ Such was the testimony given by the risen Saviour to the value and importance of the Old Testament Scriptures.” — The Great Controversy, p. 349.

***PRQ3. In order to truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, with what prophecies must we become thoroughly familiar?***

Tuesday, February 7

### 3. ACCORDING TO THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

**b. How did the disciples, as they were preaching the gospel message, prove that Jesus was the promised One? Acts 28:23.**

*Acts 28:23: 23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.*

“The Spirit of God accompanied the words that were spoken, and hearts were touched. The apostle’s appeal to Old Testament prophecies, and his declaration that these had been fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, carried conviction to many a soul longing for the advent of the promised Messiah. And the speaker’s words of assurance that the ‘glad tidings’ of salvation were for Jew and Gentile alike, brought hope and joy to those who had not been numbered among the children of Abraham according to the flesh.” — The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 172, 173.

“In preaching to the Thessalonians, Paul appealed to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. Christ in His ministry had opened the minds of His disciples to these prophecies; ‘beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.’ Luke 24:27. Peter in preaching Christ had produced his evidence from the Old Testament. Stephen had pursued the same course. And Paul also in his ministry appealed to the scriptures foretelling the birth, sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. By the inspired testimony of Moses and the prophets he clearly proved the identity of Jesus of Nazareth with the Messiah and showed that from the days of Adam it was the voice of Christ which had been speaking through patriarchs and prophets.” — Ibid., pp.221, 222.

*PRQ3. In order to truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, with what prophecies must we become thoroughly familiar?*

Wednesday, February 8

#### 4. LAW AND FAITH

**a. Does placing our faith in Jesus as our personal Saviour do away with the law? Why or why not? Romans 3:31.**

**Romans 3:31:** *31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

**PRQ4.** *How is it possible that sinful human beings can have the right to the tree of life from which they were barred by sin?*

Wednesday, February 8

## 4. LAW AND FAITH

**b. What blessing is pronounced upon commandment keepers? Revelation 22:14.**

**Revelation 22:14:** *14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

“By transgressing God’s commandments a curse fell upon Adam and Eve, and they were deprived of all right to the tree of life. Christ died to save man, and yet preserve the honor of God’s law. He says ‘Blessed are they that do His commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the City.’ The Son of God here presents the doing of the commandments of God as the condition of a right to the tree of life. The transgression of God’s commandments deprived man of all right to the tree of life. Christ died, that by virtue of His blood, obedience to God’s law might make man worthy of the heavenly benediction, and grant him a right again to the tree of life.”  
—Spiritual Gifts, vol. 3, p. 88.

“Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’ We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.”—Early Writings, p. 17.

**PRQ4.** *How is it possible that sinful human beings can have the right to the tree of life from which they were barred by sin?*

Wednesday, February 8

## 4. LAW AND FAITH

**c. How does this show that God never changes? Hebrews 13:8.**

**Hebrews 13:8:** *8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

“Jesus will do great things for us, if we will faithfully perform our duty. We must yield our will to the will of God. We must honor the Lord by obeying all His commandments, even in what we term little things. The truth, like its divine Author, is unchangeable in its requirements, the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is not in harmony with the traditions of men, it does not conform to their opinions. The truth has ever brought a separation between God’s people and the world. But if our position in former years, as a peculiar people, was approved of God, how does He regard our present position? Have we gained in spirituality since we departed from our early simplicity?” — The Signs of the Times, May 25, 1882.

**PRQ4.** *How is it possible that sinful human beings can have the right to the tree of life from which they were barred by sin?*

Thursday, February 9

## 5. WRITTEN IN THE HEART

**a. How is it possible to have the law of God in our life in the same way that Jesus had? Hebrews 10:16; 8:10.**

**Hebrews 10:16:** *16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

**Hebrews 8:10:** *10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

“God has given us His holy precepts, because He loves mankind. To shield us from the results of transgression, He reveals the principles of righteousness. The law is an expression of the thought of God; when received in Christ, it becomes our thought. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 308.

**PRQ5. What is the only way that we can experience genuine obedience?**

Thursday, February 9

## 5. WRITTEN IN THE HEART

**b. What does God show us before we can even begin this heavenward journey? 1 John 4:19, 8.**

**1 John 4:19:** *19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

**1 John 4:8:** *8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.” —Ibid., p.22.

***PRQ5. What is the only way that we can experience genuine obedience?***

Thursday, February 9

## 5. WRITTEN IN THE HEART

**c. What is possible only after this love of God is in our hearts? John 14:15–17.**

**John 14:15–17:** *15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

**PRQ5. What is the only way that we can experience genuine obedience?**

Friday, February 10

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How did Jesus maintain the character of God while living in humanity?**
- 2. How is the same character of Christ manifested in true believers?**
- 3. In order to truly believe that Jesus is the Messiah, with what prophecies must we become thoroughly familiar?**
- 4. How is it possible that sinful human beings can have the right to the tree of life from which they were barred by sin?**
- 5. What is the only way that we can experience genuine obedience?**

## Lesson 7 - Sabbath, February 18, 2023

# The Mystery of the Gospel

**MEMORY TEXT:** “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

“We can so far comprehend His dealing with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless love and mercy united to infinite power. We can understand as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know; and beyond this we must still trust the might of the Omnipotent, the love and wisdom of the Father and Sovereign of all.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 699.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Education, pp. 169-172.*

Sunday, February 12

## 1. SCRIPTURES HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

a. What does Peter observe about some of Paul's writings? **2 Peter 3:14–17.**  
 What should we realize about some things in Scripture? **Deuteronomy 29:29.**

**2 Peter 3:14–17:** *14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*

**Deuteronomy 29:29:** *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.*

“Men of ability have devoted a lifetime of study and prayer to the searching of the Scriptures, and yet there are many portions of the Bible that have not been fully explored. Some passages of Scripture will never be perfectly comprehended until in the future life Christ shall explain them. There are mysteries to be unraveled, statements that human minds cannot harmonize. And the enemy will seek to arouse argument upon these points, which might better remain undiscussed.” —Gospel Workers, p. 312.

**PRQ1. How important is personal heart preparation in Bible study?**

Sunday, February 12

## 1. SCRIPTURES HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD

**b. With what attitude must we approach the Scriptures? John 7:17.**

**John 7:17:** *17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

“The spirit in which you come to the investigation of the Scriptures will determine the character of the assistant at your side. Angels from the world of light will be with those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance. But if the Bible is opened with irreverence, with a feeling of self-sufficiency, if the heart is filled with prejudice, Satan is beside you, and he will set the plain statements of God’s word in a perverted light.” — Testimonies to Ministers, p. 108.

***PRQ1. How important is personal heart preparation in Bible study?***

Monday, February 13

## 2. DISCERNING SECRETS

**a. What specific things did God reveal to Paul for the purpose of sharing with the rest of the world? Romans 16:25, 26; Colossians 1:27.**

**Romans 16:25-26:** *25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

**Colossians 1:27:** *27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

“To Paul the cross was the one object of supreme interest. Ever since he had been arrested in his career of persecution against the followers of the crucified Nazarene he had never ceased to glory in the cross. At that time there had been given him a revelation of the infinite love of God, as revealed in the death of Christ; and a marvelous transformation had been wrought in his life, bringing all his plans and purposes into harmony with heaven. From that hour he had been a new man in Christ. He knew by personal experience that when a sinner once beholds the love of the Father, as seen in the sacrifice of His Son, and yields to the divine influence, a change of heart takes place, and henceforth Christ is all and in all.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 245.

**PRQ2. How is it possible to properly understand something as mysterious as the gospel of salvation?**

Monday, February 13

## 2. DISCERNING SECRETS

**b. If something in Scripture is difficult to understand, why should we even attempt researching into the matter? 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17:** *16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

“The cross of Christ is all covered with reproach and stigma, yet it is the hope of life and exaltation to man. No one can comprehend the mystery of godliness so long as he is ashamed to bear the cross of Christ. None will be able to discern and appreciate the blessings which Christ has purchased for man at infinite cost to Himself, unless they are willing to joyfully sacrifice earthly treasures that they may become His followers. Every self-denial and sacrifice made for Christ enriches the giver, and every suffering and reproach endured for His dear name increases the final joy and immortal reward in the kingdom of glory.”—Confrontation, p. 93.

***PRQ2. How is it possible to properly understand something as mysterious as the gospel of salvation?***

Monday, February 13

## 2. DISCERNING SECRETS

**c. Explain what we need in order to come to right conclusions. John 16:13.**

**John 16:13:** *13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

“Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we shall be continually liable to wrest the Scriptures or to misinterpret them. There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit and in many cases is a positive injury. When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. The enemy takes control of the thoughts, and he suggests interpretations that are not correct.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 704, 705.

***PRQ2. How is it possible to properly understand something as mysterious as the gospel of salvation?***

Tuesday, February 14

### 3. THE ROYAL MORAL LAW

**a. Contrary to common belief, how do we know that the law of Ten Commandments were not done away with at the cross? James 2:8, 9.**

**James 2:8-9:** *8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: 9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.*

“Many religious teachers assert that Christ by His death abolished the law, and men are henceforth free from its requirements. There are some who represent it as a grievous yoke, and in contrast to the bondage of the law they present the liberty to be enjoyed under the gospel.

“But not so did prophets and apostles regard the holy law of God. Said David: ‘I will walk at liberty: for I seek Thy precepts.’ Psalm 119:45. The apostle James, who wrote after the death of Christ, refers to the Decalogue as ‘the royal law’ and ‘the perfect law of liberty.’ James 2:8; 1:25. And the revelator, half a century after the crucifixion, pronounces a blessing upon them ‘that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.’ Revelation 22:14.” — The Great Controversy, p. 466.

“When one surrenders to Christ, the mind is brought under the control of the law; but it is the royal law, which proclaims liberty to every captive. By becoming one with Christ, man is made free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood.” — The Ministry of Healing, p. 131.

Tuesday, February 14

### 3. THE ROYAL MORAL LAW

**b. Which law defines loving our neighbor as ourselves? Romans 13:9; compare Exodus 20:1–17.**

**Romans 13:9:** *9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

**Exodus 20:1–17:** *1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13 Thou shalt not kill. 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15 Thou shalt not steal. 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbours wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbours.*

Continued...

“The first four of the Ten Commandments are summed up in the one great precept, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.’ The last six are included in the other, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’ Both these commandments are an expression of the principle of love. The first cannot be kept and the second broken, nor can the second be kept while the first is broken. When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor. We shall love him as ourselves. And only as we love God supremely is it possible to love our neighbor impartially. . . .

“Christ taught His hearers that the law of God is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance and may with impunity be ignored. Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as a divine whole, and teaches that love to God will be shown by obedience to all His commandments.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 607.

*PRQ3. What are the reasons for understanding that after the cross, the law of God is still in force?*

Wednesday, February 15

#### 4. JUDGED BY THE LAW

**a. Explain the far-reaching extent of the judgment upon humanity.**

**Ecclesiastes 11:9; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27.**

**Ecclesiastes 11:9:** *9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

**Romans 14:10:** *10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

**2 Corinthians 5:10:** *10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

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

“All will be judged according to the light that has been given. The Lord sends forth His ambassadors with a message of salvation, and those who hear He will hold responsible for the way in which they treat the words of His servants. Those who are sincerely seeking for truth will make a careful investigation, in the light of God’s word, of the doctrines presented to them.” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 232.

**PRQ4. What is the great standard of character as a prerequisite for eternal life?**

Wednesday, February 15

#### **4. JUDGED BY THE LAW**

**b. What standard will be used in the judgment? James 2:12.**

**James 2:12:** *12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*

**PRQ4.** *What is the great standard of character as a prerequisite for eternal life?*

Wednesday, February 15

#### 4. JUDGED BY THE LAW

c. Which law is this? James 2:11; compare Exodus 20.

**James 2:11:** *11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.*

“In His teachings, Christ showed how far-reaching are the principles of the law spoken from Sinai. He made a living application of that law whose principles remain forever the great standard of righteousness—the standard by which all shall be judged in that great day when the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened.” —Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 211.

“The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment. Says the wise man: ‘Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment.’ Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. The apostle James admonishes his brethren: ‘So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.’ James 2:12.” —The Great Controversy, p. 482.

“When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened, and every man shall be judged according to the things written in the books, then the tables of stone, hidden by God until that day, will be presented before the world as the standard of righteousness. Then men and women will see that the prerequisite of their salvation is obedience to the perfect law of God. None will find excuse for sin. By the righteous principles of that law, men will receive their sentence of life or of death.” —Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 225.

**PRQ4.** *What is the great standard of character as a prerequisite for eternal life?*

Thursday, February 16

## 5. THE LAW AS THE SCHOOLMASTER

**a. What is the purpose of understanding the law or knowing the truth? John 3:18–21; Romans 7:7.**

**John 3:18–21:** *18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

**Romans 7:7:** *7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

“The first step in reconciliation to God is the conviction of sin. ‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’ ‘By the law is the knowledge of sin.’ 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20. In order to see his guilt, the sinner must test his character by God’s great standard of righteousness. It is a mirror which shows the perfection of a righteous character and enables him to discern the defects in his own.” —The Great Controversy, p. 467.

**PRQ5. Why is it necessary for the law, our truant officer, to bring us to Christ?**

Thursday, February 16

## 5. THE LAW AS THE SCHOOLMASTER

**b. By exposing our real condition, what does the law do with that revelation?  
Galatians 3:24.**

**Galatians 3:24:** *24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

“I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments.

“Christ was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. The death of Abel was in consequence of Cain’s refusing to accept God’s plan in the school of obedience, to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, typified by the sacrificial offerings pointing to Christ. Cain refused the shedding of blood, which symbolized the blood of Christ to be shed for the world. This whole ceremony was prepared by God, and Christ became the foundation of the whole system. This is the beginning of its work as the schoolmaster to bring sinful human agents to a consideration of Christ.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1109.

***PRQ5. Why is it necessary for the law, our truant officer, to bring us to Christ?***

Friday, February 17

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How important is personal heart preparation in Bible study?**
- 2. How is it possible to properly understand something as mysterious as the gospel of salvation?**
- 3. What are the reasons for understanding that after the cross, the law of God is still in force?**
- 4. What is the great standard of character as a prerequisite for eternal life?**
- 5. Why is it necessary for the law, our truant officer, to bring us to Christ?**

## Lesson 8 - Sabbath, February 25, 2023

# Nailed to His Cross

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14).

“The law of the ten commandments lives and will live through the eternal ages. The need for the service of sacrifices and offerings ceased when type met antitype in the death of Christ. In Him the shadow reached the substance. The Lamb of God was the complete and perfect offering.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1116.

**Suggested Reading:**     *Selected Messages, bk. 1, pp. 229-235.*

Sunday, February 19

## 1. ANOTHER LAW

**a. How does the Bible describe a law that was contrary to us and was nailed to the cross? Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15. Since the principles of the ten commandments existed in the perfection of Eden, how do we know this description cannot be referring to that law? Genesis 1:31.**

**Colossians 2:14:** *14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

**Ephesians 2:15:** *15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

**Genesis 1:31:** *31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

***PRQ1. How do we know that the seventh-day Sabbath is not included in the shadows of the Old Testament?***

Sunday, February 19

## 1. ANOTHER LAW

**b. What are some of the specific things contained in this law of ordinances? Colossians 2:16, 21. Are these sabbaths and other laws connected to the original moral law given at creation—or are they a shadow of an event that was to come in the future after they were given? Colossians 2:17.**

**Colossians 2:16:** *16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

**Colossians 2:21:** *21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;*

**Colossians 2:17:** *17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

“In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands and the subjects of His authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative, and given to all mankind. There was nothing in it shadowy or of restricted application to any people.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 48.

***PRQ1. How do we know that the seventh-day Sabbath is not included in the shadows of the Old Testament?***

Monday, February 20

## 2. THE LAW OF ORDINANCES

**a. Are these things that were a shadow of a later event actually referred to as a law—and if so, what kind of law? Hebrews 10:1.**

**Hebrews 10:1:** *For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*

“God’s people, whom He calls His peculiar treasure, were privileged with a two-fold system of law; the moral and the ceremonial. The one, pointing back to creation to keep in remembrance the living God who made the world, whose claims are binding upon all men in every dispensation, and which will exist through all time and eternity. The other, given because of man’s transgression of the moral law, the obedience to which consisted in sacrifices and offerings pointing to the future redemption. Each is clear and distinct from the other.” —The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1094.

***PRQ2. What are the distinctive features of the two laws—moral and ceremonial?***

Monday, February 20

## 2. THE LAW OF ORDINANCES

**b. While the sacrificing of animals was taught to the ancient Hebrews to illustrate (foreshadow) the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who was to come, what point needed to be understood? Hebrews 10:2–4, 6.**

**Hebrews 10:2–4:** *2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

**Hebrews 10:6:** *6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*

“Christ Himself was the originator of the Jewish system of worship, in which, by types and symbols, were shadowed forth spiritual and heavenly things. Many forgot the true significance of these offerings; and the great truth that through Christ alone there is forgiveness of sin, was lost to them. The multiplying of sacrificial offerings, the blood of bulls and goats, could not take away sin.” —Ibid., vol.7, p. 933.

***PRQ2. What are the distinctive features of the two laws — moral and ceremonial?***

Monday, February 20

## 2. THE LAW OF ORDINANCES

**c. What only has power to cleanse from the guilt of sin? 1 John 1:7.**

**1 John 1:7:** *7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

“A lesson was embodied in every sacrifice, impressed in every ceremony. . . through the blood of Christ alone is there forgiveness of sins.”—Ibid.

“The death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of man lifts the veil and reflects a flood of light back hundreds of years, upon the whole institution of the Jewish system of religion. Without the death of Christ all this system was meaningless. The Jews reject Christ, and therefore their whole system of religion is to them indefinite, unexplainable, and uncertain. They attach as much importance to shadowy ceremonies of types which have met their antitype as they do to the law of the ten commandments, which was not a shadow, but a reality as enduring as the throne of Jehovah.”—Ibid., vol.6, p. 1097.

***PRQ2. What are the distinctive features of the two laws—moral and ceremonial?***

Tuesday, February 21

### 3. THE CEREMONIAL SYSTEM

**a. Who was among the first to make the sacrifices of animals in this way?**

**Genesis 3:21, 24; 4:2–4; Hebrews 11:4.**

**Genesis 3:21:** *21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

**Genesis 4:2–4:** *2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

**Hebrews 11:4:** *4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

“The sacrificial offerings were ordained by God to be to man a perpetual reminder and a penitential acknowledgment of his sin and a confession of his faith in the promised Redeemer. They were intended to impress upon the fallen race the solemn truth that it was sin that caused death. To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God’s dear Son could expiate. And he marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A star of hope illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 68.

***PRQ3. Because of so much death, what attitude have we lost when an animal dies?***

Tuesday, February 21

### 3. THE CEREMONIAL SYSTEM

**b. What system was further developed after the people did not understand the plan of salvation at Mount Sinai? Exodus 25:8.**

**Exodus 25:8:** *8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

**PRQ3.** *Because of so much death, what attitude have we lost when an animal dies?*

Tuesday, February 21

### 3. THE CEREMONIAL SYSTEM

**c. Why was the shedding of blood necessary? Hebrews 9:22. What did the sacrificial lamb symbolize? 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19; John 1:29.**

**Hebrews 9:22:** *22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

**1 Corinthians 5:7:** *7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

**1 Peter 1:19:** *19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

**John 1:29:** *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.*

“He brought his hearers down through the types and shadows of the ceremonial law to Christ—to His crucifixion, His priesthood, and the sanctuary of His ministry—the great object that had cast its shadow backward into the Jewish age. He, as the Messiah, was the Antitype of all the sacrificial offerings. The apostle showed that according to the prophecies and the universal expectation of the Jews, the Messiah would be of the lineage of Abraham and David. He then traced His descent from the great patriarch Abraham, through the royal psalmist. He proved from Scripture what were to have been the character and works of the promised Messiah, and also His reception and treatment on earth, as testified by the holy prophets. He then showed that these predictions also had been fulfilled in the life, ministry, and death of Jesus, and hence that He was indeed the world’s Redeemer.” —Sketches From the Life of Paul, pp. 103, 104.

**PRQ3. Because of so much death, what attitude have we lost when an animal dies?**

Wednesday, February 22

#### 4. WHY WAS IT DONE AWAY WITH?

**a. As long as the ceremonies were continually taking place at the temple, in what did Israel believe as their hope of salvation? Isaiah 1:10–15.**

**Isaiah 1:10–15:** *10 Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. 11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. 12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? 13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. 14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. 15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*

“The Son of God is the center of the great plan of redemption which covers all dispensations. He is the ‘Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’ He is the Redeemer of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam in all ages of human probation. . . . Christ is the substance or body which casts its shadow back into former dispensations. When Christ died, the shadow ceased. At the death of Christ the typical system was done away, but the law of God, whose violation had made the plan of salvation necessary, was magnified and made honorable. The gospel was good tidings of great joy to Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses; for it presented to them a coming Saviour.” —The Signs of the Times, February 20, 1893.

“Jerusalem was the metropolis of the Jews, and there were found the greatest exclusiveness and bigotry. The Jewish Christians who lived in sight of the temple would naturally allow their minds to revert to the peculiar privileges of the Jews as a nation. As they saw Christianity departing from the ceremonies and traditions of Judaism, and perceived that the peculiar sacredness with which the Jewish customs had been invested would soon be lost sight of in the light of the new faith, many grew indignant against Paul, as one who had, in a great measure, caused this change. . . . Some were zealous for the ceremonial law.” —Sketches From the Life of Paul, p. 71.

**PRQ4. What made it difficult for the Jews living near the temple to understand that the ceremonial system was over?**

Wednesday, February 22

#### 4. WHY WAS IT DONE AWAY WITH?

**b. Instead of all the sacrifices, what was God looking for? Isaiah 1:16–18; Psalm 51:17–19.**

**Isaiah 1:16–18:** *16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; 17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. 18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

**Psalm 51:17–19:** *17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.*

**PRQ4.** *What made it difficult for the Jews living near the temple to understand that the ceremonial system was over?*

Wednesday, February 22

#### 4. WHY WAS IT DONE AWAY WITH?

**c. What does the plan of salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ bring that the sacrificial system was unable to do? Acts 4:12; Hebrews 7:28, 19.**

**Acts 4:12:** *12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**Hebrews 7:28:** *28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.*

**Hebrews 7:19:** *19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.*

“A more clear and glorious light now shines upon the Christian. Those who lived before the coming of Christ looked forward by faith to His coming, but what had to be grasped by faith by them is assurance to us; for we know that Christ has come, as foretold by the prophets. It is just as essential for us to have faith in our Redeemer, who came to earth and died our sacrifice, as it was for the ancients to believe in a Redeemer to come, represented by their offerings and sacrifices.” —The Signs of the Times, February 20, 1893.

***PRQ4. What made it difficult for the Jews living near the temple to understand that the ceremonial system was over?***

Thursday, February 23

## **5. DO WE NEED THE CEREMONIAL LAW TODAY?**

**a. Why do we have the ceremonial law on record in the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16.**

**2 Timothy 3:16:** *16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Thursday, February 23

## 5. DO WE NEED THE CEREMONIAL LAW TODAY?

### b. What is Jesus doing in heaven today? Hebrews 8:1–5; 3:1.

**Hebrews 8:1–5:** *1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

**Hebrews 3:1:** *1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

Thursday, February 23

## 5. DO WE NEED THE CEREMONIAL LAW TODAY?

**c. What are we to be doing since this new system is actively in force in heaven? Hebrews 4:14–16.**

**Hebrews 4:14–16:** *14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

“It was Christ’s desire to leave to His disciples an ordinance that would do for them the very thing they needed—that would serve to disentangle them from the rites and ceremonies which they had hitherto engaged in as essential, and which the reception of the gospel made no longer of any force. To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, pp. 1139, 1140.

“The messengers of the cross must arm themselves with watchfulness and prayer, and move forward with faith and courage, working always in the name of Jesus. They must exalt Christ as man’s mediator in the heavenly sanctuary, the One in whom all the sacrifices of the Old Testament dispensation centered, and through whose atoning sacrifice the transgressors of God’s law may find peace and pardon.”—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 230.

***PRQ5. What benefit do we receive today from studying the sanctuary service?***

Friday, February 24

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How do we know that the seventh-day Sabbath is not included in the shadows of the Old Testament?**
- 2. What are the distinctive features of the two laws—moral and ceremonial?**
- 3. Because of so much death, what attitude have we lost when an animal dies?**
- 4. What made it difficult for the Jews living near the temple to understand that the ceremonial system was over?**
- 5. What benefit do we receive today from studying the sanctuary service?**

## **March - First Sabbath Offering** **for a Chapel in Pathankot, North India Union**

Pathankot is a city in the Punjab state of India. It borders Pakistan on the west and is a travel hub for the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. The Reform message arrived here in 2015, and our membership has grown over the years. Through the circulation of our Sabbath Bible Lessons, many precious new souls are eagerly seeking the present truth.

As of 2011, the Pathankot urban area had a population of 159,909 with a literacy rate of 88.71%. It is surrounded by both the Shivalik range (part of the foothills of the Himalayas) and the river Chakki. Famous places near Pathankot include Shahpur Kandi with a hanging rest house for tourists and Ranjit Sagar Dam, which is the highest gravity dam in Asia. Industries in the surrounding area include the production of milk, wheat, rice, textiles, sewing machines, sports goods, sugar, starch, fertilizers, bicycles, scientific instruments, electrical goods, machine tools, and pine oil.

The religions in Pathankot are Hinduism with 88.89%, Sikhism 8.01%, and Christianity 1.73%, followed by Islam and other religions.

Situated in the picturesque foothills of Kangra and Dalhousie, with the river Chakki flowing close by, this city is often used as a rest-stop before heading into the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir, Dalhousie, Chamba, Kangra, Dharamshala, Mcleodganj, Jwalaji, Chintpurni and further into the Himalayas. Many rural students of neighboring states come to Pathankot for education.

Pathankot is well connected by rail and road with the rest of India, and is connected by a vast network of private and public-sector bus services to other cities in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir. Important destinations include Delhi, Manali Chandigarh, Jammu, Dharamshala, Dalhousie and Amritsar. Therefore, like Capernaum in the time of Jesus, Pathankot serves as a crossroads for travelers—and thus, potentially for evangelism! We have no resources of our own to purchase land and construct a church, so we need the support of our brethren and sisters worldwide to kindly send your generous offerings to build a monument to the Lord in Pathankot, India. “God loveth the cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7), so with this hope we pray to our Lord Jesus to bless each one bountifully.

*Your brothers and sisters from the Pathankot Church*

## Lesson 9 - Sabbath, March 4, 2023

# If We Confess

**MEMORY TEXT:** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another.”—Steps to Christ, p. 37.

**Suggested Readings:**     *Steps to Christ, pp. 23-35, 37-41;*  
                                  *Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 635-650.*

Sunday, February 26

## 1. SAME METHOD IN NEW AND IN OLD

**a. Since God does not change (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8), what must we realize about His desire regarding the salvation of every soul He has created? Psalm 78:38; Ezekiel 18:32; 2 Peter 3:9.**

**Malachi 3:6:** *6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

**Hebrews 13:8:** *8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

**Psalm 78:38:** *38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.*

**Ezekiel 18:32:** *32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*

**2 Peter 3:9:** *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.*

“[God] does not want any to perish, but longs to see all coming to repentance. . . . The sword of justice fell upon [Christ] that they might go free. He died that they might live.” —God’s Amazing Grace, p. 326.

***PRQ1. What can we personally learn from the prayer of Solomon at the temple dedication?***

Sunday, February 26

## 1. SAME METHOD IN NEW AND IN OLD

**b. At the dedication of the temple built by Solomon, what great Old Testament passage declares God’s willingness to forgive? 2 Chronicles 7:12–14. How is this echoed in the New Testament? 1 John 1:9; 2:1.**

**2 Chronicles 7:12–14:** *12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. 13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**1 John 1:9:** *9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**1 John 2:1:** *1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

“Sin of a private character is to be confessed to Christ, the only mediator between God and man. . . . Every sin is an offense against God, and is to be confessed to Him through Christ. Every open sin should be as openly confessed. Wrong done to a fellow-being should be made right with the one who has been offended. If any who are seeking health have been guilty of evil-speaking, if they have sowed discord in the home, the neighborhood, or the church, and have stirred up alienation and dissension, if by any wrong practice they have led others into sin, these things should be confessed before God and before those who have been offended.” — Gospel Workers, pp. 216, 217.

***PRQ1. What can we personally learn from the prayer of Solomon at the temple dedication?***

Monday, February 27

## 2. THE FIRST STEP IN RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

**a. As the work of the Holy Spirit is to bring conviction on the heart (John 16:8), what is to be our first response? Psalm 86:5.**

**John 16:8:** *8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

**Psalm 86:5:** *5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*

“Conviction takes hold upon the mind and heart. The sinner has a sense of the righteousness of Jehovah and feels the terror of appearing, in his own guilt and uncleanness, before the Searcher of hearts. He sees the love of God, the beauty of holiness, the joy of purity; he longs to be cleansed and to be restored to communion with Heaven.”—Steps to Christ, p. 24.

“That repentance which is produced by the influence of divine grace upon the heart will lead to confession and forsaking of sin. Such were the fruits which the apostle declared had been seen in the lives of the Corinthian believers.”—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 324.

***PRQ2. What steps do we need to take seriously if we want to be involved in the finishing of God’s work under the power of the Latter Rain?***

Monday, February 27

## 2. THE FIRST STEP IN RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

**b. Looking at the example on the day of Pentecost, what happened as a result of the conscience awakening to conviction of sin? Acts 2:36, 37.**

*Acts 2:36-37: 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 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?*

“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.

*PRQ2. What steps do we need to take seriously if we want to be involved in the finishing of God’s work under the power of the Latter Rain?*

Monday, February 27

## 2. THE FIRST STEP IN RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

**c. How can we describe the result of conviction that leads to a change in life?**

**Acts 2:38.**

*Acts 2:38: 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.*

“Before [the Israelites] could find true peace they must be led to see and confess the very sin of which they had been guilty.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 614.

“True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as only to be brought before God, they may be wrongs that should be confessed before individuals who have suffered injury through them, or they may be of a general kind that should be made known in the congregation of the people. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 639.

*PRQ2. What steps do we need to take seriously if we want to be involved in the finishing of God’s work under the power of the Latter Rain?*

Tuesday, February 28

### 3. AN EXAMPLE OF FALSE REPENTANCE

**a. Did Judas repent of betraying Christ to the chief priests (Matthew 26:14–16, 47–49)? Why or why not? Matthew 27:3, 4.**

**Matthew 26:14–16:** *14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.*

**Matthew 26:47–49:** *47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.*

**Matthew 27:3-4:** *3 Then Judas, which had betrayeth him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.*

“Judas now cast himself at the feet of Jesus, acknowledging Him to be the Son of God, and entreating Him to deliver Himself. The Saviour did not reproach His betrayer. He knew that Judas did not repent; his confession was forced from his guilty soul by an awful sense of condemnation and a looking for of judgment, but he felt no deep, heartbreaking grief that he had betrayed the spotless Son of God, and denied the Holy One of Israel. Yet Jesus spoke no word of condemnation. He looked pityingly upon Judas, and said, For this hour came I into the world.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 722.

“When sin has deadened the moral perceptions, the wrongdoer does not discern the defects of his character nor realize the enormity of the evil he has committed; and unless he yields to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit he remains in partial blindness to his sin. His confessions are not sincere and in earnest. To every acknowledgment of his guilt he adds an apology in excuse of his course, declaring that if it had not been for certain circumstances he would not have done this or that for which he is reproved.” — *Steps to Christ*, p. 40.

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“By faith and prayer all may meet the requirements of the gospel. No man can be forced to transgress. His own consent must be first gained; the soul must purpose the sinful act before passion can dominate over reason or iniquity triumph over conscience. Temptation, however strong, is never an excuse for sin.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 177.

*PRQ3. Why is there such a need to confess our sins to God? How responsible are we really in the act of sinning?*

Tuesday, February 28

### 3. AN EXAMPLE OF FALSE REPENTANCE

**b. Explain whether or not this was a type of repentance that leads to eternal life. Matthew 27:5; 2 Corinthians 7:8–11.**

**Matthew 27:5:** *5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*

**2 Corinthians 7:8–11:** *8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. 9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*

“Many are in self-deception, and enter into plans with which the Lord has nothing to do. But the only safe course to be pursued is to obey the word of the Lord. Instead of doing this, many propose to do wonderful things. They find it easier to plan some great thing for the future than to empty themselves of self, surrender to God heart, mind, and will, and submit to be molded by that power that can create and destroy. Let the youth critically examine their motives, by prayer and searching of the Scriptures, and see if their own will and inclinations do not lead away from God’s requirements.” —The Youth’s Instructor, March 23, 1893.

**PRQ3. Why is there such a need to confess our sins to God? How responsible are we really in the act of sinning?**

Wednesday, March 1

#### **4. AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE REPENTANCE (PSALM 51)**

**a. What happens when we do not acknowledge our sins before God and instead keep silent about it? Psalm 32:3, 4.**

**Psalm 32:3-4:** *3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.*

***PRQ4. How careful do we need to be in showing someone that they are guilty?***

Wednesday, March 1

#### 4. AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE REPENTANCE (PSALM 51)

**b. After Nathan the prophet was direct in revealing the sin of David (2 Samuel 12:1–12), how did the king respond? 2 Samuel 12:13.**

**2 Samuel 12:1–12:** *1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor mans lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 5 And Davids anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 8 And I gave thee thy masters house, and thy masters wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.*

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**2 Samuel 12:13:** *13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.*

“The prophet’s rebuke touched the heart of David; conscience was aroused; his guilt appeared in all its enormity. His soul was bowed in penitence before God.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 722.

“David’s repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his crime. No desire to escape the judgments threatened, inspired his prayer. But he saw the enormity of his transgression against God; he saw the defilement of his soul; he loathed his sin. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. David did not in despair give over the struggle. In the promises of God to repentant sinners he saw the evidence of his pardon and acceptance.” — Ibid., p.725.

***PRQ4. How careful do we need to be in showing someone that they are guilty?***

Wednesday, March 1

#### 4. AN EXAMPLE OF TRUE REPENTANCE (PSALM 51)

**c. How did this occur also in the heart of Simon of Bethany? Luke 7:40–48. What is the only way peace and reconciliation can be obtained? Psalm 32:5; Jeremiah 3:13; 1 John 1:9.**

**Luke 7:40–48:** *40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

**Psalm 32:5:** *5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

**Jeremiah 3:13:** *13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.*

**1 John 1:9:** *9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*Continued...*

“As did Nathan with David, Christ concealed His home thrust under the veil of a parable. He threw upon His host the burden of pronouncing sentence upon himself. Simon had led into sin the woman he now despised. She had been deeply wronged by him. By the two debtors of the parable, Simon and the woman were represented. Jesus did not design to teach that different degrees of obligation should be felt by the two persons, for each owed a debt of gratitude that never could be repaid. But Simon felt himself more righteous than Mary, and Jesus desired him to see how great his guilt really was. He would show him that his sin was greater than hers, as much greater as a debt of five hundred pence exceeds a debt of fifty pence.

“Simon now began to see himself in a new light. . . . Shame seized upon him, and he realized that he was in the presence of One superior to himself. . . .

“Simon was touched by the kindness of Jesus in not openly rebuking him before the guests. . . . Patient admonition convinced him of his error. He saw the magnitude of the debt which he owed his Lord. His pride was humbled, he repented, and the proud Pharisee became a lowly, self-sacrificing disciple.” — The Desire of Ages, pp. 566-568.

*PRQ4. How careful do we need to be in showing someone that they are guilty?*

Thursday, March 2

## 5. THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

**a. If we are deeply involved in transgression, how can we be led to deep, genuine sorrow for our sins? Acts 5:30, 31; Isaiah 55:6, 7; Hebrews 4:16.**

**Acts 5:30-31:** *30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

**Isaiah 55:6-7:** *6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

**Hebrews 4:16:** *16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

“A repentance such as this, is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ, who ascended up on high and has given gifts unto men.” — Steps to Christ, p. 25.

“If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? ‘Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.’ Jeremiah 13:23. There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are.” — Ibid., p.31.

***PRQ5. How is it possible for a sinner to repent?***

Thursday, March 2

## 5. THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

**b. How thorough can we expect this work of God to be done for us and in us?  
Hebrews 12:12; Philippians 1:6.**

**Hebrews 12:12:** *12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;*

**Philippians 1:6:** *6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

“Repentance, as well as forgiveness, is the gift of God through Christ. It is through the influence of the Holy Spirit that we are convicted of sin, and feel our need of pardon. None but the contrite are forgiven; but it is the grace of God that makes the heart penitent. He is acquainted with all our weaknesses and infirmities, and He will help us.” — Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 353.

***PRQ5. How is it possible for a sinner to repent?***

Thursday, March 2

## 5. THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

c. What will be the result of this type of genuine confession? **Romans 8:1.**

**Romans 8:1:** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

*PRQ5. How is it possible for a sinner to repent?*

Friday, March 3

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. What can we personally learn from the prayer of Solomon at the temple dedication?**
- 2. What steps do we need to take seriously if we want to be involved in the finishing of God's work under the power of the Latter Rain?**
- 3. Why is there such a need to confess our sins to God? How responsible are we really in the act of sinning?**
- 4. How careful do we need to be in showing someone that they are guilty?**
- 5. How is it possible for a sinner to repent?**

## Lesson 10 - Sabbath, March 11, 2023

# “Sanctify Them Through Thy Truth”

**MEMORY TEXT:** “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18).

“When we surrender ourselves wholly to God, and fully believe, the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. The conscience can be freed from condemnation. Through faith in His blood, all may be made perfect in Christ Jesus. Thank God that we are not dealing with impossibilities. We may claim sanctification. We may enjoy the favor of God. We are not to be anxious about what Christ and God think of us, but about what God thinks of Christ, our Substitute.” — Selected Messages, bk. 2, pp. 32, 33.

**Suggested Reading:**     *The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 557-567.*

Sunday, March 5

## 1. JUSTIFICATION

**a. When we truly confess our sins and surrender our life to Jesus—whether at the beginning of our Christian experience or at every step of the way—what do we receive from God? Romans 3:24–26.**

**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.*

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God’s law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.” — Steps to Christ, p. 62.

***PRQ1. How are we treated by God with regard to every moment of justification?***

Sunday, March 5

## 1. JUSTIFICATION

**b. How long is this journey to last? Proverbs 4:18; Mark 13:13.**

**Proverbs 4:18:** *18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

**Mark 13:13:** *13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my names sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

***PRQ1. How are we treated by God with regard to every moment of justification?***

Monday, March 6

## 2. IMPROVING THE CHRISTIAN GRACES

**a. Besides forgiveness/justification, what else does God want to give us? 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 6:1; Philippians 3:12–14.**

**2 Corinthians 7:1:** *1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

**Hebrews 6:1:** *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,*

**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.*

“Such transformation of character as is seen in the life of John is ever the result of communion with Christ. There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, he is changed from glory to glory, until he is like Him whom he adores.”—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 559.

“Without the grace of Christ, the sinner is in a hopeless condition; nothing can be done for him; but through divine grace, supernatural power is imparted to the man, and works in mind and heart and character. It is through the impartation of the grace of Christ that sin is discerned in its hateful nature, and finally driven from the soul temple.”—Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 366.

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“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. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. 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; for his life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises to the life of Jesus. Love, joy, peace, and inexpressible gratitude will pervade the soul, and the language of him who is blessed will be, ‘Thy gentleness hath made me great’ (Psalm 18:35).” —Ibid., p.336.

*PRQ2. How does God show that His desire for us is more than just forgiveness?*

Monday, March 6

## 2. IMPROVING THE CHRISTIAN GRACES

**b. What are some of the steps in the improvement of the Christian graces we need on the road to the kingdom of heaven? 2 Peter 1:5–11.**

**2 Peter 1:5–11:** *5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

“Christ, who connects earth with heaven, is the ladder. The base is planted firmly on the earth in His humanity; the topmost round reaches to the throne of God in His divinity. The humanity of Christ embraces fallen humanity, while His divinity lays hold upon the throne of God. We are saved by climbing round after round of the ladder, looking to Christ, clinging to Christ, mounting step by step to the height of Christ, so that He is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 147.

**PRQ2. How does God show that His desire for us is more than just forgiveness?**

Tuesday, March 7

### 3. POWER THROUGH GOD'S WORD

**a. How does God enlighten our minds so that Christian growth may be steadily onward? 2 Corinthians 4:4–6; Psalm 119:105; Leviticus 20:7, 8.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4–6:** *4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 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.*

**Psalm 119:105:** *105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**Leviticus 20:7-8:** *7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. 8 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.*

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 333.

“Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us. If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour, and walk in His footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled.

“Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform. He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the ones upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege. He has assured us that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children.”—That I May Know Him, p. 130.

**PRQ3. What is the secret of transformation?**

Tuesday, March 7

### 3. POWER THROUGH GOD'S WORD

**b. What do we call this process of Christian growth in the truth through the power of the Word? John 1:14; 17:17.**

**John 1:14:** *14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**John 17:17:** *17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

“When truth becomes an abiding principle in the life, the soul is ‘born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.’ This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the Word of God. When by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to cooperate with God.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 520.

“The sanctification of the church is God’s object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honored by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit. Then, as witnesses for the Saviour, they may make known what divine grace has done for them.”—*Ibid.*, p.559.

***PRQ3. What is the secret of transformation?***

Wednesday, March 8

#### 4. FALSE CLAIMS

**a. Considering the holy men of God throughout Bible times, what must we understand about claiming final victory? 1 John 1:8, 10; Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14.**

**1 John 1:8:** *8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

**1 John 1:10:** *10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

**Romans 7:18:** *18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

**Galatians 6:14:** *14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

“The honors bestowed upon Daniel excited the jealousy of the leading men of the kingdom. The presidents and princes sought to find occasion for complaint against him. ‘But they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him’ (Daniel 6:4).

“What a lesson is here presented for all Christians. The keen eyes of jealousy were fixed upon Daniel day after day; their watchings were sharpened by hatred; yet not a word or act of his life could they make appear wrong. And still he made no claim to sanctification, but he did that which was infinitely better—he lived a life of faithfulness and consecration.”—The Sanctified Life, p. 42.

“Spurious sanctification leads directly away from the Bible. Religion is reduced to a fable. Feelings and impressions are made the criterion. While they profess to be sinless and boast of their righteousness, the claimants of sanctification teach that men are at liberty to transgress the law of God and that those who obey its precepts have fallen from grace. A presentation of its claims arouses their opposition and excites anger and contempt. Thus their character is shown, for ‘the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be’ (Romans 8:7).”—Faith and Works, p. 53.

**PRQ4. What does false sanctification lead us away from?**

Wednesday, March 8

#### 4. FALSE CLAIMS

**b. Does the belief in the need for sanctification mean that we are to earn our salvation? John 14:15; 1 John 3:5, 6.**

**John 14:15:** *15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

**1 John 3:5-6:** *5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

“Righteousness has its root in godliness. No human being is righteous any longer than he has faith in God and maintains a vital connection with Him. As a flower of the field has its root in the soil; as it must receive air, dew, showers, and sunshine, so must we receive from God that which ministers to the life of the soul. It is only through becoming partakers of His nature that we receive power to obey His commandments. No man, high or low, experienced or inexperienced, can steadily maintain before his fellowmen a pure, forceful life unless his life is hid with Christ in God. The greater the activity among men, the closer should be the communion of the heart with God.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 194.

***PRQ4. What does false sanctification lead us away from?***

Thursday, March 9

## 5. WHAT ABOUT SANCTIFICATION?

**a. Is sanctification — growth in Christian character — typically noticeable to the individual in whom it is occurring? Mark 4:26–29. What about to others?**

**Mark 4:26–29:** *26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

“The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity. Argument, even when unanswerable, may provoke only opposition; but a godly example has a power that it is impossible wholly to resist.” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 511.

***PRQ5. How do we know sanctification involves an entire life of continual growth?***

Thursday, March 9

## 5. WHAT ABOUT SANCTIFICATION?

**b. What shows that this growth is continual and that we can never rest satisfied with our progress and achievements? 1 Corinthians 15:31; Matthew 10:22; Philippians 3:12–16.**

**1 Corinthians 15:31:** *31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

**Matthew 10:22:** *22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my names sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

**Philippians 3:12–16:** *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. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

“The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. . . . Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.” —The Acts of the Apostles, p. 564.

“Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” —Ibid., pp.560, 561.

**PRQ5. How do we know sanctification involves an entire life of continual growth?**

Friday, March 10

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How are we treated by God with regard to every moment of justification?**
- 2. How does God show that His desire for us is more than just forgiveness?**
- 3. What is the secret of transformation?**
- 4. What does false sanctification lead us away from?**
- 5. How do we know sanctification involves an entire life of continual growth?**

## Lesson 11 - Sabbath, March 18, 2023

# The Old Covenant

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah” (Hebrews 8:8).

“God saw what was going on in the camp. He saw that the people, even while the divine glory still rested upon Sinai, had yielded to the temptations of Satan, and were plotting against the rule which they had promised to obey.” — The Youth’s Instructor, November 21, 1901.

**Suggested Reading:** Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 370-373.

Sunday, March 12

## 1. SLAVERY CONFUSES MINDS

**a. What was the condition of Israel for a number of years—and how did that situation affect their knowledge of God and His laws? Exodus 20:1, 2; Deuteronomy 5:15.**

**Exodus 20:1-2:** *1 And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

**Deuteronomy 5:15:** *15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.*

“In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal to them His power and His mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him. He brought them down to the Red Sea—where, pursued by the Egyptians, escape seemed impossible—that they might realize their utter helplessness, their need of divine aid; and then He wrought deliverance for them. Thus they were filled with love and gratitude to God and with confidence in His power to help them. He had bound them to Himself as their deliverer from temporal bondage.

“But there was a still greater truth to be impressed upon their minds. Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God’s law, and their need of a Saviour. All this they must be taught.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 371.

***PRQ1. How do we follow the same experience of the Hebrews as being unable to comprehend the true significance of the divine moral law?***

Sunday, March 12

## 1. SLAVERY CONFUSES MINDS

**b. Where did God bring them in order that they might understand the holiness and sacredness of His law? Exodus 19:1, 5, 6.**

**Exodus 19:1:** *1 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.*

**Exodus 19:5-6:** *5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

**PRQ1.** *How do we follow the same experience of the Hebrews as being unable to comprehend the true significance of the divine moral law?*

Monday, March 13

## 2. THE SINFULNESS OF SIN

**a. How did the Israelites react to promises of blessings even after they understood the law when spoken by God? Exodus 19:8; 24:3.**

**Exodus 19:8:** *8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.*

**Exodus 24:3:** *3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.*

“The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts, and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God’s law; and they readily entered into covenant with God. Feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, ‘All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.’ Exodus 24:7. They had witnessed the proclamation of the law in awful majesty, and had trembled with terror before the mount; and yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God, and bowed down to worship a graven image. They could not hope for the favor of God through a covenant which they had broken; and now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from the bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 371, 372.

**PRQ2. Why did they readily enter into promises that they could not keep?**

Monday, March 13

## 2. THE SINFULNESS OF SIN

**b. What were the terms of this covenant? Deuteronomy 27:26; Ezekiel 20:11; Leviticus 18:5.**

**Deuteronomy 27:26:** *26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.*

**Ezekiel 20:11:** *11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.*

**Leviticus 18:5:** *5 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.*

**PRQ2.** *Why did they readily enter into promises that they could not keep?*

Monday, March 13

## 2. THE SINFULNESS OF SIN

**c. Similar to our natural condition, what were they unable to comprehend?**

**Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 1:5, 6; 64:6.**

**Jeremiah 17:9:** *9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

**Isaiah 1:5-6:** *5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*

**Isaiah 64:6:** *6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

“ ‘Ye cannot serve the Lord,’ said Joshua: ‘for He is a holy God. . . . He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.’ Before there could be any permanent reformation the people must be led to feel their utter inability in themselves to render obedience to God. They had broken His law, it condemned them as transgressors, and it provided no way of escape. While they trusted in their own strength and righteousness, it was impossible for them to secure the pardon of their sins; they could not meet the claims of God’s perfect law, and it was in vain that they pledged themselves to serve God. It was only by faith in Christ that they could secure pardon of sin and receive strength to obey God’s law. They must cease to rely upon their own efforts for salvation, they must trust wholly in the merits of the promised Saviour, if they would be accepted of God.” —Ibid., p.524.

**PRQ2. Why did they readily enter into promises that they could not keep?**

Tuesday, March 14

### 3. RATIFYING THE COVENANT

**a. After Moses read the law with all its conditions of curses and blessings, how did Israel persistently react? Exodus 24:7.**

**Exodus 24:7:** *7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.*

“The minds of the people, blinded and debased by slavery, were not prepared to appreciate fully the far-reaching principles of God’s ten precepts. That the obligations of the decalogue might be more fully understood and enforced, additional precepts were given, illustrating and applying the precepts of the ten commandments. Unlike the decalogue, these were delivered privately to Moses, who was to communicate them to the people.” — Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 506.

“Moses had written, not the ten commandments, but the judgments which God would have them observe, and the promises on condition that they would obey Him. He read this to the people, and they pledged themselves to obey all the words which the Lord had said. Moses then wrote their solemn pledge in a book, and offered sacrifice unto God for the people. ‘And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people; and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.’ The people repeated their solemn pledge to the Lord to do all that He had said, and to be obedient.” — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 240.

**PRQ3. How are we easily led into making similar promises to God today?**

Tuesday, March 14

### 3. RATIFYING THE COVENANT

**b. What was immediately done to show the seriousness of such an agreement?**

**Exodus 24:6, 8.**

**Exodus 24:6:** *6 And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.*

**Exodus 24:8:** *8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.*

“Thus the people ratified their solemn pledge to the Lord to do all that He had said, and to be obedient.”—The Signs of the Times, May 6, 1880.

“Here the people received the conditions of the covenant. They made a solemn covenant with God, typifying the covenant made between God and every believer in Jesus Christ. The conditions were plainly laid before the people. They were not left to misunderstand them. When they were requested to decide whether they would agree to all the conditions given, they unanimously consented to obey every obligation. They had already consented to obey God’s commandments. The principles of the law were now particularized, that they might know how much was involved in covenanting to obey the law; and they accepted the specifically defined particulars of the law.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 114.

***PRQ3. How are we easily led into making similar promises to God today?***

Wednesday, March 15

#### 4. A LOST GENERATION

**a. What happened to the vast majority of the nation of Israel because they failed to understand their inability to save themselves and keep the law perfectly without divine aid? Numbers 26:63–65.**

**Numbers 26:63–65:** *63 These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. 64 But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. 65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

“Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin.” —Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 311.

“Nicodemus had heard the preaching of John the Baptist concerning repentance and baptism, and pointing the people to One who should baptize with the Holy Spirit. He himself had felt that there was a lack of spirituality among the Jews, that, to a great degree, they were controlled by bigotry and worldly ambition. He had hoped for a better state of things at the Messiah’s coming. Yet the heart-searching message of the Baptist had failed to work in him conviction of sin. He was a strict Pharisee, and prided himself on his good works. He was widely esteemed for his benevolence and his liberality in sustaining the temple service, and he felt secure of the favor of God. He was startled at the thought of a kingdom too pure for him to see in his present state.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 171.

**PRQ4. What kept reoccurring during the remainder of Israel’s history?**

Wednesday, March 15

## 4. A LOST GENERATION

**b. Was the problem with God or with the people in this “old” covenant?  
Hebrews 8:8.**

**Hebrews 8:8:** *8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:*

“ ‘A natural Christian!’ This deceptive idea has served many as a garment of self-righteousness, and has led many to a supposed hope in Christ, who had no experimental knowledge of Him, of His experience, His trials, His life of self-denial and self-sacrifice. Their righteousness which they count upon so much is only as filthy rags. Says Christ, the beloved Teacher: ‘Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’ Yes, follow Him through evil as well as through good report. Follow Him in befriending the most needy and friendless.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 2, pp. 177, 178.

“What is it that constitutes the wretchedness, the nakedness of those who feel rich and increased with goods?—It is the want of the righteousness of Christ. In their own righteousness they are represented as clothed with filthy rags, and yet in this condition they flatter themselves that they are clothed upon with Christ’s righteousness. Could deception be greater? As is represented by the prophet, they may be crying, ‘The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are we’ (see Jeremiah 7:4), while their hearts are filled with unholy traffic and unrighteous barter.”—This Day With God, p. 228.

**PRQ4. What kept reoccurring during the remainder of Israel’s history?**

Thursday, March 16

## 5. ANOTHER COVENANT NEEDED

**a. Since the old covenant is so hopeless, what was the only promise that could give hope to those living in the Old Testament period? Jeremiah 31:31–33.**

**Jeremiah 31:31–33:** *31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

“Through faith in Christ obedience to every principle of the law is made possible. “The spirit of bondage is engendered by seeking to live in accordance with legal religion, through striving to fulfill the claims of the law in our own strength. There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today, through which we have hope. Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the Author and the Finisher of our faith.” —The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1077.

***PRQ5. What examples do we have, revealing that national apostasy is no excuse for our wavering faith?***

Thursday, March 16

## 5. ANOTHER COVENANT NEEDED

**b. Name some heroes in Scripture who accepted these promises of divine aid. Hebrews 11:4–32.**

**Hebrews 11:4–32:** *4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

Continued...

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the kings commandment. 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaohs daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. 32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

“From age to age the heroes of faith have been marked by their fidelity to God, and they have been brought conspicuously before the world that their light might shine to those in darkness. Daniel and his three companions are illustrious examples of Christian heroism. . . . From their experience in the court of Babylon we may learn what God will do for those who serve Him with full purpose of heart.” — My Life Today, p. 68.

***PRQ5. What examples do we have, revealing that national apostasy is no excuse for our wavering faith?***

Friday, March 17

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1. How do we follow the same experience of the Hebrews as being unable to comprehend the true significance of the divine moral law?**
- 2. Why did they readily enter into promises that they could not keep?**
- 3. How are we easily led into making similar promises to God today?**
- 4. What kept reoccurring during the remainder of Israel's history?**
- 5. What examples do we have, revealing that national apostasy is no excuse for our wavering faith?**

## Lesson 12 - Sabbath, March 25, 2023

# Come, Let Us Reason Together

**MEMORY TEXT:** “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

“The law of God was the basis of this [new] covenant, which was simply an arrangement for bringing men again into harmony with the divine will, placing them where they could obey God’s law.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 371. [Emphasis supplied.]

**Suggested Reading:**      *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 45-77.*

Sunday, March 19

## 1. TWO COVENANTS

**a. In order to be justified with God, what type of agreement is necessary on our part? Psalm 50:5.**

**Psalm 50:5:** *5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.*

***PRQ1. What experiences have you had in relation to making covenants with God?***

Sunday, March 19

## 1. TWO COVENANTS

**b. In order to make such an agreement, what attitude are we to possess?**

**Isaiah 1:18.**

**Isaiah 1:18:** *18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

**PRQ1.** *What experiences have you had in relation to making covenants with God?*

Sunday, March 19

## 1. TWO COVENANTS

### c. What type of covenant options are given us? Hebrews 8:6–13.

**Hebrews 8:6–13:** *6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

“The terms of the ‘old covenant’ were, Obey and live: ‘If a man do, he shall even live in them’ (Ezekiel 20:11; Leviticus 18:5); but ‘cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them.’ Deuteronomy 27:26. The ‘new covenant’ was established upon ‘better promises’ — the promise of forgiveness of sins and of the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of God’s law. ‘This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts. . . . I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.’ Jeremiah 31:33, 34.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 372. [Emphasis by author.]

**PRQ1.** *What experiences have you had in relation to making covenants with God?*

Monday, March 20

## 2. WHY IS A COVENANT NECESSARY?

**a. What separates us from being in fellowship with our Creator? Isaiah 59:2. What do we deserve? Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23.**

**Isaiah 59:2:** *2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

**Genesis 2:17:** *17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

**Romans 6:23:** *23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

“The instant Adam yielded to Satan’s temptation, and did the very thing which God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying: ‘Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man’s place. Give him another trial.’ Transgression placed the whole world under the death sentence. But in heaven there was heard a voice saying, ‘I have found a ransom.’ He who knew no sin was made sin for fallen man. ‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ Christ laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and gave up His command over all heaven. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might bear all the infirmities and endure all the temptations of humanity. He was a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. For our sake He became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. For us He left the adoration of the angels for the insults and execrations of a mob lashed to madness by the priests and rulers.” — The Signs of the Times, June 27, 1900.

**PRQ2. Why was God prepared when Adam sinned?**

Monday, March 20

## 2. WHY IS A COVENANT NECESSARY?

**b. What provision did God make from the very beginning to avert this death sentence? Job 33:24; compare also 1 John 4:19; Revelation 13:8.**

**Job 33:24:** *24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.*

**1 John 4:19:** *19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

**Revelation 13:8:** *8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

“The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of ‘the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.’ Romans 16:25, R.V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God’s throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, ‘that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16.”  
—The Desire of Ages, p. 22.

***PRQ2. Why was God prepared when Adam sinned?***

Tuesday, March 21

### **3. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN**

**a. When that old Serpent, the Devil, deceived our first parents in Eden, what promise did God make that gives hope to the human race? Genesis 3:15.**

**Genesis 3:15:** *15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

“Our natural tendencies, unless corrected by the Holy Spirit of God, have in them the seeds of moral death. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we cannot resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, pp. 315, 316.

***PRQ3. What illustrations did God use to continually keep in mind the coming Messiah?***

Tuesday, March 21

### 3. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

**b. Who is this seed of the woman? Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16; Hebrews 2:14.**

**Genesis 22:18:** *18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

**Galatians 3:8:** *8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

**Galatians 3:16:** *16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

**Hebrews 2:14:** *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

“Since the first gospel sermon was preached, when in Eden it was declared that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head, Christ had been uplifted as the way, the truth, and the life. He was the way when Adam lived, when Abel presented to God the blood of the slain lamb, representing the blood of the Redeemer. Christ was the way by which patriarchs and prophets were saved. He is the way by which alone we can have access to God.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 663.

***PRQ3. What illustrations did God use to continually keep in mind the coming Messiah?***

Tuesday, March 21

### 3. THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

**c. Since Abraham trusted in none other than Christ for the forgiveness of sin (Galatians 3:6–8), what was the result of that type of faith? Genesis 26:5.**

**Galatians 3:6–8:** *6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

**Genesis 26:5:** *5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*

“The death of Christ upon the cross made sure the destruction of him who has the power of death, who was the originator of sin. When Satan is destroyed, there will be none to tempt to evil; the atonement will never need to be repeated; and there will be no danger of another rebellion in the universe of God. That which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels. Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, p. 1132.

***PRQ3. What illustrations did God use to continually keep in mind the coming Messiah?***

Wednesday, March 22

#### 4. RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT

**a. Although this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, when could it be ratified—and hence called the new or second covenant? Hebrews 9:16.**

**Hebrews 9:16:** *16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.*

“Though this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 370, 371. [Emphasis by author.]

***PRQ4. How do we know that Abraham was under the new covenant?***

Wednesday, March 22

#### 4. RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANT

**b. If it was not ratified till the death of Jesus, how did it apply to those children of the heavenly King before the cross? Hebrews 6:13–18.**

**Hebrews 6:13–18:** *13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

“The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the ‘second,’ or ‘new,’ covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. That the new covenant was valid in the days of Abraham is evident from the fact that it was then confirmed both by the promise and by the oath of God—the ‘two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.’ Hebrews 6:18.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 371.

“His word is pledged. The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but His kindness shall not depart from His people, neither shall the covenant of His peace be removed. His voice is heard, ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love’ (Jeremiah 31:3). ‘With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee’ (Isaiah 54:8). How amazing is this love, that God condescends to remove all cause for doubt and questioning from human fears and weakness and takes hold of the trembling hand reached up to Him in faith; and He helps us to trust Him by multiplied assurances and securities. He has made us a binding agreement upon condition of our obedience, and He comes to meet us in our own understanding of things. We think that a pledge or promise from our fellow men, if recorded, still needs a guarantee. Jesus has met all these peculiar fears, and He has confirmed His promise with an oath: ‘Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath. . . .’ What more could our Lord do to strengthen our faith in His promises?”—That I May Know Him, p. 262.

**PRQ4. How do we know that Abraham was under the new covenant?**

Thursday, March 23

## 5. TABLES OF THE HEART

**a. Because of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, what opportunity do we receive? Hebrews 9:15.**

**Hebrews 9:15:** *15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

***PRQ5. What kind of a covenant or agreement are you prepared to make with your Creator?***

Thursday, March 23

## 5. TABLES OF THE HEART

**b. What appeal does God make to each of us personally as we evaluate our responsibility before God? 2 Corinthians 6:2.**

**2 Corinthians 6:2:** 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.*)

“The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth ‘the fruits of the Spirit.’ Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked. Through the prophet He declared of Himself, ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Psalm 40:8. And when among men He said, ‘The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.’ John 8:29.

“The apostle Paul clearly presents the relation between faith and the law under the new covenant. He says: ‘Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ ‘Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.’ ‘For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh’ —it could not justify man, because in his sinful nature he could not keep the law— ‘God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.’ Romans 5:1; 3:31; 8:3, 4.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 372, 373. [Emphasis by author.]

***PRQ5. What kind of a covenant or agreement are you prepared to make with your Creator?***

Friday, March 24

## **PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**1. What experiences have you had in relation to making covenants with God?**

**2. Why was God prepared when Adam sinned?**

**3. What illustrations did God use to continually keep in mind the coming Messiah?**

**4. How do we know that Abraham was under the new covenant?**

**5. What kind of a covenant or agreement are you prepared to make with your Creator?**

## Reasoning for Reformation

“Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, that He might know how to succor those who should be tempted. His life is our example. He shows by His willing obedience that man may keep the law of God and that transgression of the law, not obedience to it, brings him into bondage. The Saviour was full of compassion and love; He never spurned the truly penitent, however great their guilt; but He severely denounced hypocrisy of every sort. He is acquainted with the sins of men, He knows all their acts and reads their secret motives; yet He does not turn away from them in their iniquity. He pleads and reasons with the sinner, and in one sense—that of having Himself borne the weakness of humanity—He puts Himself on a level with him. ‘Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’

“Man, who has defaced the image of God in his soul by a corrupt life, cannot, by mere human effort, effect a radical change in himself. He must accept the provisions of the gospel; he must be reconciled to God through obedience to His law and faith in Jesus Christ. His life from thenceforth must be governed by a new principle. Through repentance, faith, and good works he may perfect a righteous character, and claim, through the merits of Christ, the privileges of the sons of God. The principles of divine truth, received and cherished in the heart, will carry us to a height of moral excellence that we had not deemed it possible for us to reach. . . .

“Here is a work for man to do. He must face the mirror, God’s law, discern the defects in his moral character, and put away his sins, washing his robe of character in the blood of the Lamb. Envy, pride, malice, deceit, strife, and crime will be cleansed from the heart that is a recipient of the love of Christ and that cherishes the hope of being made like Him. . . .

“But the influence of a gospel hope will not lead the sinner to look upon the salvation of Christ as a matter of free grace, while he continues to live in transgression of the law of God. When the light of truth dawns upon his mind and he fully understands the requirements of God and realizes the extent of his transgressions, he will reform his ways, become loyal to God through the strength obtained from his Saviour, and lead a new and purer life.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 294, 295.