

Name

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2023

DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING



**STUDENT'S PERSONAL
STUDY NOTES**



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3rd Quarter 2023

DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING

July to
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OVERVIEW

“DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING”

Studies in the Great Themes of the Bible. Lessons for 3rd Quarter, 2023

General introduction

‘All the great truths of the Scriptures centre in Christ; rightly understood, all lead to Him. Let Christ be presented as the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, of the great plan of redemption. Present to the people such subjects as will strengthen their confidence in God and in His Word, and lead them to investigate its teachings for themselves. And as they go forward, step by step, in the study of the Bible, they will be better prepared to appreciate the beauty and harmony of its precious truths.’ Evangelism, page 485.

‘Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures, and how much more is it true of the New, “They are they which testify of Me,” John 5:39, the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centred. Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ. From the first record of creation, “for without Him was not anything made that was made,” John 1:3, to the closing promise, “Behold I come quickly,” we are reading of His works and listening to His voice. If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures.’ Christian Education, page 56.

‘In our day, as of old, the vital truths of God’s word are set aside for human theories and speculations. Many professed ministers of the gospel do not accept the whole Bible as the inspired word. One wise man rejects one portion; another questions another part. They set up their judgement as superior to the word; and the Scripture which they do teach rests upon their own authority. Its divine authenticity is destroyed. Thus the seeds of infidelity are sown broadcast; for the people become confused and know not what to believe.’ Christ’s Object Lessons, page 39.

‘It is in the mount with God, in the secret place of communion, that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. In all ages, through the medium of communion with heaven, God has worked out His purpose for His children, by unfolding gradually to their minds the doctrines of grace. His manner of imparting truth is illustrated in the words, “His going forth is prepared as the morning.” Hosea 6:3. He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday.’ Acts of the Apostles, page 564

‘Those who stand before the people as teachers of truth are to grapple with great themes. They are not to occupy precious time in talking of trivial subjects. Let them study the Word, and preach the Word. Let the Word be in their hands as a sharp, two-edged sword. Let it testify to past truths and show what is to be in the future.’ Evangelism, page 151
COMPILER’S NOTE: These lessons examine a number of the great Bible themes and seek to take meaning from them for us living today, ‘upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ God placed these thoughts throughout the Bible, to show both the richness of His unchanging purposes unfolding through the centuries, and to give confidence and hope in the face of increasing scepticism and infidelity.


In Isaiah 51:8 God states: “My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation.”





LESSON 1

“Who Is God? Who Is Like Unto Him?”

June 24—June 30

 **MEMORY VERSE** : And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.’ Revelation 15:3.


 **LESSON AIM** : Babylon has brought confusion to all generations but this lesson will explore the eternal characteristics of the living God as He has revealed Himself throughout Scripture.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘Those who come to Christ, weary and heavy-laden, find rest unto their souls. Those who learn of Him and take His yoke upon them, find that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever,” promises, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Yes, this God is our God, forever and ever.’ Signs of the Times, January 6, 1888.

LESSON INSIGHT : The faiths of the world speak of their gods, but none except the God of the Bible is portrayed as a personal God who has made human beings in His own image. The Scriptures reveal to us a God who is able to feel what we feel, and to respond to our spiritual longings. He has given us the ability to respond to His love, to be able to work for Him, to follow His leading and to have the capacity to develop our characters. We have also seen that He knows all about us even who is visiting our homes and why. And more than that, He is kindness itself, as He shows tenderness towards us to lift us through hard times. I wonder why we do not love Him more?

Sabbath Afternoon

1. In the Bible how does the One who claims to be the only true God define Himself?

 Acts 17:24-25 —

 Jeremiah 10:10 —

 Acts 14:14-15 —

NOTE : ‘The people were carried away with admiration for Paul’s earnest and logical presentation of the attributes of the true God, of His creative power and the existence of His overruling providence. With earnest and fervid eloquence the apostle declared, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands; neither is worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.” The heavens were not large enough to contain God; how much less were the temples made by human hands! In that age of caste, when the rights of men were often unrecognised, Paul set forth the great truth of human brotherhood, declaring that God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.” In the sight of God all are on an equality, and to the Creator every human being owes supreme allegiance.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 238.

Sunday

1. Where do we see the greatest work of God’s creation?

 Genesis 1:26-28 —

NOTE : ‘In the creation of man was manifest the agency of a personal God. When God had made man in His image, the human form was perfect in all its arrangements, but it was without life. Then a personal, self-existing God breathed into that form the breath of life, and man became a living, breathing, intelligent being. All parts of the human organism were put in action. The heart, the arteries, the veins, the tongue, the hands, the feet, the senses, the perceptions of the mind, all began their work, and all were placed under law. Man became a living soul. Through Jesus Christ a personal God created man and endowed him with intelligence and power. Above all lower orders of being, God designed that man, the crowning work of His creation, should express His thought and reveal His glory. But man is not to exalt himself as God.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 75.

2. Where is God's power found?

 **Psalm 33:8-9** —

 **Hebrews 1:3** —

 **Genesis 1:3** —

NOTE : 'God is supreme. It is not for finite man to question His right to govern the universe. God asserted His right to rule when He declared, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me;" "for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." He is the Creator and the Preserver of the worlds. He upholds the universe by the word of His power.' *Signs of the Times, June 5, 1901.*

Monday

1. How did Jesus heal?

 **Matthew 8:5-10** —

NOTE : 'The centurion said to Jesus: "'As I represent the power of Rome, and my soldiers recognise my authority as supreme, so dost Thou represent the power of the Infinite God, and all created things obey Thy word. Thou canst command the disease to depart, and it shall obey Thee. Thou canst summon Thy heavenly messengers, and they shall impart healing virtue. Speak but the word, and my servant shall be healed.'" When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned Him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, "I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." And to the centurion He said, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee." And his servant was healed in the self-same hour.' *Desire of Ages, page 316.*

2. How does the Bible describe the eternal God?

 **Isaiah 46:9-10** —

 **Revelation 22:13** —

NOTE : 'Satan is constantly at work to misrepresent the character and government of God and to hold the inhabitants of the world under his deception. God sees the end from the beginning. His plans were far-reaching and comprehensive, not merely to put down the rebellion, but to demonstrate to all the universe its nature, fully vindicating His wisdom and righteousness in His dealings with evil. The inhabitants of other worlds were watching with the deepest interest the condition of the world before the flood. They saw the results of the administration which Lucifer had endeavoured to establish in heaven in casting aside the law of God. The thoughts of men's hearts were only evil continually, Genesis 6:5, at war with the divine principles of purity, peace, and love. It was an example of awful depravity. By the facts unfolded in the great controversy God carries with Him the sympathy of the whole universe as step by step His great plan advances to its fulfilment in the final eradication of rebellion' *Eternity Past, page 41.*

Tuesday

1. Who only has immortality?

 **1 Timothy 6:14-16** —

NOTE : 'All created things live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of the Son of God. However able and talented, however large their capacities, they are replenished with life from the Source of all life. He is the spring, the fountain, of life. Only He who alone hath immortality, dwelling in light and life, could say, "I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again.'" *Manuscript 131, 1897.*

2. How does the Bible express the mystery Christ in relation to His Heavenly Father?

 **John 10:30** —

 **John 14:9** —


NOTE : 'Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty, we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud: "Homeward bound!" We are nearing the time when Christ will come in power and great glory to take His ransomed ones to their eternal home. In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know

not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His promises to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 356.

Wednesday

1. How does the word 'Comfort' link the Threeness of our one lord?

 **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** —

 **John 14:16-18** —

 **John 14:26** —

 **John 16:7** —

NOTE : 'The Lord Jesus is very near to those who thus appreciate His gracious gifts, tracing all their good things back to the benevolent, loving, care-taking God, and recognising Him as the great Fountain of all comfort and consolation, the inexhaustible Source of grace.' *Child Guidance*, page 149.

2. How does the word 'truth' link the Father, the son and the Holy spirit as our one lord and one God?

 **John 14:6** —

 **John 14:17** —

 **Exodus 34:6** —

 **Deuteronomy 32:4** —

NOTE : 'When Christ came into the world, He was the origin of truth. The lessons He had given to the prophets had been placed in false settings, and it was His work to place them in the true. He was the foundation and the originator of all truth, and His work was to strip off all traditions of men, for they taught the commandments of men instead of the commandments of God. Those who had been in the school of the prophets, and had been obtaining their education, were considered to know more than all the nations and all other people upon the face of the earth. He turns to them and says, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God". They saw trees as men walking. And why was not the truth distinct in their minds? The reason was, they were not connected with the God of all truth.' *Sermons and Talks*, volume 1, page 106.

Thursday

1. How does God's Word show us that 'all one of them' is interested in our salvation from sin?

 **1 Peter 1:2** —

NOTE : 'The history of truth has ever been the record of a struggle between right and wrong. The proclamation of the gospel has ever been carried forward in this world in the face of opposition, peril, loss, and suffering. What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered persecution for Christ's sake? It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 84

2. What makes the Living God of heaven different from the many other gods named in the world?

 **Acts 9:10-12** —

 **Acts 10:1-10, but especially verses 5-6** —

NOTE : 'Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep. Every soul is as fully known to Jesus as if he were the only one for whom the Saviour died. The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. He came to draw all men unto Himself. He bids them, "Follow Me," and His Spirit moves upon their hearts to draw them to come to Him. Many refuse to be drawn. Jesus knows who they are. He also knows who gladly hear His call, and are ready to come under His pastoral care. He says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." He cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth.' *Desire of Ages*, page 480.

Friday

1. How do we see the compassion of our God for our weakness? Psalm 103:13-14 1 Kings 19:4-8



NOTE : ‘Did God forsake Elijah in his hour of trial? Oh, no! He loved His servant no less when Elijah felt himself forsaken of God and man than when, in answer to his prayer, fire flashed from heaven and illuminated the mountaintop. And now, as Elijah slept, a soft touch and a pleasant voice awoke him. He started up in terror, as if to flee, fearing that the enemy had discovered him. But the pitying face bending over him was not the face of an enemy, but of a friend. God had sent an angel from heaven with food for His servant. “Arise and eat,” the angel said. “And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head.” After Elijah had partaken of the refreshment prepared for him, he slept again. A second time the angel came. Touching the exhausted man, he said with pitying tenderness, “Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.” “And he arose, and did eat and drink;” and in the strength of that food he was able to journey “forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God,” where he found refuge in a cave.’ *Prophets and Kings, page 166.*



LESSON 2

“WITHOUT FAITH, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM”

July 1—July 7

MEMORY VERSE : 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.’ Hebrews 11:6

LESSON AIM : To show that to be upright before God and to be His witnesses is to have faith in Him and in the power of His word and to be obedient to His will.

INTRODUCTION : We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfil His word, but because He will fulfil it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us. “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.” Hebrews 11:6. But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan’s counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin’ *Desire of Ages*, page 126.

LESSON INSIGHT : Many today summarise religion as all of love, or all of faith, but the Bible is clear, both are seen in the lives of Bible characters that God commended. It is such lives as these that witness to the transforming power of God and make us living witnesses to the saving, transforming power of God’s word. It is this vitality of faith and love towards God that will bring all heaven and a cleansed earth together to form the Kingdom of God.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. What does God say is necessary to please Him?

 **Hebrews 11:5-6 —**

NOTE : ‘We do not know what faith really is until we try to exercise it. We all need more of that firm, persevering faith that Jacob manifested while wrestling with the angel on that eventful night. Few realise how severely his faith was tested at that time. He had separated himself from all earthly friends, that he might be alone with God. All who made life dear to him were exposed to danger and death. The bitterest drop in his cup of anguish was the thought that his own sin had brought this great peril upon his wives and children, who were innocent of the sin of which he was guilty.’ *Historical Sketches*, page 131.

Sunday

1. on which attribute of God does living faith rest?

 **1 Corinthians 1:9 —**

NOTE : ‘The words and promises of God are the only foundation of our faith. Take the word of God as truth, as a living, speaking voice to you, and obey faithfully every requirement. God is faithful, who hath promised.’ *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 72.

2. Find five Bible characters in Hebrews 11 whom Paul noted for their faith.

 **Hebrews 11:5-6 —**

 **Hebrews 11:8 —**

 **Hebrews 11:9 —**

NOTE : ‘Here is a further example of faith in action, “We are well able to overcome it” (Numbers 13:30), they [Caleb and Joshua] urged, counting God’s promise superior to giants, walled cities, or chariots of iron. For them their word was true. Though they shared with their brethren the forty years’ wandering, Caleb and Joshua entered the Land of Promise. As courageous of heart as when, with the hosts of the Lord, he set out from Egypt, Caleb asked for and received as his portion the stronghold of the giants. In God’s strength he drove out the Canaanites. The vineyards and olive groves where his feet had trodden became his possession. Though the cowards and rebels perished in the wilderness, the men of faith ate of the grapes of Eschol.’ *Education, page 149.*

Monday

1. How can we recognise the depth of Noah's faith in the Word of God?

 **Genesis 6:8-9, 22** —

NOTE : ‘How simple and childlike amid the unbelief of the world, was the faith of Noah. His faith was the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. His faith was perfected by his works. He gave to the world an example in believing just what God had said. He commenced under the directions of God to construct the ark, an immense boat, on dry ground. Multitudes came from every direction to see this strange sight, the ark, and to hear the earnest, fervent words of this singular man who seemed to believe every word he uttered. His message was to him a reality. A power attended the words of Noah, for it was the voice of God to man through his servant.’ *Signs of the Times, December 20, 1877.*

‘Our only questions will be: What is God’s command? And what is His promise? Knowing these: We shall obey the one, And trust the other. *Desire of Ages, page 121.*

2. What did James say about the unity of faith and works?

 **James 2:17** —

NOTE : “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” Hebrews 11:6. There are many in the Christian world who claim that all that is necessary to salvation is to have faith; works are nothing, faith is the only essential. But God’s Word tells us that faith without works is dead, being alone. Many refuse to obey God’s commandments, yet they make a great deal of faith. But faith must have a foundation. God’s promises are all made upon conditions. If we do His will, if we walk in truth, then we may ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us. While we earnestly endeavour to be obedient, God will hear our petitions; but He will not bless us in disobedience. If we choose to disobey His commandments, we may cry, “Faith, faith, only have faith,” and the response will come back from the sure Word of God, “Faith without works is dead” James 2:20.’ *Faith and Works, page 47.*

Tuesday

1. Whose life of obedience to God’s will and an abiding trust in God’s faithfulness produced a strong healthy character for God?

 **James 2:21-23** —

NOTE : ‘The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live “by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.’ *Desire of Ages, page 677.*

2. How does God describe the righteousness [i.e. the right-doing, uprightness] that God looks for?

 **Romans 4:13** —

 **Galatians 5:5** —

NOTE : ‘Throughout his later ministry, Paul never lost sight of the Source of his wisdom and strength. Hear him, years afterward, still declaring, “For to me to live is Christ.” Philippians 1:21. And again: “I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, ... that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.” Philippians 3:8-10.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 128.*

Wednesday

1. What does such a living experience bring about in our lives?

 Psalm 15:1-2 —

 Psalm 24:3-5 —

NOTE : ‘We show our faith in God by obeying His commands. Faith is always expressed in words and actions. It produces practical results, for it is a vital element in the life. The life that is moulded by faith develops a determination to advance, to go forward, following in the footsteps of Christ. We have been taken as rough stones out of the quarry of the world by the cleaver of truth and placed in the workshop of God. He who has genuine faith in Christ as his personal Saviour will find that the truth accomplishes a definite work for him. His faith is a working faith.... We cannot create our faith, but we can be co-labourers with Christ in promoting the growth and triumph of faith. The faith that works by love and purifies the soul produces the fruit of humility, patience, forbearance, long-suffering, peace, joy, and willing obedience.’ *In Heavenly Places, page 109. (Ellipsis in the original.)*

2. Where is our faith to be directed so that righteousness is produced in our lives?

 Matthew 13:23 —

 Ephesians 3:17-19 —

NOTE : ‘The roots of the plant strike down deep into the soil, and hidden from sight nourish the life of the plant. So with the Christian; it is by the invisible union of the soul with Christ, through faith, that the spiritual life is nourished.’ *A Call to Stand Apart, page 20.*

Thursday

1. Where do we find the blessings of God that give us the strength to do the right thing?

 2 Peter 1:3-4 —

 Psalm 119:130 —

NOTE : ‘There are today many as ignorant of the Holy Spirit’s work upon the heart as were those believers in Ephesus; yet no truth is more clearly taught in the word of God. Prophets and apostles have dwelt upon this theme. Christ Himself calls our attention to the growth of the vegetable world as an illustration of the agency of His Spirit in sustaining spiritual life. The sap of the vine, ascending from the root, is diffused to the branches, sustaining growth and producing blossoms and fruit. So the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Saviour, pervades the soul, renews the motives and affections, and brings even the thoughts into obedience to the will of God, enabling the receiver to bear the precious fruit of holy deeds. The Author of this spiritual life is unseen, and the exact method by which that life is imparted and sustained, it is beyond the power of human philosophy to explain. Yet the operations of the Spirit are always in harmony with the written word. As in the natural, so in the spiritual world. The natural life is preserved moment by moment by divine power; yet it is not sustained by a direct miracle, but through the use of blessings placed within our reach. So the spiritual life is sustained by the use of those means that Providence has supplied. If the follower of Christ would grow up “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13), he must eat of the bread of life and drink of the water of salvation. He must watch and pray and work, in all things giving heed to the instructions of God in His word.’ *Acts of the Apostles, 284.*

2. When we have given ourselves to Christ, His own righteousness is put to our past account, but how do we live from then on? First read Romans 3:24-26 for the remedy for our past life. then consider the following verses.

 Romans 3:24-26 —

 Matthew 11:29 —

 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 —

 2 Peter 3:18 —

 Habakkuk 2:4 —


NOTE : ‘The physical, mental, and moral powers are the endowments of God, and are to be appreciated and cultivated. We are here on probation, in training for the higher life. All heaven is waiting to co-operate with those who will

be subordinate to the ways and will of God. God gives grace, and He expects all to use it. He supplies the power if the human mind feels any need or any disposition to receive. He never asks us to do anything without supplying the grace and power to do that very thing. All His biddings are enablings.' *Review & Herald*, November 9, 1897.

'We must cherish and cultivate the faith of which prophets and apostles have testified, the faith that lays hold on the promises of God and waits for deliverance in His appointed time and way. The sure word of prophecy will meet its final fulfilment in the glorious advent of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 387.

Friday

1. Is God particular?

 **Exodus 25:40** —

 **Exodus 40:16** —

NOTE : 'God has not changed. He is as particular and exact in His requirements now as He was in the days of Moses.' *Confrontation*, page 84

'Some will urge that the Lord is not so particular in His requirements; that it is not their duty to keep the Sabbath strictly at so great loss, or to place themselves where they will be brought in conflict with the laws of the land. But here is just where the test is coming, whether we will honour the law of God above the requirements of men. This is what will distinguish between those who honour God and those who dishonour Him. Here is where we are to prove our loyalty. The history of God's dealings with His people in all ages shows that He demands exact obedience.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 268.

2. How do we see that faith and works are combined in the joy of the last generation of Christ's followers?

 **Revelation 14:12**

 **Matthew 25:21**

NOTE : 'He will bring you into His banqueting house, and His banner over you shall be love. "If thou wilt walk in My ways," He declares, "I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by" even among the holy angels that surround His throne. "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." Isaiah 62:5. "He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love; He will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17. And heaven and earth shall unite in the Father's song of rejoicing: "For this My son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.'" *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 13.



LESSON 3

“THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY”

July 8—July 14

MEMORY VERSE : 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, 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.:’ Romans 16:25-26.

LESSON AIM : To examine the theme of the Mystery of God.

COMPILER’S NOTE: What does the Bible mean by ‘the mystery of God’? It is the gradual unfolding of the hidden secret of the everlasting Gospel until a conclusion is reached - revealed first by a promise, then through the prophecies, then by the first advent of Jesus Christ and His teaching. Then further revelation was given to the Apostle Paul by Jesus, who unfolded the Everlasting Gospel for us today, which by the grace of God was put in place before the creation of this earth. At the end of earth’s history the mystery of the pure kingdom of God will be fully revealed.

INTRODUCTION : ‘To him [Paul] had been given the ministry, “the mystery of His will”, “which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel: whereof,” declares Paul, “I was made a minister.... to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 159.*

‘The study of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last; and looking to heaven with its unnumbered years he will exclaim, “Great is the mystery of godliness.”’
Christ’s Object Lessons, page 133,

LESSON INSIGHT : Sin will not go on from everlasting to everlasting. The day will come when the grace of God, human probation, should be finished. It will be concluded. “The period of mercy and privilege is well-nigh ended. The clouds of vengeance are gathering. The rejecters of God’s grace are about to be involved in swift and irretrievable ruin. Yet the world is asleep. The people know not the time of their visitation. In this crisis, where is the church to be found? Are its members meeting the claims of God? Are they fulfilling His commission, and representing His character to the world? Are they urging upon the attention of their fellow men the last merciful message of warning? Men are in peril. Multitudes are perishing. But how few of the professed followers of Christ are burdened for these souls.” *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 302.*

Sabbath Afternoon

1. Where do we find the first Bible reference to ‘the mystery of God’?

 Mark 4:11 —

NOTE : ‘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. Both present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker. Truth in Christ and through Christ is measureless. The student of Scripture looks, as it were, into a fountain that deepens and broadens as he gazes into its depths. Not in this life shall we comprehend the mystery of God’s love in giving His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. The work of our Redeemer on this earth is, and ever will be,

Sunday

1. When was the 'mystery of the kingdom of God' first put in place?

 1 Corinthians 2:7 —

NOTE : 'The purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will. But the defection of man, with all its consequences, was not hidden from the Omnipotent, and yet it did not deter Him from carrying out His eternal purpose; for the Lord would establish His throne in righteousness. God knows the end from the beginning.... Therefore redemption was not an afterthought ... but an eternal purpose to be wrought out for the blessing not only of this atom of a world but for the good of all the worlds which God has created. The creation of the worlds, the mystery of the gospel, are for one purpose, to make manifest to all created intelligences, through nature and through Christ, the glories of the divine character. By the marvellous display of His love in giving "His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," the glory of God is revealed to lost humanity and to the intelligences of other worlds.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 129.

2. What is God's ultimate intention concerning the rift that has occurred in His Creation?

 Ephesians 1:9-10 —

NOTE : 'It is through the efficacy of the cross that the inhabitants of unfallen worlds have been guarded from apostasy. It is this that has effectually unveiled the deceptions of Satan and refuted his claims. Not only those that are washed by the blood of Christ, but also the holy angels, are drawn to Him by His crowning act of giving His life for the sins of the world. God's dealing with the rebellion of Satan is justified before the universe. The justice and mercy of God are fully vindicated, so that, through all eternity, rebellion will never again arise. Such is the import of His own words when for the last time teaching in the temple He said, looking forward to His approaching sacrifice, "Now is the judgement of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." Will draw all unto Me, not only earth, but heaven; for of Him "the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Ephesians 3:15. Thus God has "made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to the good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself; that ... He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him."' *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1907.

Monday

1. How wonderful are the things that God has prepared for those who choose to turn to Him in love?

 1 Corinthians 2:7-9 —

NOTE : 'When we seek for appropriate language in which to describe the love of God, we find words too tame, too weak, too far beneath the theme, and we lay down our pen and say, "No, it cannot be described." We can only do as did the beloved disciple, and say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1. This love is past all language to describe. It is the mystery of God in the flesh, God in Christ, and divinity in humanity. Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in His exaltation to the throne of God, He might also exalt those who believe in Him, to a seat with Him upon His throne. All who look upon Jesus in faith that the wounds and bruises that sin has made will be healed in Him, shall be made whole.' *Christian Education*, page 77.

2. What had happened in heaven to spoil the unity of heaven and earth?

 Isaiah 14:13-14 —

NOTE : 'Lucifer might have remained in favour with God, beloved and honoured by all the angelic host, exercising his noble powers to bless others and to glorify his Maker. But, says the prophet, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge a desire for self-exaltation. "Thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God." "Thou hast said, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation.... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer's endeavour to win their service and homage to himself.' *Great Controversy*, page 493.

Tuesday

1. How did the problems of sin and evil come into our world?

 Genesis 3:4-6 —

NOTE : ‘Eve yielded to the lying sophistry of the devil in the form of a serpent. She ate the fruit, and realised no immediate harm. She then plucked the fruit for herself and for her husband. “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” *Confrontation, page 14.*

2. In God’s plan what does He call this mystery?

 Ephesians 1:7 —

NOTE : ‘The refining influence of the grace of God changes the natural disposition of man. Heaven would not be desirable to the carnal-minded; their natural, unsanctified hearts would feel no attraction toward that pure and holy place, and if it were possible for them to enter, they would find there nothing congenial. The propensities that control the natural heart must be subdued by the grace of Christ before fallen man is fitted to enter heaven and enjoy the society of the pure, holy angels. When man dies to sin and is quickened to new life in Christ, divine love fills his heart; his understanding is sanctified; he drinks from an inexhaustible fountain of joy and knowledge, and the light of an eternal day shines upon his path, for with him continually is the Light of life.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 273.*

Wednesday

1. With whom does God share this grace?

 Ephesians 1:9 —

NOTE : ‘The rainbow round about the throne is an assurance that God is true, that in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We have sinned against Him, and are undeserving of His favour; yet He Himself has put into our lips that most wonderful of pleas, “Do not abhor us, for Thy name’s sake; do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory; remember, break not Thy covenant with us.” Jeremiah 14:21. When we come to Him confessing our unworthiness and sin, He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry. The honour of His throne is staked for the fulfilment of His word unto us.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 148.*

2. In His love for us, Who came to redeem us?

 John 3:16 —

 Matthew 1:23 —

 1 Timothy 3:16 —

NOTE : ‘Those who think they can obtain a knowledge of God aside from His Representative, whom the word declares is “the express image of His person,” will need to become fools in their own estimation before they can be wise. Christ came as a personal Saviour to the world. He represented a personal God. He ascended on high as a personal Saviour, and will come again as He ascended into heaven, a personal Saviour.’ *Healthful Living, page 296.*

Thursday

1. How does Paul say he will preach and teach this mystery of the Gospel?

 Ephesians 6:19 —

NOTE : ‘And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy word, by stretching forth Thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of Thy Holy Child Jesus.” The disciples prayed that greater strength might be imparted to them in the work of the ministry; for they saw that they would meet the same determined opposition that Christ had encountered when upon the earth. While their united prayers were ascending in faith to heaven, the answer came. The place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were endowed anew with the Holy Spirit. Their hearts filled with courage, they again went forth to proclaim the word of God in Jerusalem. “With great power gave the apostles

witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,” and God marvellously blessed their efforts.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 67.

2. When will this mystery of the Gospel on earth be completely unfolded?

 **Revelation 22:11** —

NOTE : ‘The whole earth is to be illuminated with the glory of God’s truth. The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples. And it is from those who have received the light that it is to shine forth. The day-star has risen upon us, and we are to flash its light upon the pathway of those in darkness. A crisis is right upon us. We must now by the Holy Spirit’s power proclaim the great truths for these last days. It will not be long before everyone will have heard the warning and made his decision. Then shall the end come.’ *Christian Experience and Teachings*, page 220.

Friday

1. When does Scripture declare that the mystery of God will be finished? [Consider however, the long-term blessing that the saved of every national group will bring to Christ.]

 **Revelation 10:7** —

 **Ephesians 3:21** —

NOTE : ‘There is a period of time at the close of this dispensation devoted to the finishing of the work of human probation, i.e., to the completion of Christ’s work as priest, and of His gospel as the means of salvation. “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. ” Revelation 10:7.’ *J. N. Andrews: The Judgement*, page 50.

‘That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel.’ Ephesians 3:3-6. “ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints; 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; whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:26-28. The mystery of God is therefore seen to be the work of salvation for fallen man through the gospel of Christ. It is that which unites Jews and Gentiles in one body as fellow-heirs, having Christ in them the hope of glory. The finishing of the mystery of God is the accomplishment of the work of the gospel.’ *J. N. Andrews, The Judgement* page 51.

2. When did Jesus say the end would come?

 **Matthew 24:14** —


NOTE : ‘Christ tells us when that day shall be ushered in. He does not say that all the world will be converted, but that “this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” By giving the gospel to the world, it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3:12, margin. Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 633.





LESSON 4


“HE WAS CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD”

July 15—July 21

 **MEMORY VERSE** : 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.’ James 2:23.


 **LESSON AIM** : To show how the theme of the life of Abraham is found throughout the Scriptures, and in recognition of the way he trusted and obeyed God, he was called the Friend of God.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘Of Abraham it is written that “he was called the friend of God,” “the father of all them that believe.” James 2:23; Romans 4:11. The testimony of God concerning this faithful patriarch is, “Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.” And again, “I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.” It was a high honour to which Abraham was called, that of being the father of the people who for centuries were the guardians and preservers of the truth of God for the world, of that people through whom all the nations of the earth should be blessed in the advent of the promised Messiah.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 140*

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : Abraham’s name spans the time from Genesis to the world made new. Abraham is surely the father of those who live by faith. Today we read those words. ‘for us also’ Romans 4:24, thus including us in the possibility of a like experience to Abraham who staggered not at God’s promises or His commands. Neither must we. He believed that what God has promised He was also able to perform. The glorious hope of a city and an heavenly country is for us all. ‘ If ye are Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed.’ Are you faithfully trusting and obeying God? Then these promises are for you.

Sabbath Afternoon


1. How important was Abraham in the minds of the Jewish people?

 **John 8:39, first part.** —

NOTE : ‘Jesus met them with the scathing inquiry, “O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance; and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” The Jews had misinterpreted God’s promise of eternal favour to Israel’. *Desire of Ages, page 106.*


Sunday


1. When the Pharisees had challenged Jesus about His Father, they had twice said, ‘We be Abraham's seed’ and ‘Abraham is our Father’ but how did Jesus’ reply challenge them in turn?

 **John 8:39, last part.** —

NOTE : ‘Christ longed to let light shine into the darkened minds of the Jewish people. He said to them, “If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 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.” John 8:39, 40. Christ recognised no virtue in lineage. He taught that spiritual connection supersedes all natural connection. The Jews claimed to have descended from Abraham; but by failing to do the works of Abraham, they proved that they were not his true children. Only those who prove themselves to be spiritually in harmony with Abraham by obeying the voice of God, are reckoned as of true descent.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 268.*

2. Although we now view Abraham as a pillar of faith, how does the Bible reveal his early flaws? Compare a later experience with Abimelech.

 Genesis 12:10-13 —

 Genesis 20:2-5 —

NOTE : ‘In Egypt, Abraham gave evidence that he was not free from human weakness. Sarah was “fair to look upon,” and he doubted not that the Egyptians would covet the beautiful stranger and slay her husband. He reasoned that he was not guilty of falsehood in representing Sarah as his sister, for she was the daughter of his father, though not of his mother. But this was deception. Through Abraham’s lack of faith, Sarah was placed in great peril. The king of Egypt caused her to be taken to his palace, intending to make her his wife. But the Lord, in His great mercy, protected Sarah by sending judgement upon the royal household. By this means the monarch learned the deception practised upon him. He reproved Abraham, saying, “What is this that thou hast done unto me? ... Why said thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.” Pharaoh’s dismissal of Abraham was kind and generous, but he bade him leave Egypt.’ *From Eternity Past, page 77.*

Monday

1. What was Abraham's reaction to the most treasured promise God could have given him?

 Genesis 17:15-17 —

NOTE : ‘When Abraham was nearly one hundred years old, the promise of a son was repeated to him with the assurance that the future heir should be the child of Sarah. But Abraham did not yet understand the promise. His mind at once turned to Ishmael, Again the promise was given, in words that could not be mistaken: Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish My covenant with him.’ *Patriarchs and Prophets p. 146.*

2. How can we see that even while living in a household that mixed belief in God with the local idolatry, Abraham still maintained his own personal and deep faith in God?

 Genesis 12:1-4 —

NOTE : ‘The message of God came to Abraham, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee.” In order that God might qualify him for his great work as the keeper of the sacred oracles, Abraham must be separated from the associations of his early life. The influence of kindred and friends would interfere with the training which the Lord purposed to give His servant.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 126.*

Tuesday

1. How are we shown the high esteem in which the lord held Abraham?

 Genesis 18:17-19 —

NOTE : ‘Abraham was called the father of the faithful. Among the things that made him a remarkable example of godliness was the strict regard that in his home he paid to the commands of God. He cultivated home religion. He who sees the education given in every home, and who measures the influence of this education, said, “I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment.”’ *Child Guidance, page 18.*


2. In view of the fact that God will always prove those whom He can use, what strong test did God bring to Abraham?

 Genesis 22:1-2 —

NOTE : ‘The command to Abraham demanded the most agonising sacrifice. All heaven beheld with wonder and admiration Abraham’s unflinching obedience. All heaven applauded his fidelity. Satan’s accusations were shown to be false. God’s covenant testified that obedience will be rewarded. When the command was given Abraham to offer his son, all heavenly beings with intense earnestness watched each step in the fulfilment of this command. Light was shed upon the mystery of redemption, and even the angels understood more clearly the wonderful provision that God had made for man’s salvation. See 1 Peter 1:12.’ *Eternity Past, page 97.*

Wednesday

1. What important lesson was God able to bring to the world through the submissive, trusting relationship of Abraham and Isaac with Himself?

 Genesis 22:8-9 —

NOTE : ‘The agony which Abraham endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he might understand something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by God for man’s redemption. No other test could have caused Abraham such torture of soul as did the offering of his son. God gave His Son to a death of agony and shame. The angels were not permitted to interpose, as in the case of Isaac. There was no voice to cry, “It is enough.” To save the fallen race, the King of glory yielded up His life. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32. The sacrifice required of Abraham was not alone for his good nor for succeeding generations; it was also for the instruction of the sinless intelligences of heaven and other worlds. The field on which the plan of redemption is wrought out is the lesson book of the universe.’ *From Eternity Past*, page 96.

‘Isaac is bound by the trembling, loving hands of his pitying father because God has said it. The son submits to the sacrifice because he believes in the integrity of his father. But when everything is ready, when the faith of the father and the submission of the son are fully tested, the angel of God stays the uplifted hand of Abraham that is about to slay his son and tells him that it is enough. “Now I know that thou fears God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.” Genesis 22:12.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 187.

2. Which beloved Bible verse explains that in Abraham we see a type of God the Father who gave us His only begotten son? John 3:16. Consider the prophetic insight given to Abraham and how he rejoiced.

 John 8:56 —

NOTE : ‘This terrible ordeal was imposed upon Abraham that he might see the day of Christ, and realise the great love of God for the world, so great that to raise it from its degradation, He gave His only-begotten Son to a most shameful death. Abraham learned of God the greatest lesson ever given to mortals. His prayer that he might see Christ before he should die was answered. He saw Christ; he saw all that mortal can see, and live. By making an entire surrender, he was able to understand the vision of Christ, which had been given him. He was shown that in giving His only-begotten Son to save sinners from eternal ruin, God was making a greater and more wonderful sacrifice than ever man could make.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 468.

Thursday

1. How does Paul speak of the blessing that comes to us through the faithfulness of Abraham?

 Acts 3:25-26 —

NOTE : ‘Plain and specific prophecies had been given regarding the appearance of the Promised One. To Adam was given an assurance of the coming of the Redeemer. The sentence pronounced on Satan, “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” Genesis 3:15, was to our first parents a promise of the redemption to be wrought out through Christ. To Abraham was given the promise that of his line the Saviour of the world should come: “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” “He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 222.

2. How is Abraham's mature faith described as an example to us?

 Romans 4:20-21 —

 Hebrews 11:6 —

NOTE : ‘Abraham believed that Isaac was the son of promise. He also believed that God meant just what he said when he bade him to go offer him as a burnt-offering. He staggered not at the promise of God; but believed that God, who had in His providence given Sarah a son in her old age, and who had required him to take that son’s life, could also give life again, and bring up Isaac from the dead.’ *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 1, page 99.

‘The church should realise that infinite resources are at her command. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?” The church must be as was Abraham, who “staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded, that what He had promised He was able also to perform.’ *Signs of the Times*, September 17, 1894.

Friday

1. Paul tells us that all these died having not received the promises (Hebrews 11:39), but with what precious hope did they go to their rest?

 **Hebrews 11:10** —

 **Hebrews 11:13** —

 **Hebrews 11:16** —

NOTE : ‘The gift to Abraham and his seed included not merely the land of Canaan, but the whole earth. So says the apostle, “The promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13. And the Bible plainly teaches that the promises made to Abraham are to be fulfilled through Christ.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 169.*

2. Who are the seed of Abraham to whom these promises are also given?

 **Galatians 3:26-29** —

NOTE : ‘All that are Christ’s are “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”, heirs to “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away”, the earth freed from the curse of sin. Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:4. For “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;” and “the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Daniel 7:27; Psalm 37:11. God gave to Abraham a view of this immortal inheritance, and with this hope he was content.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 169.*



LESSON 5

“ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE AND COME FORTH”

July 22—July 28

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

LESSON AIM : To show that the Bible teaches the sleep of death is for all, but we can choose which resurrection will be ours. God offers us the first one to everlasting life, or after 1000 years to the resurrection of condemnation to the second death, to perish forever, from which there is no reprieve.

INTRODUCTION : ‘To the believer, Christ is the resurrection and the life. In our Saviour the life that was lost through sin is restored; for He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. He is invested with the right to give immortality. The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity. “I am come,” He said, “that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” “Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” “Whoso eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 44.

LESSON INSIGHT : The Bible teaches that after the sin of Adam God has given us 70-80 years of everyday life as a second chance to make a choice for or against the ways and will of God and to have the Holy Spirit living in us. This life is then followed by sleep, the sleep of death. This sleep of death is not the punishment for sin, but God’s way of rounding off our probationary life and bringing our allotted time to an end. This is common to all, the most righteous and the most unrighteous.

- If we have chosen to obey and serve Him, we have the promise of the first resurrection when we will be awakened and called to life from among the sleeping throngs on the earth. God will have judged our lives and wake us up to a new and different life that will be eternal and glorious.
- But if during this time of probation we should choose against God, then we also experience the same sleep of death but will be allowed to sleep on for a further 1000 years until the righteous have had the opportunity to see God’s just dealings with those who rejected Him. During that time the righteous will be allowed to be involved in the judgement of the world and also the evil angels 1 Corinthians 6:2-3.

The second resurrection will be followed by the great fires that will sweep this earth and the fire and brimstone from heaven that will cleanse both the earth and the heavens around us. These were only ever intended for the devil and his angels, but if we have joined the devil’s side then we will share that final punishment and be burned up root and branch. It is then that God will make a new heaven and a new earth, to be populated by people who have been granted immortality as a gift of God, never to see death again.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. How does the Bible describe the second death?

 1 Corinthians 15:26 —

NOTE : ‘Let it be settled once and forever. It is, To be, or not to be? [to live or not to live] Which shall we choose? To be? But to be means to glorify God. The sole purpose of existence in the universe is to glorify God. Therefore, the choice to be is the choice to glorify God and the choice to glorify God is the choice that self shall be emptied and lost and God alone shall appear and be seen. Then when all is done the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians

gives the grand consummation. Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.' *A. T. Jones, General Conference Bulletin, February 27, 1895, page 381.*

Sunday

1. How can we see that God never intended that anyone should perish in death?

 **2 Peter 3:9** —

 **Ezekiel 33:11** —

NOTE : 'With his hosts of fallen beings he [Satan] determined to urge the warfare most vigorously; for there stood in the world One who was a perfect representative of the Father, One whose character and practices refuted Satan's misrepresentation of God. Satan had charged upon God the attribute he himself possessed. Now in Christ he saw God revealed in His true character, a compassionate, merciful Father, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Him in repentance, and have eternal life.' *Lift Him Up, page 28.*

2. Why does the threat of eternal death hang over us?

 **Romans 6:23** —

 **Romans 3:23** —

NOTE : 'God declared, "The soul that sins, it shall die." [Ezekiel 18:4.] And, apart from the plan of redemption, human beings are doomed to death. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." [Romans 3:23.] But Christ gave His life to save the sinner from the death sentence. He died that we might live. To those who receive Him He gives power that enables them to separate from that which, unless they return to their loyalty, will place them where they must be condemned and punished.' *15 Letters & Manuscripts, Manuscript 80, 1900, par. 8*

Monday

1. How can we escape the second death?

 **John 8:51** —

NOTE : "Whosoever lives and believeth in Me shall never die." "If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death." God's chosen ones may fall at their post of duty, but they have only fallen asleep, to rest till Jesus awakes them to share with Him an eternal weight of glory." *The Upward Look, page 272.*

2. As the Bible speaks of a second death, there must also be a first death. How does the Bible refer to this first death when our allotted time here is over?

 **2 Samuel 7:12** —

 **Psalms 13:3** —

NOTE : 'To the Christian, death is but a sleep, a moment of silence and darkness. The life is hid with Christ in God, and "when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service. The same voice that had said to them, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end," would bid them welcome to His presence in the heavenly kingdom.' *A Call to Stand Apart, page 44.*

Tuesday

1. What kind of bodies are we all born with? [Mortal means subject to death.]

 **Romans 6:12** —

NOTE : 'On either side of this beautiful river is the tree of life. And the redeemed saints, who have loved God and kept his commandments here, will enter in through the gates of the City, and have right to the tree of life. They will eat freely of it, as our first parents did before their fall. The leaves of that immortal wide-spread tree will be for

the healing of the nations. All their woes will then be gone. Sickness, sorrow and death they will never again feel, for the leaves of the tree of life have healed them. Jesus will then see of the travail of his soul [Isaiah 53:11] and be satisfied, when the redeemed, who have been subject to sorrow, toil and afflictions, who have groaned beneath the curse, are gathered up around that tree of life to eat of its immortal fruit, that our first parents forfeited all right to, by breaking God's commands. There will be no danger of their ever losing right to the tree of life again, for he that tempted our first parents to sin, will be destroyed by the second death.' *Youth Instructor* October 1, 1852, par. 3

2. Who is the One who can give us the assurance of awakening out of the first death, and escaping the second death?

 **1 Corinthians 15:16-20** —

NOTE : 'In consequence of Adam's sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves: "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust," "for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." But a distinction is made between the two classes brought forth: "All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.' *From Here to Forever*, page 334.

Wednesday

1. Who holds the keys of death and hell [the grave]?

 **Revelation 1:18** —

NOTE : 'Jesus comforts our sorrow for the dead with a message of infinite hope: "I am He that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, ... and have the keys of hell and of death." "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; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Revelation 1:18; Hebrews 2:14, 15. Satan cannot hold the dead in his grasp when the Son of God bids them live. *Desire of Ages*, page 319.

2. What was the theme of the apostles preaching?


 **Acts 4:33** —

NOTE : 'Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities." Thus the disciples preached the resurrection of Christ. Many among those who listened were waiting for this testimony and when they heard it, they believed. It brought to their minds the words that Christ had spoken, and they took their stand in the ranks of those who accepted the gospel. The seed that the Saviour had sown sprang up and bore fruit. While the disciples were speaking to the people, "the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." *Acts of the Apostles*, page 60.

Thursday

1. How many resurrections does the Bible teach?

 **Acts 24:15** —

 **John 5:28-29** —

NOTE : 'Your Extra is now on the stand before me; and I beg leave to state to you, and the scattered flock of God, what I have seen in vision relative to these things on which you have written. I fully agree with you, that there will be two literal resurrections, 1000 years apart.' *Word to the Little Flock* 11.

2. How are those raised in the first resurrection described and when will the rest of the dead be raised?

 **Revelation 20:6** —


 **Revelation 20:5, first part.** —


NOTE : 'At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the

redeemed, and attended by a retinue of angels. As he descends in terrific majesty, he bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. They come forth, a mighty host, numberless as the sands of the sea. What a contrast to those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death. *Great Controversy 1888 662.1*

Friday

1. What must happen to our old life before we can know the resurrection of the just?

 **Ephesians 4:22-24** —

 **Romans 12:2** —

 **Romans 8:11** —

NOTE : ‘The people of God, who have been blessed with great light in regard to the truth for this time, should not forget that they are to be waiting and watching for the coming of their Lord in the clouds of heaven. Let them not forget that they are to put off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light.’ *Counsels on Stewardship, page 231.*

2. How do we experience this?

 **Acts 9:5** —

 **1 John 1:9** —

 **Romans 6:3-6** —

NOTE : ‘There is need that much time be spent in secret prayer, in close communion with God. Thus only can victories be won. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety. The Lord’s covenant is with His saints. Everyone is to discern his weak points of character and guard against them with vigour. Those who have been buried with Christ in baptism, and been raised in the likeness of His resurrection, have pledged themselves to live in newness of life. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.” Colossians 3:1-4.’ *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, page 258.*



LESSON 6

“TITLE”

July 29—August 4

MEMORY VERSE : Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but My people know not the judgement of the LORD.’ Jeremiah 8:7.

LESSON AIM : To show that God’s law is everlasting and that our motivation for keeping that law is love for God, and a desire that He should be honoured in the world that is fast making His law void, but also a recognition that His law was given for our good.

INTRODUCTION : ‘David prayed, “It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.” This prayer is no less pertinent at the present time. The world has gone astray from God, and its lawless state should strike terror to the heart, and lead all who are loyal to the great King to work for a reformation. The papal power has thought to change the law of God by substituting a spurious Sabbath for that of Jehovah; and all through the religious world the false sabbath is revered, while the true one is trampled beneath unholy feet.... It is on the law of God that the last great struggle of the controversy between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels will come, and it will be decisive for all the world.’ *Christian Service, page 155.*

LESSON INSIGHT : The Commandments of God have been given to us for our good. God is a God of order and precision. It is this that brings peace and harmony and contentment. These are qualities we look forward to in the life to come, but we only discover the beauty of this way of life by following God’s life-plan for us here. His commandments are not grievous and are a taste of the pleasant and stress free life that God intended for His sons and daughters.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. Where do we discover the first commandment given to human beings by God?

 **Genesis 2:16-17 —**

NOTE : ‘The first moral lesson given to Adam was that of self-denial. The reins of self government were placed in his hands. Judgement, reason, and conscience were to bear sway. “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof thou shalt surely die.” Adam and Eve were permitted to partake of every tree in the garden save one. There was a single prohibition. The forbidden tree was as attractive and lovely as any of the trees in the garden. It was called the tree of knowledge because in partaking of that tree of which God had said, “Thou shalt not eat of it,” they would have a knowledge of sin, an experience in disobedience.’ *Confrontation, page 12.*

Sunday

1. How do we see that the giving of a commandment to Adam and eve was evidence that human beings are creatures with a will that is free to chose?

 **Isaiah 1:18 —**

NOTE : ‘In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom. The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan’s control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God. The only condition upon which the freedom of man is possible is that of becoming one with Christ. “The truth shall make you free;”

and Christ is the truth.' *Desire of Ages*, page 466.

2. What other sacred sense has God given to allow us to escape from sin?

 **2 Kings 18:12** —

 **Psalm 95:7-8** —

NOTE : 'The source of all power is limitless; and if in your great need you seek for the Holy Spirit to work upon your own soul, if you shut yourself in with God, be assured that you will not come before the people dry and spiritless. Praying much and beholding Jesus, you will cease to exalt self. If you patiently exercise faith, trusting God implicitly, you will recognise the voice of Jesus saying: "Come up higher."' *Testimonies*, volume 6, page 48.

Monday

1. What should we be listening for?

 **Isaiah 30:21** —

NOTE : 'To Jesus the whole human family is entrusted, as the flocks of sheep are entrusted to a shepherd. These sheep and lambs are to be tended with pastoral care. They will be guarded by the faithful Chief Shepherd, under the care of faithful under-shepherds, and if they will obey the voice of the Chief Shepherd, they will not be left to be devoured by wolves.... Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice, ... and they follow Me" (John 10:27). The Shepherd of Israel does not drive His flock, but He leads them. His attitude is wholly one of invitation. "My sheep hear My voice." If we are indeed sons and daughters of God, we not only hear, but recognise the voice above all others.' *That I May Know Him*, page 52.

2. Seeing that God has touched our heart with His love, what should be our response?

 **1 John 4:19** —

NOTE : 'It is not possible for the heart in which Christ abides to be destitute of love. If we love God because He first loved us, we shall love all for whom Christ died. We cannot come in touch with divinity without coming in touch with humanity; for in Him who sits upon the throne of the universe, divinity and humanity are combined. Connected with Christ, we are connected with our fellow men by the golden links of the chain of love. Then the pity and compassion of Christ will be manifest in our life.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 384.

Tuesday

1. Why did God give us commandments?

 **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** —

 **Deuteronomy 5:29** —

NOTE : 'Upon obedience depends the life and happiness, the health and joy, of men, women, and children. Obedience is for our well-being in this life and in the life to come. "The Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He hath commanded us.'" *Review & Herald*, July 15, 1902.

2. What is the spring that leads us to obey God?

 **John 14:15** —

NOTE : 'Love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him. Let this desire be encouraged and rightly guided. Whether in the home, the neighbourhood, or the school, the presence of the poor, the afflicted, the ignorant, or the unfortunate should be regarded, not as a misfortune, but as affording precious opportunity for service. The heart in which the love of Christ abides, will constantly manifest more and more refinement, for the spring of the life is love to God and man. This is Christianity.' *A Call to stand Apart*, page 65.

Wednesday

1. How does the Bible describe the pleasure of living as God wants us to live?

 Psalm 40:8 —

NOTE : ‘The word of God, received into the soul, will be manifest in good works. Its results will be seen in a Christlike character and life. Christ said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. “I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me.” John 5:30. And the Scripture says, “He that saith he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” 1 John 2:6.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 60.*

2. Where has God promised to write His law, and why?

 Psalm 37:31 —

 Ezekiel 36:26-27 —

 Romans 12:2 —

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘Writing His law on our hearts means that we have invited Jesus to live His life out through our everyday lives. In this way people do not see us, but they see how Jesus walked when He was on the earth. They see His life on our streets today walking in our flesh and blood. We will not be conscious of this, but with His law in our hearts we will have the inner discernment to know what is right or wrong and be able to give an answer for it. For this to happen we must make conscious choices and efforts to abide in the Vine.

NOTE : ‘God’s people, taught by the inspiration of truth, and led by a good conscience to live by every word of God, will take His law, written in their hearts, as the only authority which they can acknowledge or consent to obey. The wisdom and authority of the divine law are supreme. The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses, extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. Yet the Saviour attempted no civil reforms. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.’ *Counsels for the Church, page 314.*

Thursday

1. so that we can see the reality about ourselves without Christ in us, what images of defilement does He bring to our minds?

 Matthew 23:25 —

 Matthew 23:27-28 —

NOTE : ‘A mere profession of godliness is worthless. It is he that abides in Christ that is a Christian.... Unless the mind of God becomes the mind of man, every effort to purify himself will be useless; for it is impossible to elevate man except through a knowledge of God. The outward gloss may be put on, and men may be as were the Pharisees whom Jesus describes as “whited sepulchres” full of corruption and dead men’s bones. But all the deformity of the soul is open to Him who judges righteously, and unless the truth is planted in the heart, it cannot control the life. Cleansing the outside of the cup will never make the vessel pure within. A nominal acceptance of truth is good as far as it goes, and the ability to give a reason for our faith is a good accomplishment, but if the truth does not go deeper than this, the soul will never be saved. The heart must be purified from all moral defilement.’ *SDA Bible Commentary, volume 7, page 951.*

2. Who are the blessed ones who will be invited to enter into the city and partake of the tree of life?

 Revelation 22:14 —

NOTE : ‘He who is the fountain of all knowledge has stated the condition of our fitness to enter the heaven of bliss, in the words, “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.” Obedience to God’s commandments is the price of heaven.’ *Child Guidance, page 224.*

Friday

1. There may be hardships here if we choose to follow the lord, but what promises for the world to come does He make to those who continue to serve and follow Him here?



Revelation 7:15-17 —


NOTE : ‘By human tribunals they were adjudged the vilest of criminals. But now “God is judge Himself.” Psalm 50:6. Now the decisions of earth are reversed. “The rebuke of His people shall He take away.” Isaiah 25:8. “They shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord.” He hath appointed “to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” Isaiah 62:12; 61:3. They are no longer feeble, afflicted, scattered, and oppressed. Henceforth they are to be ever with the Lord. They stand before the throne clad in richer robes than the most honoured of the earth have ever worn. They are crowned with diadems more glorious than were ever placed upon the brow of earthly monarchs. The days of pain and weeping are forever ended. The King of glory has wiped the tears from all faces; every cause of grief has been removed. Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious; every voice takes up the strain, until the anthem swells through the vaults of heaven: “Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” And all the inhabitants of heaven respond in the ascription: “Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever.” *Great Controversy*, page 650.





LESSON 7


“THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW”

August 5—August 11

 **MEMORY VERSE** : “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.” Psalm 103:10-11.

 **LESSON AIM** : ‘Today many Christians do not like speaking about sin for they feel it brings negative aspects into the Gospel and the love of Jesus. But this lesson is to show the problems of sin run as a thread through everything that God has revealed to us in His Word.’

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘The hot summer sun, that strengthens and ripens the hardy grain, destroys that which has no depth of root. So he who “hath not root in himself,” “endures for a while”; but “when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Word, by and by he is offended.” Many receive the gospel as a way of escape from suffering, rather than as a deliverance from sin. They rejoice for a season, for they think that religion will free them from difficulty and trial. While life moves smoothly with them, they may appear to be consistent Christians. But they faint beneath the fiery test of temptation. They cannot bear reproach for Christ’s sake. When the word of God points out some cherished sin, or requires self-denial or sacrifice, they are offended. It would cost them too much effort to make a radical change in their life. They look at the present inconvenience and trial, and forget the eternal realities. Like the disciples who left Jesus, they are ready to say, “This is an hard saying; who can hear it?” There are very many who claim to serve God, but who have no experimental knowledge of Him. Their desire to do His will is based upon their own inclination, not upon the deep conviction of the Holy Spirit. Their conduct is not brought into harmony with the law of God. They profess to accept Christ as their Saviour, but they do not believe that He will give them power to overcome their sins.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 48.*

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : The subject of sin the transgression of God’s Law is essentially the theme and essence of the Bible, spanning time from before the creation of our world, continuing through to the ages of everlasting life beyond, as our Saviour carries the nail prints in His body.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. How does the Bible define sin?

 **1 John 3:4** —

NOTE : ‘A terrible doom awaits the sinner, and therefore it is necessary that we know what sin is, in order that we may escape from its power. John says, “Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law”. 1 John 3:4. Here we have the true definition of sin; it is “the transgression of the law.” How often the sinner is urged to leave his sins, and come to Jesus; but has the messenger who would lead him to Christ clearly pointed out the way? Has he clearly pointed out the fact that “sin is the transgression of the law,” and that he must repent and forsake the breaking of God’s commandments?’ *Faith and Works, page 117.*

Sunday

1. With whom and where did sin begin?

 **Ezekiel 28:14-15** —

 **Revelation 12:7** —

NOTE : ‘Says the prophet [Ezekiel], addressing the prince of evil, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.” Ezekiel 28:17. Though God had created Lucifer noble and beautiful, and had exalted him to high honour among the angelic host, yet he had not placed him beyond the possibility of evil. It was in Satan’s power, did he choose to do so, to pervert these gifts. He might have

remained in favour with God, beloved and honoured by all the angelic throng, presiding in his exalted position with generous, unselfish care, exercising his noble powers to bless others and to glorify his Maker. But, little by little, he began to seek his own honour, and to employ his powers to attract attention and win praise to himself. He also gradually led the angels over whom he ruled to do him service, instead of devoting all their powers to the service of their Creator. This course perverted his own imagination, and perverted those who yielded implicitly to his authority.' *Spirit of Prophecy, volume 4, page 317.*

2. Did God create a devil?

 **Ezekiel 28:15** —

NOTE : 'The prophet of God [Ezekiel] declares, "Thou [referring to Lucifer] wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Peace and joy, in perfect submission to the will of Heaven, existed throughout the angelic host. Love to God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Such was the condition that existed for ages before the entrance of sin. But over this happy state there came a change.' *Spirit of Prophecy, volume 4, page 31*

Monday

1. How would you answer those who say that God placed satan on our world for His own purposes? Read the verses in the Compilers note below:



COMPILER'S NOTE : 'In view of -

- God's warnings to the human family that Satan is going about as a roaring lion. 1 Peter 5:8.
- That he is angry because he knows his time is short. Revelation 12:1;
- Combined with the very many divine warnings to us not to get involved with evil but to turn away, James 4:7. these arguments do not stand up.

In addition -

- Jesus came to our world as Emmanuel, God with us. Matthew 1:23.
- He faced all the problems that Satan has introduced here, and overcame each one. Hebrews 4:15.
- In heaven now as our High Priest, He can give us just what we need in each emergency so that we do not have to fall. Hebrews 4:16.
- And, more than that, Jesus has given us the means of getting clear of Satan's snares. Luke 4:19 This does not sound as if God planned our fall.
- God tells us that the eventual punishment by fire was never intended for human beings.

NOTE : 'Yet, as already stated, the wrath of God is not primarily against them [sinful human beings], but against the thing which they love; against the thing which they cling to, and will not be separated from. And at last, in that great day when the judgement is set, and on the right and on the left are all the people who have ever lived, those on the left will depart "into everlasting fire, prepared", not for them, but "for the devil and his angels." The Lord has done His utmost that they might never see it. He gave His Son to save them, that they might never know it. It was not prepared for them. He does not desire that they should be lost; but they have to go there, because there is the company which they have chosen; that is the place with which they have connected themselves, and from which they would not be separated. Therefore, He says, "depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels".' *A. T. Jones, Review & Herald, January 24, 1899.*


2. How did God describe all that He had made?

 **Genesis 1:31** —

NOTE : 'The creation was now complete. "The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." Eden bloomed on earth. Adam and Eve had free access to the tree of life. No taint of sin or shadow of death marred the fair creation. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7.' *Daughters of God, page 23.*

Tuesday

1. Where on this earth did sin begin?

 **Genesis 2:8** —

NOTE : ‘It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning the origin and final disposition of sin to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God. God was in no wise responsible for sin; there was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency in the divine government, that gave occasion for rebellion. Sin is an intruder for whose presence no reason can be given. To excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, it would cease to be sin. Sin is the outworking of a principle at war with the law of love, which is the foundation of the divine government.’ *From Here to Forever, page 304.*

2. As Satan sinned first in the beauty of heaven, and Adam and Eve sinned first in the perfection of Paradise, what does this tell us about sin?

 **Hebrews 3:13** —

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘The error of Original Sin is a man-made theological teaching, not a Bible teaching. Shaped by Augustine, it teaches that we cannot help doing wrong things, because we are born with a ‘disease’ called Sin, and our wrong words and deeds are the symptoms, the blemishes of that disease. They say Jesus knows this and He forgives us, but as long as we are on this earth we cannot fully overcome. This situation will not be changed until He performs a miracle and we are changed at His return. From the Bible we see that this too is false. Satan was a perfect being until he made the wrong choices. Adam and Eve very good at their creation, too.

Sin is about personal choice. It is not a birth defect. Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, we have frailties and weaknesses, but we are not born depraved and full of sin. The Bible does speak of a change to come, but that change is a physical change. Our earthly mortal bodies are changed in the twinkling of an eye to immortal bodies. It is false to say that the change to immortality has anything to do with morals or character.

NOTE : ‘Freedom of choice is essential to intelligence. Freedom of thought is essential to freedom of choice. God has made angels and men intelligent. He has made them free to choose, and has left them perfectly free to choose, and free to think as they choose. Thus God is the author of intelligence, of freedom of choice, and of freedom of thought. And He forever respects that of which He is the author. He will never invade to a hair’s breadth the freedom of angel or man to choose for himself, nor to think as he chooses. For God to create intelligences free to choose to serve Him - in that very thing they are created free to choose not to serve Him. Freedom of choice at all involves freedom to choose to serve Him or not to serve Him, freedom to choose Him or themselves, His way or their way, life or death. As such He did create all intelligences.’ *A. T. Jones, Review & Herald, June 20, 1899.*

Wednesday

1. Why did Jesus come to die for us?

 **Hebrews 2:14-15** —

 **1 John 4:9** —

NOTE : ‘John, realising that brotherly love was waning in the church, urged upon believers the constant need of this love. His letters to the church are full of this thought. “Beloved, let us love one another,” he writes; “for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loves not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation [what makes us favourable to God] for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” *Acts of the Apostles, page 548.*

2. What does God want us to become through His love?

 **Romans 8:37** —

 **Revelation 3:21** —

NOTE : ‘We are to accept of Christ as our personal Saviour, or we shall fail in our attempt to be overcomers. It will not answer for us to hold ourselves aloof from Him, to believe that our friend or our neighbour may have Him for a

personal Saviour but that we may not experience His pardoning love. We are to believe that we are chosen of God, to be saved by the exercise of faith, through the grace of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit; and we are to praise and glorify God for such a marvellous manifestation of His unmerited favour. It is the love of God that draws the soul to Christ, to be graciously received and presented to the Father. Through the work of the Spirit the divine relationship between God and the sinner is renewed. The Father says: "I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. I will exercise forgiving love toward them and bestow upon them My joy. They shall be to Me a peculiar treasure; for this people whom I have formed for Myself shall show forth My praise." *'Mind Character and Personality, volume 2, page 536.*

Thursday

1. What loving relationship will God have with those who have chosen to separate sin from their lives?



2 Corinthians 6:16-18 —

NOTE : '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 it 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. Such ones do not correctly represent the sanctification [ongoing holy growth] that comes through obedience to the truth. The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. Through the exercise of faith the believer comes into possession of these blessings. Through faith, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed. Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, "Ye shall receive." *Acts of the Apostles, page 564.*

2. How can we see from the Bible that when Jesus' work in relation to sin is finished, all will acknowledge that God is God and the controversy will be over?



Philippians 2:10-11 —



Revelation 15:3 —

NOTE : "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God [acknowledge God]. Romans 14:11." For what was the great controversy permitted to continue throughout the ages? Why was it that Satan's existence was not cut short at the outset of his rebellion? It was that the universe might be convinced of God's justice in His dealing with evil; that sin might receive eternal condemnation. In the plan of redemption there are heights and depths that eternity itself can never exhaust, marvels into which the angels desire to look. The redeemed only, of all created beings, have in their own experience known the actual conflict with sin; they have wrought [worked] with Christ, and, as even the angels could not do, have entered into the fellowship of His sufferings; will they have no testimony as to the science of redemption, nothing that will be of worth to unfallen beings? ... *God's Amazing Grace, page 373.*

'Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created.... With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: "Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints"'. *God's Amazing Grace, page 373.*

Friday

1. What will our future be like when sin and death are no more?



Psalms 16:11 —

NOTE : 'And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise. "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever


and ever.” Revelation 5:13. The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.’ *Great Controversy*, page 678.





LESSON 8


“THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL ”

August 12—August 18

 **MEMORY VERSE** : For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.’ 2 Corinthians 5:21

 **LESSON AIM** : To show how Christ, the Lamb of God, from the Garden of Eden until the end of our time of opportunity, bears our sins, so we can know the favour of God once again and see Him face to face.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘Men need to understand that the Deity suffered under the agonies of Calvary. The Majesty of heaven was made to suffer at the hands of wicked men, religious zealots, who claimed to be the most enlightened people on the face of the earth. Men claiming to be the children of Abraham worked out the wrath of Satan upon the innocent Son of the infinite God. While Christ was bearing the heavy guilt incurred by man’s transgression of the law of God, while in the act of bearing our sins, of carrying our sorrows, He was mocked and reviled by the very men appointed to teach the law, and lead the people to love and obey God.’ *Review and Herald, April 4, 1899.*

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God’s grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honoured above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died, here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men, “and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift.’ *Desire of Ages, page 26.*

Sabbath Afternoon

1. What did Adam and eve do after they had sinned?

 **Genesis 3:8** —

NOTE : ‘After Adam and Eve had yielded to the tempter, the covering of light, their garment of innocence, was taken from them. “The eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” In the past they had been glad to see their Creator when He came to walk and talk with them. Now in their sinfulness they were afraid to meet Him. Hearing the voice of God in the garden, they “hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.”’ *Sermons and Talks, volume 1, page 319.*

Sunday

1. Who took the initiative to find them?

 **Genesis 3:9** —

NOTE : ‘Now they fled in terror, and sought to hide in the deepest recesses of the garden. But “the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou should not eat?” Adam could neither deny nor excuse his sin; but instead of manifesting penitence, he endeavoured to cast the blame upon his wife, and thus upon God Himself: “The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.” He who, from love to Eve, had deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God, his home in Paradise and an eternal life of joy, could now, after his fall, endeavour to make his companion, and even the Creator Himself, responsible for the

transgression. So terrible is the power of sin. When the woman was asked, "What is this that thou hast done?" she answered, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." "Why didst Thou create the serpent? Why didst Thou suffer him to enter Eden?" these were the questions implied in her excuse for her sin. Thus, like Adam, she charged God with the responsibility of their fall.' *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 57*

2. Before they were cast out of the garden what promise did God give them?

 **Genesis 3:15** —

COMPILER'S NOTE : 'An explanation of the promise of Genesis 3:15. The 'woman' stood for the human race. And God is talking to Satan, so God is saying He will put discomfort between them both. Without this gift, the human race would always have been puppets of Satan; but with this enmity, this hatred, or dislike or restlessness or searching or longing for something better breaks Satan's hold. This enables us to turn to God if we so choose. Then God said that the 'seed of the woman', whom we now know was to be Christ, would crush the head of Satan. Satan was to be vanquished and Christ became the victor. This happened on the cross. But in this mortal struggle the heel of Christ would be bruised. On the cross Satan tried to overcome Christ, but the Saviour rose again, as if just his heel had been damaged. But Satan was the loser in this conflict. Adam and Eve saw hope in these words. One would come who could set things right.

NOTE : 'But man was not abandoned to the results of the evil he had chosen. In the sentence pronounced upon Satan was given an intimation of redemption. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman," God said, "and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15. This sentence, spoken in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the toil and sorrow that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.' *Education, page 27.*

Monday

1. How did Jesus, their Creator, cover the nakedness of Adam and eve, when their own attempts with fig leaves wilted?

 **Genesis 3:21** —

NOTE : 'The Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a covering, the robe of His own righteousness, that He will put on every repenting, believing soul who by faith will receive it. Said John, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Sin is the transgression of the law. Christ died to make it possible for every man to have his sins taken away. A fig-leaf apron will never cover our nakedness. Sin must be taken away, and the garment of Christ's righteousness must cover the transgressor of God's law. Then when the Lord looks upon the believing sinner, He sees, not the fig leaves covering him, but Christ's own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. Man has hidden his nakedness, not under a covering of fig leaves, but under the robe of Christ's righteousness. Christ has made a sacrifice to satisfy the demands of justice. What a price for Heaven to pay to ransom the transgressor of the law of Jehovah! Yet that holy law could not be maintained with any smaller price. In the place of the law being abolished to meet sinful man in his fallen condition, it has been maintained in all its sacred dignity. In His Son, God gave Himself to save from eternal ruin all who would believe in Him.' *The Upward Look, page 378.*

2. What three things must Adam and eve have done that allowed God to cover the sins they had just committed?

 **Psalms 51:3** —

 **1 John 1:9** —

 **Acts 3:19** —

NOTE : 'There are many professed Christians whose confessions of sin are similar to that of Achan, Joshua 7:1. They will, in a general way, acknowledge their unworthiness, but they refuse to confess the sins whose guilt rests upon their conscience, and which have brought the frown of God upon His people. Thus many conceal sins of selfishness, over-reaching, dishonesty toward God and their neighbour, sins in the family, and many others which it is proper to confess in public. Genuine repentance springs from a sense of the offensive character of sin.' *Signs of the Times, May 5, 1881.*

Tuesday

1. How does Peter reveal Jesus as our atoning sacrifice, the innocent One who loved guilty sinners from beginning to

end, and died for them to open the way to our Father?

 **1 Peter 1:19-21** —

NOTE : ‘Only by the precious blood of the Son of God could the transgressor be redeemed. The plan of salvation was laid in sacrifice. The apostle Paul wrote, “Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9. Christ gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity. And as the crowning blessing of salvation, “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 519.*

2. How can we see that the death of Christ, the lamb of God, on the cross was a parallel of what happened in the courtyard of the sanctuary where the lambs were slain for sin?

 **Luke 22:20** —

NOTE : ‘In that ancient ritual which is the gospel in symbol, no blemished offering could be brought to God’s altar. The sacrifice that was to represent Christ must be spotless. The Word of God points to this as an illustration of what His children are to be, “a living sacrifice,” “holy and without blemish.” Romans 12:1.’ *A Call to Stand Apart, page 56.*

Wednesday

1. After His resurrection, where did Christ, now our High Priest, take His blood for us? Hebrews 8:3; Hebrews 9:11-12; Hebrews 10:19-20. and as His blood is working for us today in a new Covenant, what is our part?

 **Hebrews 4:14** —

 **Hebrews 4:16** —

 **Hebrews 10:22- 23** —

NOTE : ‘The disciples no longer had any distrust of the future. They knew that Jesus was in heaven, and that His sympathies were with them still. They knew that they had a friend at the throne of God, and they were eager to present their requests to the Father in the name of Jesus. In solemn awe they bowed in prayer, repeating the assurance, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:23, 24. They extended the hand of faith higher and higher, with the mighty argument, “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us [stands between us and God].” Romans 8:34.’ *Desire of Ages 832.*

‘When we were separated from God, Christ came to reconcile us to the Father. In pitying love He placed His human arm about the fallen race, and with His divine arm He grasped the throne of the Infinite, thus connecting finite man with the infinite God; through the plan of salvation we are united with the agencies of heaven.’ *Signs of the Times, December 15, 1890.*

2. What is the outcome of this process in the heavenly sanctuary and in our own hearts?

 **Romans 3:23-25** —

 **Matthew 5:8** —

 **1 John 3:2** —

COMPILER’S NOTE : Propitiation – being made favourable to God.

NOTE : ““Every man that hath this hope in him,” he wrote, “purifies himself, even as He is pure.” “He that saith he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” 1 John 3:3; 2:6. He taught that the Christian must be pure in heart and life. Never should he be satisfied with an empty profession. As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 559.*

Thursday

1. Once our past life has been set right, what is the ongoing spiritual condition that we must meet, in order to be presented to the Father?

 **Colossians 1:21-23** —

NOTE : ‘The themes of redemption are momentous themes, and only those who are spiritually minded can discern their depth and significance. It is our safety, our life, our joy, to dwell upon the truths of the plan of salvation. Faith and prayer are necessary in order that we may behold the deep things of God. Our minds are so bound about with narrow ideas, that we catch but limited views of the experience it is our privilege to have. How little do we comprehend what is meant by the prayer of the apostle, when he says, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:16-21’ *Christian Education*, page 77.

2. How do we know that, when Jesus comes again, He will no longer be the ‘sinbearer’?

 **Hebrews 9:28 —**

 **Revelation 6:14-17 —**

NOTE : ‘Christ will soon return to gather those who are prepared, and take them to this glorious place. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation”.’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 370.

Friday

1. With what joy will Jesus be able to present us to our Father?

 **Jude 1:24-25 —**

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘What is the meaning of redemption? By tempting us to sin, Satan has taken us hostage. We have willingly been disloyal to God. The penalty for breaking God’s law is death. God is life; therefore the only just penalty is to take from us forever the life that He gave us. The only way out of Satan’s snare is for the ransom price to be paid. This is what Jesus did on the cross for us. It was His law, and so only He could pay the penalty to give us the opportunity to walk free. We could not pay it. An angel could not pay it. Only our God could pay it. He could have taken the life of everyone and started again, but He loved us all too much. So He redeemed us Himself. He gave up His own life for us. Now everyone has the opportunity to walk free, it is our choice, therefore choose life. And choose to turn away from your sins.

NOTE : ‘It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centred. And in His presence, all the trials and sufferings of this life will be as nothingness. “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.”

Hebrews 10:35-37. Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city of God into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed. “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7. “It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2. Then, in the results of His work, Christ will behold its recompense. In that great multitude which no man could number, presented “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,” Jude 24, He, whose blood has redeemed and whose life has taught us, “shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.” Isaiah 53:11.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 359.



LESSON 9

“DAVID, THE MAN OF GOD”

August 19—August 25

MEMORY VERSE : For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.’ Isaiah 9:6-7

LESSON AIM : To show how in the Bible God uses the theme of David, as shepherd boy, king, prophet and sweet palmist in Israel to teach us about the kingdom of God with Christ on the throne for evermore.

INTRODUCTION : “Acts 2:30 illustrates the point that David is a type of the throne and Kingdom of Jesus Christ. “Being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath unto him, that of the fruit of his loins according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ.” David well knew that a mortal man could not fill his throne forever; hence he predicted the resurrection of Christ from the dead, to endure forever.’ *Josiah Litch: True Israel, 1843.*

LESSON INSIGHT : David exemplifies so much of what God is looking for in us all, his wholeheartedness, his childlike trust, his enthusiasm, the depth of his contrition, his acceptance of prophetic reproof, His desire for the glory of God when those around deny Him or defy Him. David was a man God could use. David wrote and sang so much of the honour of God and His law. He knew what it was to praise God with all his being. His prophetic insights are far reaching and have all come to pass. He spoke of Christ’s death in detail, He spoke of Christ’s resurrection, but he was also shown the majesty of Christ’s Second Coming. Just as David extolled Christ, so Christ did not hesitate to reveal His lineage to the line of David, that He was the root and the offspring of David, and was to take His place on the throne of David to establish His Kingdom. Thus we see how the different aspects of David, both the reality and the symbolism, open up to us Jesus Christ Himself, from Good Shepherd to King of Kings.

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘David is mentioned by name in the Bible 968 times. This is more than any other Bible character. By allusion, we find that his ancestry through Judah, is foretold in Genesis 49:10. The final mention of David is in Revelation where Jesus says that He is of the root and offspring of David.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. What does the Bible reveal about David’s birthplace and family?

 Ruth 4:16-17 —

 1 Samuel 16:1 —

 1 Samuel 16:10 —

NOTE : ‘Angels attend Joseph and Mary as they journey from their home in Nazareth to the city of David. The decree of imperial Rome for the enrolment of the peoples of her vast dominion has extended to the dwellers among the hills of Galilee. As in old time Cyrus was called to the throne of the world’s empire that he might set free the captives of the Lord, so Caesar Augustus is made the agent for the fulfilment of God’s purpose in bringing the mother of Jesus to Bethlehem. She is of the lineage of David, and the Son of David must be born in David’s city. Out of Bethlehem, said the prophet, “shall He come forth ... that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2, margin. But in the city of their royal line, Joseph and Mary are unrecognised and unhonoured.’ *Desire of Ages, page 44.*

Sunday


1. What are we told about David the young shepherd?


 1 Samuel 16:11-12 —


 1 Samuel 17:34-35 —


NOTE : ‘Marauders from the roving border tribes, or beasts of prey from their hiding places in the rocks, lay in wait to plunder the flocks. The shepherd watched his charge, knowing that it was at the peril of his own life. Jacob, who kept the flocks of Laban in the pasture grounds of Haran, describing his own unwearied labour, said, “In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep departed from mine eyes.” Genesis 31:40. And it was while guarding his father’s sheep that the boy David, singlehanded, encountered the lion and the bear, and rescued from their teeth the stolen lamb.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 478.

2. What does the Bible reveal about David’s musical abilities? (note the title of the psalm.)

 2 Samuel 23:1 —

 2 Samuel 6:5 —

 Nehemiah 12:36 —

 Psalm 108:1-3 —

NOTE : ‘In contemplation of God and His works, the faculties of David’s mind and heart were developing and strengthening for the work of his after-life. He was daily coming into a more intimate communion with God. His mind was constantly penetrating into new depths, for fresh themes to inspire his song, and to wake the music of his harp. The rich melody of his voice poured out upon the air, echoed from the hills as if responsive to the rejoicing of the angels’ songs in heaven. The communion with nature and with God, the care of his flocks, the perils and deliverances, the griefs and joys of his lowly lot, were not only to mould the character of David, and to influence his future life, but through the psalms of Israel’s sweet singer, they were, in all coming ages, to kindle love and faith in the hearts of God’s people, bringing them nearer to the ever-loving heart of Him in whom all His creatures live.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 641.

Monday

1. How do we see something of David’s ability to organise and administer affairs?

 1 Chronicles 15:16-17 —

NOTE : “When David was old and full of days, ... he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand. Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the Lord; and six thousand were officers and judges: moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the Lord with the instruments.” The four thousand musicians, divided into twenty-four courses, were each led by twelve men especially instructed and skilful in the use of musical instruments. The work of the porters was also definitely arranged. This plan of carefully apportioning special duties to certain men who were best fitted for these duties had been carefully studied by David, and followed in his administration of the government of Israel; and now that Solomon was placed upon the throne, David gave particular attention to the perfection of the organisation of all branches of the ministration of the priests and Levites, of the civil officers, and of the army.’ *Review & Herald*, October 5, 1905.

2. How does David describe the prophetic gift with which God blessed him?

 2 Samuel 23:1-2 —

NOTE : ‘Jesus ever carried the minds of His hearers back to the precious mine of truth found in the Old Testament Scriptures. The esteem in which He held those sacred records is exemplified in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, where He says, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.” The apostles also all testify to the importance of the Old Testament Scriptures. Peter says: “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.” Luke thus speaks of the prophets who predicted the coming of Christ: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people; and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant, David, as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 3, page 208.

‘It is the voice of Christ that speaks through the prophets and patriarchs, from the days of Adam even down to the closing scenes of time.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 599.

Tuesday

- 1. David is referred to as a man after God’s own heart and, as he was also a prophet, what does this reveal about his character?**

 **2 Peter 1:21** —

NOTE : ‘For He [Christ] received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.” Yet convincing as was this evidence of the certainty of the believers’ hope, there was another still more convincing in the witness of prophecy, through which the faith of all might be confirmed and securely anchored. “We have also,” Peter declared, “a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 534.

- 2. Discover an important prophecy that David was shown about the Messiah to come.**

 **2 Chronicles 6:18** —

NOTE : ‘Solomon, also, in his dedicatory prayer, understood Christ to be the promised heir of David’s throne. Rehearsing the promise to his father David, that there should not fail him a man to sit on his throne, he prays that God might remember, and fulfil his promise. “But,” he exclaims, “will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth?”’ *Josiah Litch: The Kingdom Restored*, page 25.

Wednesday

- 1. Having spoken of Christ’s rejection, trial and crucifixion what was David shown by God about the resurrection, ascension, and second Coming of Jesus? 3**

 **Psalms 16:10** —

 **Psalms 24:9-10** —

 **Psalms 50** —

NOTE : ‘Peter did not refer to the teachings of Christ to prove his position, because he knew that the prejudice of his hearers was so great that his words on this subject would be of no effect. Instead, he spoke to them of David, who was regarded by the Jews as one of the patriarchs of their nation. “David speaks concerning Him,” he declared: “I foresaw the Lord always before My face, for He is on My right hand, that I should not be moved: therefore did My heart rejoice, and My tongue was glad; moreover also My flesh shall rest in hope: because Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption. “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.” “He ... spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 42.

- 2. Although David in his innocence was described as a man after God’s own heart, how did he slip from grace?**

 **2 Samuel 11:2-5** —


 **2 Samuel 24:2-4** —

NOTE : ‘Intercourse with heathen peoples led to a desire to follow their national customs and kindled ambition for worldly greatness. As the people of Jehovah, Israel was to be honoured; but as pride and self-confidence increased, the Israelites were not content with this pre-eminence. They cared rather for their standing among other nations. This spirit could not fail to invite temptation. With a view to extending his conquests among foreign nations, David determined to increase his army by requiring military service from all who were of proper age. To effect this, it became necessary to take a census of the population. It was pride and ambition that prompted this action of the king. The numbering of the people would show the contrast between the weakness of the kingdom when David ascended the throne and its strength and prosperity under his rule. This would tend still further to foster the already too great self-confidence of both king and people.’ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page

Thursday

- 1. The Bible does not minimise the sins of David, but what are we shown about the depths of the shepherd-king's contrition and humility when his sins were revealed to him?**

 **Psalm 119:176 —**

 **Psalm 51:1-4 —**

NOTE : 'God intended the history of David's fall to serve as a warning that even those whom He has greatly blessed are not to feel secure. And thus it has proved to those who in humility have sought to learn the lesson He designed to teach. The fall of David, one so honoured by the Lord, has awakened in them distrust of self. Knowing that in God alone was their strength and safety, they have feared to take the first step on Satan's ground. David's repentance was sincere. There was no effort to palliate his crime, no desire to escape the judgements threatened. 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. In the promise of God to repentant sinners, he saw the evidence of his pardon and acceptance: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Though David had fallen, the Lord lifted him up. In the joy of his release he sang, "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 forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 32:5. *From Eternity Past, page 526.*

- 2. With the slaying of Goliath how do we see David's concern for the glory of the living God in the face of the enemy's defiance?**

 **1 Samuel 17:45-46 —**

NOTE : 'Stand up for Jesus. In the presence of your relatives and friends, in all your business relations, in your associations with the world, anywhere and everywhere, under all circumstances, stand up for Jesus.' *Testimonies, volume 5, page 341.*

Friday

- 1. As we live to bring honour to God's name, how does He show us in turn that all His promises to us are verified even as with the covenant of salt in the appointing of David?**

 **2 Chronicles 13:5 —**

NOTE : 'Every saint who comes to God with a true heart, and sends his honest petitions to Him in faith, will have his prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers. Be not afraid to trust God. Rely upon His sure promise: "Ask, and ye shall receive." John 16:24.' *Counsels for the church, page 345.*

- 2. When is the last and significant witness to David in the Scriptures spoken by Jesus Christ Himself?**

 **Revelation 22:16 —**


NOTE : 'In this message is to be presented Christ the Living One. He is to be revealed as the first and the last, as the I AM, the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star. Through this message the character of God in Christ is to be manifested to the world. The call is to be sounded: "O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! ... He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." Isaiah 40:9-11.' *Testimonies, volume 6, page 20.*





LESSON 10


“LET THE WHOLE EARTH BE FILLED WITH HIS GLORY, AMEN AND AMEN”

August 26—September 1

 **MEMORY VERSE** : Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.’ 1 Corinthians 10:31

 **LESSON AIM** : The commission that Christ gave to the disciples, they fulfilled. As these messengers of the cross went forth to proclaim the gospel, there was such a revelation of the glory of God as had never before been witnessed by mortal man. By the co-operation of the divine Spirit, the apostles did a work that shook the world.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 59*

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘To show that all through the ages Jesus Christ has had an enemy, constantly at work to bring God’s plans to nought. God is looking to us to give glory to Him and uphold His honour in the enemy’s territory.

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : When the pure character of God meets apostasy [the standing apart from the ways of God], then that purity demands justice and fairness, so that God is seen as consistent in His hatred of the sin that we cling to. He longs to bring out of bondage those who have turned from Him. He loves the sinner while hating the disobedience and rebellion. He offers mercy and forgiveness and a new beginning to all. But for those who spurn His calls and His commandments, God will be found to be a God who sees justice done so that no one throughout His vast creation can say that He was unfair in His dealings, that some got away with their sins, or that He was powerless in the face of Satan’s rebellion to set things straight. Eventually every knee will bow and confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The beauty of His character will be fully revealed. ‘Amen and Amen.’ Psalm 72:19.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. When the Children of Israel saw the greatness and the glory of God and heard His voice, what was it that surprised them?

 **Deuteronomy 4:33** —

 **Deuteronomy 5:24-26** —

NOTE : ‘When the divine Presence was manifested upon Sinai, the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire in the sight of all Israel. But when Christ shall come in glory with His holy angels, the whole earth shall be ablaze with the terrible light of His presence. “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people.” Psalm 50:3, 4. A fiery stream shall issue and come forth from before Him, which shall cause the elements to melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 339.*

Sunday

1. What further awesome descriptions of the glory of God are given us by the prophet Isaiah?

 **Isaiah 33:14** —

NOTE : ‘In that day only the righteous are promised deliverance. “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walks righteously, and speaks uprightly; he that despises the gain of oppressions, that shakes his hands from holding of bribes, that stops his ears from hearing of blood, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.” Isaiah 33:14-16.’ *Prophets & Kings, page 725.*

2. What did Jesus say that He had brought to His Father by His earthly life?

 **John 17:4** —

 **John 17:6** —

 **John 17:20** —

NOTE : ‘In all the gracious deeds that Jesus did, He sought to impress upon men the parental, benevolent attributes of God. In all His lessons He was seeking to teach men the wonderful truth that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Jesus would have us understand the love of the Father, and He seeks to draw us to Him by presenting His parental grace. He would have the whole field of our vision filled with the perfection of God’s character. In His prayer for His disciples He says, “I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world.”’ *Sons & Daughters of God, page 139.*

Monday

1. In Jesus’ words in John 17:4, there is nothing to imply brightness and fire, so how had He glorified His Father? John 17:6, first part. Compare how this can be possible in our lives.

 **2 Corinthians 4:5-6** —

NOTE : ‘Jesus came into the world to illustrate the character of God in His own life, and He swept back the misrepresentations that Satan had originated, and revealed the glory of God. It was only by living among men that He could reveal the mercy, compassion, and love of His heavenly Father; for it was only by actions of benevolence that He could set forth the grace of God. The unbelief of men was deep-seated, and yet they could not resist the testimony of His God-like example, and His deeds of love and truth. The bounties of God’s providence speak to every soul, confirming Christ’s testimony to the supreme goodness of His Father. The Lord would have His people realise that the blessings bestowed upon any object of creation are proportionate to the place that object occupies in the scale of creation. If even the wants of dumb animals are supplied, can we appreciate the blessings which God will bestow upon the beings formed in His image? God is love, and He cares for us. “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.”’ *Sons & Daughters of God, page 139.*

2. How can we see that the Biblical meaning of bringing glory to His name, or revealing His name, can only mean that we are to speak of Him and bring praise to His character?

 **Psalms 8:1** —

 **Psalms 45:17** —

NOTE : ‘Before man can belong to the kingdom of Christ, his character must be purified from sin and sanctified by the grace of Christ.... Christ longs to manifest His grace, and stamp His character and image upon the whole world. He was offered the kingdoms of this world by the one who revolted in heaven, to buy His homage to the principles of evil; but He came to establish a kingdom of righteousness, and He would not be bought; He would not abandon His purpose. This earth is His purchased inheritance, and He would have men free and pure and holy.... Though Satan works through human instrumentalities to hinder the purpose of Christ, there are triumphs yet to be accomplished through the blood shed for the world, that will bring glory to God and to the Lamb.’ *God’s Amazing Grace, page 27.*

Tuesday

1. What elements of God’s love and salvation are worthy of praise?

 **Psalms 79:9** —

NOTE : “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts; ... and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15. Forgetting our own difficulties and troubles, let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of His name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven. When someone asks how you are feeling, do not try to think of something mournful to tell in order to gain sympathy. Do not talk of your lack of faith and your sorrows and sufferings. The tempter delights to hear such words. When talking on gloomy subjects, you are glorifying him. We are not to dwell on the great power of Satan to overcome us. Often we give

ourselves into his hands by talking of his power. Let us talk instead of the great power of God to bind up all our interests with His own. Tell of the matchless power of Christ, and speak of His glory. All heaven is interested in our salvation.

The angels of God, thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, are commissioned to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. They guard us against evil and press back the powers of darkness that are seeking our destruction. Have we not reason to be thankful every moment, thankful even when there are apparent difficulties in our pathway? *Ministry of Healing, page 253.*

2. After the apostasy of the Golden Calf, when Moses had earnestly interceded for the Children of Israel, what did Moses request of God?

 **Exodus 33:18 —**

NOTE : ‘Now, indeed, we would expect the prophet to cease pleading; but, no, emboldened by his success, he ventures to come still nearer to God, with a holy familiarity which is almost beyond our comprehension. He now makes a request which no human being ever made before: “I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory.” What a petition to come from a finite, mortal man!’ *Gospel Workers, page 92.*

Wednesday

1. What did God say would pass before Moses?

 **Exodus 34:4-8 —**

NOTE : “I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory.” What a petition to come from a finite, mortal man! But is he repulsed? Does God reprove him for presumption? No; we hear the gracious words: “I will make all My goodness pass before thee.” The unveiled glory of God no man could look upon and live; but Moses is assured that he shall behold as much of the divine glory as he can bear in his present, mortal state. That hand that made the world, that holds the mountains in their places, takes this man of dust, this man of mighty faith, and mercifully covers him in a cleft of the rock, while the glory of God and all His goodness pass before him.’ *Gospel Workers, page 92.*

2. When speaking to Moses after the evil report of the ten spies and the unbelief of the children of Israel, with what words did God show His displeasure?

 **Numbers 14:11-12 —**

NOTE : ‘As the complaints of the people arose on every side, Caleb and Joshua attempted to quiet the tumult. “The land, which we passed through to search it is an exceedingly good land,” they cried. “If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which flows with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us; their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.” “But all the congregation bade stone them with stones.” They stood with stones in their hands, ready to throw at Caleb and Joshua, as they stood in defence of the truth, declaring that the Lord was with them, and that with His strength they could go up and possess the land. In a few minutes these faithful men would have been killed, but “the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.” God was watching their plottings, and He delivered His servants from their hands. “And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke Me? And how long will it be ere they believe Me, for all the signs which I have showed among them. I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and make of thee a greater nation, and mightier than they.” What a temptation this was!’ *General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903*

Thursday

1. When Moses heard this, how did he express his concern for the honour of God among the surrounding nations?

 **Numbers 14:15-16 —**

NOTE : ‘But Moses said, “Then the Egyptians shall hear it (for Thou brought up this people in Thy might from among them); and they will tell it to the inhabitants of the land; for they have heard that Thou, Lord, art among this people, that Thou, Lord, art seen face to face, and that Thy cloud standeth over them, and that Thou go before them, by daytime in a pillar of cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if Thou wilt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of Thee will speak, saying, Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land which He swore unto them, therefore He hath slain them in the wilderness.” “And now I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as Thou hast spoken, saying,” and then he repeated the Lord’s own words; and this it is our privilege also to do. We can cite His promises. “According as

Thou hast spoken, saying, The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation. Pardon, I beseech Thee, the iniquity of this people, according unto the greatness of Thy mercy, and as Thou hast forgiven this people from Egypt until now.' *General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903.*

- 2. In response to Moses' intercession for God's people, how did God show that His power to pardon, but also that His justice towards the evil doers would remain? Numbers 14:20-23. Note especially how the record of God's pardon [that they were not slain by God] but also His fairness [that these people would not go into the Promised Land] would fill the earth with His glory [the knowledge of His character].**

 **Numbers 14:20-23** —

NOTE : "And the Lord said, I have pardoned, according to thy word; but as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Because all those men, which have seen My glory, and My miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted Me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to My voice; surely, they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it.... Tomorrow turn ye you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea." *General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903.*

Friday

- 1. In the last warnings to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, what divine exhortation are we to give?**

 **Revelation 14:6-7** —

COMPILER'S NOTE : 'The concept of bringing glory to God's name began in Exodus; it continued through to the life of Christ our example; and it is part of the very last Gospel message of mercy and opportunity to be given to the world, as recorded by John in Revelation. Read Revelation 14:6-7. As God said to Moses, the divine purposes would be worked out so that all the earth would be filled with glory of the Lord and that all would acknowledge Him as the true God. Habakkuk 2:14. There will be wisdom and justice in the way God deals with evil and all nations will see this. All will acknowledge Him as the true God. For some it will be with joy. With others it will be wrung from them as they are left without excuse. Their acknowledgement will not be an expression of praise. The rewards for faithfulness or rebellion will still be given to meet the case of each.

NOTE : 'Everywhere the searching testimony was heard, warning sinners, both worldlings and church members, to flee from the wrath to come. Like John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, the preachers laid the axe at the root of the tree and urged all to bring forth fruit meet for repentance. Their stirring appeals were in marked contrast to the assurances of peace and safety that were heard from popular pulpits; and wherever the message was given, it moved the people. The simple, direct testimony of the Scriptures, set home by the power of the Holy Spirit, brought a weight of conviction which few were able wholly to resist. Professors of religion were roused from their false security. They saw their backslidings, their worldliness and unbelief, their pride and selfishness. Many sought the Lord with repentance and humiliation. The affections that had so long clung to earthly things they now fixed upon heaven. The Spirit of God rested upon them, and with hearts softened and subdued they joined to sound the cry: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgement is come." *Great Controversy, page 369.*

- 2. With what glorious words did David, the Psalmist, prophesy about the glory of God?**

 **Psalms 72:17-19** —


NOTE : "They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God." Isaiah 35:2. Today this prophecy is meeting rapid fulfilment. The missionary activities of the church of God on earth are bearing rich fruitage, and soon the gospel message will have been proclaimed to all nations. "To the praise of the glory of His grace," men and women from every kindred, tongue, and people are being made "accepted in the Beloved," "that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 1:6; 2:7. "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name forever: and let the whole earth be filled with His glory." Psalm 72:18, 19. *Prophets & Kings, page 313.*





LESSON 11


“HATH SENT UNTO YOU ALL HIS PROPHETS”

September 2—September 8

 **MEMORY VERSE** : And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.’ 2 Chronicles 20:20

 **LESSON AIM** : To show that, although our sins have separated between us and our heavenly Father, He has taken the initiative by keeping talking to us and helping us, so that one day we may see His face, Revelation 22:4, and bring glory to Him.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armour, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people. Through centuries of persecution, conflict, and darkness, God has sustained His church. Not one cloud has fallen upon it that He has not prepared for; not one opposing force has risen to counterwork His work, that He has not foreseen. All has taken place as He predicted. He has not left His church forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and that which His Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell has been brought about.’ *Acts of the Apostles, page 11.*

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : Throughout the ages, the professed people of God, be they Jews or Christians, have backslidden or slept, or as in the picture of the Laodicean church, feeling they are all right when, in God’s eyes, they are all wrong. This shows the continuity of God’s pleadings with those who have been made the repositories of His truth and the safe holders of His oracles in the world, but especially in the closing days of time. He wants us to awaken and be alert to do the work we have been chosen for. Christ wants to finish up His gospel work in the earth so that He no longer has to bear the burden of our many confessed sins. Jesus wants to return as He said He would, to deliver us from evil and take us to the places He is preparing for us.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. What was the early name for a prophet?

 1 Samuel 9:9 —

NOTE : ‘At the gate of the city Saul was met by the prophet himself. God had revealed to Samuel that at that time the chosen king of Israel would present himself before him. As they now stood face to face, the Lord said to Samuel, “Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! This same shall reign over My people.” To the request of Saul, “Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer’s house is,” Samuel replied, “I am the seer.” Assuring him also that the lost animals had been found, he urged him to tarry and attend the feast, at the same time giving some intimation of the great destiny before him: “On whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father’s house?”’ *Patriarchs & Prophets, page 609.*


Sunday

1. For what purpose has God sent prophets to us?

 Deuteronomy 29:29 —

NOTE : ‘A blessing is pronounced on those who read and hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein. Revelation 1:3. “The Lord God will do nothing, but He reveals His secret unto His servants and prophets.” While “the secret things belong unto the Lord our God,” “those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.” Amos 3:7; Deuteronomy 29:29. God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 234.

2. Have the prophets sent by God been popular with the people?

 **Luke 11:49-51 —**

NOTE : ‘Before the coming of Christ, prophets had been sent, and message after message had been delivered to the people of God; but they had beaten one and stoned another, and at length the loving Father said, “They will reverence My Son.” But when He came with the message of divine love, their hearts had grown so hard through their rejection of light, their resistance had become so stubborn, that they said, “This is the Heir; come, let us kill Him, and let us seize on His inheritance.” The work of rejection of light was to result in the murder of their Lord.’ *Signs of the Times*, May 8, 1893.

Monday

1. How did God choose the people who would be His mouthpiece to reveal His purposes in the world? Consider the example of Noah in Genesis 6.

 **2 Peter 1:21 —**

 **Genesis 6:8-9 —**

 **Genesis 6:22 —**

NOTE : ‘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. “Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”’ *From Here to Forever*, page 7.

2. Jeremiah had been chosen by God as His mouthpiece, but in his human strength what agonies of spirit did Jeremiah go through to bear the message of God to his nation?

 **Jeremiah 20:9 —**

NOTE : ‘The prophet did as he was commanded. Then, returning to the city, he stood in the court of the temple and declared in the hearing of all the people. “Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear My words.” The prophet’s words, instead of leading to confession and repentance, aroused the anger of those high in authority, and as a consequence Jeremiah was deprived of his liberty. Imprisoned, and placed in the stocks, the prophet nevertheless continued to speak the messages of Heaven to those who stood by. His voice could not be silenced by persecution. The word of truth, he declared, “was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 431.

Tuesday

1. How can we see that the prophets God chose, while holy in character, were ordinary people like ourselves? [Elias is the Greek form of Elijah]

 **James 5:17 —**

NOTE : ‘It was because Elijah was a man of large faith that God could use him in this grave crisis in the history of Israel. As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him, but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favour. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God’s service.’ *Prayer*, page 138.

2. What message from heaven was given to Elijah to give to all Israel?

NOTE : ‘Facing King Ahab and the false prophets, and surrounded by the assembled hosts of Israel, Elijah stands, the only one who has appeared to vindicate the honour of Jehovah. He whom the whole kingdom has charged with its weight of woe is now before them, apparently defenceless in the presence of the monarch of Israel, the prophets of Baal, the men of war, and the surrounding thousands. But Elijah is not alone. Above and around him are the protecting hosts of heaven, angels that excel in strength. Unashamed, unterrified, the prophet stands before the multitude, fully aware of his commission to execute the divine command. His countenance is lighted with an awful solemnity. In anxious expectancy the people wait for him to speak. Looking first upon the broken-down altar of Jehovah, and then upon the multitude, Elijah cries out in clear, trumpet-like tones, “How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.” The people answer him not a word. Not one in that vast assembly dare reveal loyalty to Jehovah.’ *Prophets and Kings. page 147.*

Wednesday

1. Later when Elijah became fearful and depressed, where did he hide?

 1 Kings 19:2-4 —

NOTE : ‘A reaction frequently follows high faith and glorious success. Elijah feared that the reformation begun might not be lasting, and depression seized him. In this time of discouragement, with Jezebel’s threat sounding in his ears and Satan still apparently prevailing, he lost his hold on God. Forgetting God, Elijah fled on and on, until he found himself in a dreary waste, alone. Utterly wearied, he sat down to rest under a juniper tree, and requested that he might die: “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.” His spirit crushed by bitter disappointment, he desired never again to look on the face of man. At last, exhausted, he fell asleep.’ *From Splendour to Shadow, page 85.*

2. How can we see that Daniel, beloved of God, was given momentous prophecies that remain valid even until our day?

 Daniel 8:14 —

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘This long ‘time prophecy’, the 2300 years, reached to the final marker year of 1844, after which there are no more Bible prophecies relating to ‘time’. 1844 saw the beginning of the judgement and the High Priestly ministry of Jesus and, as we are still here, we can see that this prophecy is still valid today. The message given to Daniel 2500 years ago, will remain active until the judgement should be finished and human probation will close. It is then that the sanctuary will be cleansed. But why is God taking so long? He is not willing that any should perish. He is waiting till all have made their decisions for or against Him.’

NOTE : ‘It was at the close of this vision [referring to an earlier vision that had perplexed Daniel], that Daniel heard “one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision?” Daniel 8:13. The answer that was given, “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (verse 14), filled him with perplexity. Earnestly he sought for the meaning of the vision. He could not understand the relation sustained by the seventy years’ captivity, as foretold through Jeremiah, to the twenty-three hundred years that in vision he heard the heavenly visitant declare should elapse before the cleansing of God’s sanctuary. The angel Gabriel gave him a partial interpretation; yet when the prophet heard the words, “The vision ... shall be for many days,” he fainted away.’ *Prophets & Kings, page 554.*

Thursday

1. In these scriptures we see that there were parts of the vision that neither Daniel nor his associates understood. How should we pray if there are things in scripture that we wish we understood?

 Daniel 8:27 —

 Daniel 7:1-2 —

 James 1:5-6 —

NOTE : ‘Whoever will prayerfully study the Bible, desiring to know the truth, that he may obey it, will receive divine enlightenment. He will understand the Scriptures. “If any man wills to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.” John 7:17.’ *Desire of Ages, page 459.*

2. How do we know God can see the end from the beginning?

 **Isaiah 46:9-10** —

NOTE : “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.” Even the prophets who were favoured with the special illumination of the Spirit did not fully comprehend the import of the revelations committed to them. The meaning was to be unfolded from age to age, as the people of God should need the instruction therein contained.’ *Great Controversy*, page 344.

Friday

1. Many believe that what God has declared in prophecy is for prediction only, but how does Jesus explain that prophecy is given to strengthen our faith in Him when we remember His words and see the fulfilments? Compare the experience of Peter in the following verses.

 **John 13:19** —

 **Mark 14:29-30** —

 **Mark 14:72** —

NOTE : ‘Peter did not know his own danger. Self-confidence misled him. He thought himself able to withstand temptation; but in a few short hours the test came, and with cursing and swearing he denied his Lord. When the crowing of the cock reminded him of the words of Christ, surprised and shocked at what he had just done, he turned and looked at his Master. At that moment Christ looked at Peter, and beneath that grieved look, in which compassion and love for him were blended, Peter understood himself. He went out and wept bitterly. That look of Christ’s broke his heart. Peter had come to the turning point, and bitterly did he repent his sin. He was like the publican in his contrition and repentance, and like the publican he found mercy. The look of Christ assured him of pardon.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 152.

2. What is the real burden of the true prophet who speaks to us on behalf of God?

 **Ezekiel 18:30-32** —

 **Acts 3:22-26** —

NOTE : ‘The God whom we serve is long-suffering; “His compassions fail not.” Lamentations 3:22. Throughout the period of probationary time His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. “As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?” Ezekiel 33:11. It is Satan’s special device to lead man into sin and then leave him there, helpless and hopeless, fearing to seek for pardon. But God invites, “Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.” Isaiah 27:5. In Christ every provision has been made, every encouragement offered.’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 325.

3. In the message from Jesus to Laodicea, what words from Jesus Christ echo the appeals brought by His prophets in earlier times?

 **Revelation 3:19-22** —

COMPILER’S NOTE : ‘Laodicea means ‘A people judged’. How do we know that this prophecy is specifically applicable to us today? These words are part of the message to the Laodicean church. It is the last of the seven churches mentioned in this prophecy. It is therefore especially applicable after the year 1844 with the beginning of the judgement, continuing until the close of probation.


NOTE : ‘Why not awake the voice of our spiritual songs in the travels of our pilgrimage? Why not come back to our simplicity and life of fervour? The reason why we are not more joyful is that we have lost our first love. Let us then be zealous and repent, lest the candlestick be moved out of its place. The temple of God is opened in heaven, and the threshold is flushed with the glory which is for every church that will love God and keep His commandments. We need to study, to meditate, and to pray. Then we shall have spiritual eyesight to discern the inner courts of the celestial temple. We shall catch the themes of song and thanksgiving of the heavenly choir round about the throne.’ *Testimonies*, volume 6, page 368.





LESSON 12


“OUR GOD SHALL COME”

September 9—September 15

 **MEMORY VERSE** : Our God shall come and not keep silence; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him.’ Psalm 50:3

 **LESSON AIM** : To show that from Enoch, the seventh from Adam, until our own generation the Bible has given unfolding knowledge of the glorious coming of Christ.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ’s Second Coming to complete the great work of redemption. To God’s pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in “the region and shadow of death,” a precious, joy inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is “the resurrection and the life,” to “bring home again His banished.” The doctrine of the Second Advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. From the day when the first pair turned their sorrowing steps from Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to break the destroyer’s power and bring them again to the lost Paradise. The patriarch Job in the night of his affliction exclaimed with unshaken trust: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: ... in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.” Job 19:25-27.’ *Great Controversy*, page 299.56

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : Intimations of the Second Coming are seen throughout the whole Bible from the time of Enoch until the book of Revelation. It was never just a Christian teaching, but through all ages. These have been words of hope, whether it be Martha’s testimony or the words of comfort to the sorrowing Thessalonians. But when the Bible speaks of the Second Coming of Jesus, there are usually warnings given to us also. This is what Peter meant when he said, ‘What manner of persons ought ye to be?’ And Jesus Himself said, ‘Be ye ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.’

Sabbath Afternoon

1. How did Jude, the lord’s brother, describe the knowledge that had been given to Enoch, the seventh generation after Adam, about the event that we call the second Coming?

 Jude 1:14 —

NOTE : ‘Holy men of old looked forward to the advent of the Messiah in glory, as the consummation of their hope. Enoch, only the seventh in descent from them that dwelt in Eden, he who for three centuries on earth walked with his God, was permitted to behold from afar the coming of the Deliverer. “Behold,” he declared, “the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all.” Jude 14, 15.’ *Great Controversy*, page 299.

Sunday

1. How many of the angels will accompany Jesus at the time of His promised return?

 Matthew 25:31 —

NOTE : ‘To those who go out to meet the Bridegroom is this message given. Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing. The unsullied light will shine from His splendour, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him.’ *Heaven*, page 33.

2. What did Job expect to happen at the second Coming?

 **Job 14:14** —

 **Psalm 17:15** —

NOTE : ‘Hope bears our spirits up. We are not parted forever, but shall meet the loved ones who sleep in Jesus. They shall come again from the land of the enemy. The Lifegiver is coming. Myriads of holy angels escort Him on His way. He bursts the bands of death, breaks the fetters of the tomb, the precious captives come forth in health and immortal beauty. Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” The last lingering traces of the curse of sin will be removed, and Christ’s faithful ones will appear in “the beauty of the Lord our God,” in mind and soul and body reflecting the perfect image of their Lord. Are we ready so that if we shall fall asleep, we can do so with hope in Jesus Christ?’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 185.

Monday

1. How do we see that centuries later, Paul was given the same knowledge to share with others?

 **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** —

NOTE : ‘We have seen, by the scriptures just given, that when the Son of man comes, the dead are raised incorruptible, and the living are changed. By this great change they are prepared to receive the kingdom; for Paul says, “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” 1 Corinthians 15:50. Man in his present state is mortal, corruptible; but the kingdom of God will be incorruptible, enduring forever. Therefore man in his present state cannot enter into the kingdom of God. But when Jesus comes, He confers immortality upon His people; and then He calls them to inherit the kingdom, of which they have hitherto been only heirs.’ *1888 Great Controversy*, page 322.

2. What other event at the time of the second Coming did Job refer to?

 **Job 14:12** —

NOTE : ‘This is the time to which Job looked when he said, “Till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” For it is at the coming of Christ and the resurrection of the dead that the heavens roll away. “The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places,” and men cried “to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Revelation 6:14, 16-17.’ *A. T. Jones: Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1886.

Tuesday

1. What did John also say would happen to the heavens at the second Coming of Jesus?

 **Revelation 6:14** —

 **Isaiah 34:4** —

 **2 Peter 3:10** —

NOTE : ‘When He shall come to the earth again, He will shake “not the earth only, but also heaven.” “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage.” “The heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll;” “the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” *Desire of Ages*, page 780.

2. What prophetic insights did David reveal concerning the manner of Jesus’ second Coming? Consider the warning of a deceptive counterfeit coming before Jesus comes.

 **Psalm 50:3** —

 **Psalm 21:9** —

 **Revelation 13:13-14** —

NOTE : ‘When Christ shall come the earth will tremble before Him, and the heavens will be rolled together as a scroll, and every mountain and every island will be moved out of its place. “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself” (Psalm 50:3-6). In view of the great day of God, we can see that our only safety will be found in departing from all sin and iniquity. Those who continue in sin will be found among the condemned and perishing.’ *Faith and Works*, page 116.

Wednesday

1. How did Paul speak of the same scene?



2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 —

NOTE : ‘Not now a “Man of sorrows,” Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him, “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.” Every eye beholds the Prince of life. A diadem of glory rests on His brow. His countenance outshines the noonday sun. “And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.”’ *From Here to Forever*, page 388.

2. What did Jesus say about coming in the clouds of glory?



Matthew 26:64 —



Acts 1:9-11 —

NOTE : ‘Dear friends this time has come. But what are we to do? Are we to get discouraged, and give up our faith? Oh no! Jesus says. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Then let us exhort one another daily, and so much the more as we see the day approaching. We can now look up by the eye of faith and see Jesus coming in the clouds of glory; yet how few believe this sublime truth. While many scoff at the doctrine of the coming of the Just One, and cry “peace, peace, when there is no peace,” “my Lord delays His coming,” and “where is the promise of His coming,” etc., Jesus says to the faithful, waiting flock, Look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh. O may the Lord keep us in the faith.’ *H. L. Daniels: Review & Herald*, October 21, 1858.

Thursday

1. Who did John say would also see the lord coming in the clouds?



Revelation 1:7 —

NOTE : ‘Graves are opened, and “many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth ... (They) awaken, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God’s covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. “They also which pierced Him” (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honour placed upon the loyal and obedient.’ *Heaven*, page 28.

2. What did Martha, who would have been taught from the old testament, expect to happen at the last day?



John 11:24 —

NOTE : ‘Martha answered, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Still seeking to give a true direction to her faith, Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. “He that hath the Son hath life.” 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life. “He that believeth in Me,” said Jesus, “though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever lives and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?” Christ here looks forward to the time of His Second Coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 530.

Friday

1. How did Paul foretell the same glorious event, which will bring to an end the sorrows of sin and death?



1 Corinthians 15:52-54 —



1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 —


NOTE : ‘Jesus says that as the lightning shines from one end of heaven to the other, so will His coming be. “Every eye shall see him.” Paul says, “The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise.” Those who confidently rely upon these scriptures cannot be deceived on this subject, for nobody can counterfeit the lightning’s flash, much less the coming of Christ with his myriads of holy angels, the resurrection of the dead, etc.’ *J. H. Waggoner, From Eden to Eden, page 225.*





LESSON 13


“BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”

September 16—September 22

 **MEMORY VERSE** : He that overcometh shall inherit all things and I will be His God and he shall be My son.’ Revelation 21:7


 **LESSON AIM** : To show that the hope of a new heaven and a new earth has been encouragement for God’s faithful ones from the times of the Patriarchs.

 **INTRODUCTION** : ‘We must have a vision of the future and of the blessedness of heaven. There the redeemed ones greet those who directed them to the uplifted Saviour. The conflict is over. All tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the redeemed stand around the throne of God. Then the nations will own no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming, “There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death. We want to get in the habit of talking of heaven, beautiful heaven. Talk of that life which will continue as long as God shall live, and then you will forget your little trials and difficulties. Let the mind be attracted to God.’ *The Faith I live By*, page 365.

 **LESSON INSIGHT** : Our world began with the Tree of life. It was a Paradise then, but that Paradise was lost to us because of sin. At the end of all things, there will be a group of people once again, now the sons and daughters of God, looking to Him as their Father. And to them the Tree of Life will be restored again. The joy of Paradise will be theirs and God will dwell with them for always and for always.

Sabbath Afternoon

1. How did the angels react when they saw the completion of the creation of our world?

 Job 38:4-7 —

NOTE : ‘The creation was now complete. “The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” “And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Eden bloomed on earth. Adam and Eve had free access to the tree of life. No taint of sin or shadow of death marred the fair creation. “The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” Job 38:7.’ *Daughters of God*, page 23.

‘The melody of praise is the atmosphere of heaven; and when heaven comes in touch with the earth, there is music and song, “thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:3). Let there be singing in the home, of songs that are sweet and pure, and there will be fewer words of censure and more of cheerfulness and hope and joy.’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 94.

Sunday

1. With what words does God invite the faithful to join Him in the delights of the future He has planned for them?

 Matthew 25:21 —

NOTE : ‘When man dies to sin and is quickened to new life in Christ, divine love fills his heart; his understanding is sanctified; he drinks from an inexhaustible fountain of joy and knowledge, and the light of an eternal day shines upon his path, for with him continually is the Light of life.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 273.

2. What is our saviour’s desire for us?

 John 15:11 —

NOTE : ‘The faces of men and women who walk and work with God express the peace of heaven. They are surrounded with the atmosphere of heaven. For these souls the kingdom of God has begun. They have Christ’s joy, the joy of being a blessing to humanity.’ *The Adventist Home*, page 535.

Monday

1. What did Isaiah say about God’s joyful plans for us?

 **Isaiah 64:4** —

 **1 Corinthians 2:9** —

NOTE : ‘Long have we waited for our Saviour’s return. But none the less sure is the promise. Soon we shall be in our promised home. There Jesus will lead us beside the living stream flowing from the throne of God and will explain to us the dark providences through which on this earth He brought us in order to perfect our characters. There we shall behold with undimmed vision the beauties of Eden restored. Casting at the feet of the Redeemer the crowns that He has placed on our heads and touching our golden harps, we shall fill all heaven with praise to Him that sits on the throne. Let all that is beautiful in our earthly home remind us of the crystal river and green fields, the waving trees and the living fountains, the shining city and the white-robed singers, of our heavenly home, that world of beauty which no artist can picture, no mortal tongue describe. “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.”’ *The Adventist Home*, page 545.

2. Why is the hope of the new earth referred to as the Promised land?

 **Hebrews 11:13-14** —


 **Hebrews 11:16** —

 **Hebrews 11:9** —

NOTE : ‘The heritage that God has promised to His people is not in this world. Abraham had no possession in the earth, “no, not so much as to set his foot on.” Acts 7:5. He possessed great substance, and he used it to the glory of God and the good of his fellow men; but he did not look upon this world as his home. The Lord had called him to leave his idolatrous countrymen, with the promise of the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession; yet neither he nor his son nor his son’s son received it. When Abraham desired a burial place for his dead, he had to buy it off the Canaanites. His sole possession in the Land of Promise was that rock-hewn tomb in the cave of Machpelah. But the word of God had not failed; neither did it meet its final accomplishment in the occupation of Canaan by the Jewish people. “To Abraham and his seed were the promises made.” Galatians 3:16. Abraham himself was to share the inheritance.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 169.

Tuesday

1. To whom has God also made these promises?

 **Psalms 37:10-11** —

 **Matthew 5:5** —

 **Revelation 21:7** —

NOTE : ‘The Bible plainly teaches that the promises made to Abraham are to be fulfilled through Christ. All that are Christ’s are “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”, heirs to “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away”, the earth freed from the curse of sin. Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:4. For “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;” and “the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” Daniel 7:27; Psalm 37:11. God gave to Abraham a view of this immortal inheritance, and with this hope he was content. “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: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Hebrews 11:9, 10. Of the posterity of Abraham it is written, “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.” Verse 13. We must dwell as pilgrims and strangers here if we would gain “a better country, that is, an heavenly.” Verse 16. Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which he looked for, “whose builder and maker is God.”’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 170.

2. As well as a country what else were the patriarchs looking forward to?

 **Hebrews 11:16** —

 **Revelation 22:14** —

NOTE : ‘The question with men and women gazing heavenward is: How can I obtain the mansions for the blessed? It is by being a partaker of the divine nature. It is by escaping the “corruption that is in the world through lust.” It is by entering into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, laying hold of the hope set before you in the gospel.. It is by being in Christ and yet led by Christ, by believing and working, trusting in Jesus, yet working upon the plan of addition, holding on to Christ and constantly mounting upward toward God.’ We point you to the mansions Christ is preparing for all those who love Him. We point you to that city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.. Climb step by step, and you will reach God above the ladder and the Holy City of God. None who will resolutely mount up on the ladder will fail of everlasting life. “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” *Christ Triumphant*, page 88.

‘All are being tested and tried. By the way in which we do the work Christ has given us to do in His absence, we decide our future destiny. Many neglect their God-given work. They refuse to be His helping hand. Let us fear to fall short of God’s plan for us. His servants are to be ever on duty, working always for the uplifting of those for whom He gave His life. Christ, the Master of the household, has gone to prepare for us mansions in the heavenly city. We are waiting for His return. Let us honour Him in His absence by doing with faithfulness the work He has placed in our hands. Waiting, watching, working, we are to prepare for His return. If we are faithful, if we serve Him with full purpose of heart, He will receive us with the gracious words, “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” He will receive us with honour. To us will be given a crown of glory that fades not away, and a new name, “which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” Those who follow Christ here will one day “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes.” *Review & Herald*, May 27, 1902.

Wednesday

1. Who is the focus of our joyful hope in the heavenly Canaan?

 **Isaiah 33:17** —

NOTE : ‘The Lord is soon to come, and we must be prepared to meet Him in peace. Let us be determined to do all in our power to impart light to those around us. We are not to be sad, but cheerful, and we are to keep the Lord Jesus ever before us. He is soon coming, and we must be ready and waiting for His appearing. Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud: “Homeward bound!” We are nearing the time when Christ will come in power and great glory to take His ransomed ones to their eternal home. In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great Powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His promises to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 356.

2. What are some details of the hope God holds out to us?

 **Revelation 21:4** —

NOTE : ‘Then I saw Jesus lead the redeemed company to the gate of the city. He laid hold of the gate and swung it back on its glittering hinges and bade the nations that had kept the truth enter in. Within the city there was everything to feast the eye. Rich glory they beheld everywhere. Then Jesus looked upon His redeemed saints; their countenances were radiant with glory; and as He fixed His loving eyes upon them, He said, with His rich, musical voice, “I behold the travail of My soul, and am satisfied. This rich glory is yours to enjoy eternally. Your sorrows are ended. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” I saw the redeemed host bow and cast their glittering crowns at the feet of Jesus; and then, as His lovely hand raised them up, they touched their golden harps and filled all heaven with their rich music and songs to the Lamb. Language is altogether too feeble to attempt a description of heaven. As the scene rises before me, I am lost in amazement. Carried away with the surpassing splendour and excellent glory, I lay down the pen and exclaim, “Oh, what love! What wondrous love!” The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour’s love.’ *The Adventist Home*, page 537- 538.


Thursday

1. How shall we respond when we see these long-awaited hopes fulfilled?

NOTE : ‘Upon the “sea of glass as it were mingled with fire” are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” The hundred and forty and four thousand were redeemed from among men, and they sing “a new song,” the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2, 3. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song, for it is the song of an experience such as no other company ever had. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes.” These, having been translated from among the living, are “the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.” Revelation 14:4, 5. They passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they endured the anguish of the time of Jacob’s trouble; they stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God’s judgements. They “washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” “In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault” before God. “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” *From Here to Forever, page 392.*

2. How precious will this new chapter in earth’s history be to its new citizens?

 **Revelation 21:3 —**

 **Chronicles 6:18, first part. —**

NOTE : ‘The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God’s grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed but exalted. Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honoured above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died, here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men, “and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift.’ *Desire of Ages, page 26.*

Friday

1. What will be returned to those who dwell in the new earth? Consider the reference to such a tree in the following verses.

 **Revelation 22:1-2 —**

 **Ezekiel 47:12 —**

NOTE : ‘In his efforts to reach God’s ideal for him, the Christian is to despair of nothing. Moral and spiritual perfection, through the grace and power of Christ, is promised to all. Jesus is the source of power, the fountain of life. He brings us to His word, and from the tree of life presents to us leaves for the healing of sin-sick souls. He leads us to the throne of God, and puts into our mouth a prayer through which we are brought into close contact with Himself. In our behalf He sets in operation the all-powerful agencies of heaven.” *Acts of the Apostles, page 478.*

‘In the final restitution, when there shall be “a new heaven and a new earth,” it is to be restored more gloriously adorned than at the beginning. Then they that have kept God’s commandments shall breathe in immortal vigour beneath the tree of life; and through unending ages the inhabitants of sinless worlds shall behold, in that garden of delight, a sample of the perfect work of God’s creation, untouched by the curse of sin, a sample of what the whole earth would have become, had man but fulfilled the Creator’s glorious plan. The great plan of redemption results in fully bringing back the world into God’s favour. All that was lost by sin is restored. Not only man but the earth is redeemed, to be the eternal abode of the obedient. For six thousand years Satan has struggled to maintain possession of the earth. Now God’s original purpose in its creation is accomplished. “The saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”’ *The Adventist Home, page 539.*



LESSON 14

“THE POWER OF THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR OUR HEAVENLY JOURNEY”

September 23—September 29

MEMORY VERSE :

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:4

LESSON AIM :

To grasp the amazing privilege and wonder of eternity, and to examine the promises God has made available to us on our journey to the Promised Land.

INTRODUCTION :

“Sister Temple had left word for us to come and pray for her. We went with trembling, having sought in vain for the assurance that God would work in her behalf. We went into the sickroom, relying upon the naked promises of God. Sister Temple’s arm was in such a condition that we could not touch it, and were obliged to pour the oil upon it. Then we united in prayer, and claimed the promises of God. The pain and soreness left the arm while we were praying, and we left Sister Temple rejoicing in the Lord.” *Life Sketches* page 122.

CLOSING THOUGHTS :

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

SUMMARY OF THE QUARTER:

The lessons this quarter have been based on Isaiah 46:10 ‘Declaring the end from the beginning.’ Throughout His Word from Genesis to Revelation we have seen a developing picture of our God and His dealings with sinners. Through prophecy, we have seen how, century after century, God has opened up to us more and more information showing us that He has this world in His hands. His teachings, His love for the human race, His promises, have been unchanging. Whether we consider the work of Christ or end-time events, it is clear that the main focus is that those made in His image should examine themselves that they might enjoy the Hope He holds out. Will you choose to turn your life round and live as you know you should? Will you determine to be on His side, not for the bonuses, but because He loves you and for what He has done for you?

Sabbath Afternoon

1. What has God promised us that will be our delight day and night?

 Psalm 1:2 —

NOTE : ‘God bids us fill the mind with great thoughts, pure thoughts. He desires us to meditate upon His love and mercy, to study His wonderful work in the great plan of redemption. Then clearer and still clearer will be our perception of truth, higher, holier, our desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought will be transformed by communion with God through the study of Scriptures.’
Christ Object Lessons page 60.

Sunday

1. What has God made available to those who love to obey the will of God?

 Revelation 22:14 —

NOTE : ‘Then they that have kept God’s commandments shall breathe in immortal vigour beneath the tree of life; and through unending ages the inhabitants of sinless worlds shall behold, in that garden of delight, a sample of the perfect work of God’s creation, untouched by the curse of sin—a sample of what the whole earth would have become had man but fulfilled the Creator’s glorious plan.’ *Adventist Home* page 539.

2. What has God promised to save us from if we will trust in Him?

 Psalm 34:6 —

NOTE : ‘He invites us to present to Him our perplexities and necessities, and our need of divine help. He bids us be instant in prayer. As soon as difficulties arise, we are to offer to Him our sincere, earnest petitions. By our importunate prayers we give evidence of our strong confidence in God. The sense of our need leads us to pray earnestly, and our heavenly Father is moved by our supplications.’ *Christ Object Lessons* page 172.

Monday

1. Of whom does the lord hear the prayers and cries?

 **Psalm 34:15** —

NOTE : ‘Just trust yourself in the hands of God without anxiety, without fear. God is the rewarder of them who diligently seek Him. The fervent, effectual prayer of the righteous availeth much. Our prayers will not be in vain. “Ask, and ye shall receive.” *Daughters of God* page 234.

2. What has God promised for those who fear Him and talk of our loving God?

 **Malachi 3:16-17** —

NOTE : ‘And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels.’ Every merciful act to the needy, the suffering, is regarded as though done to Jesus. When you succour the poor, sympathize with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriend the orphan, you bring yourselves into a closer relationship to Jesus.’ *A Call to Stand Apart* page 60.

Tuesday

1. What powerful assurance has God given those who will wait upon the lord?

 **Isaiah 40:31** —

NOTE : ‘As they work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, He will bear them up, and if they continue to honour Him, He will make their efforts successful. It will be as if they mounted up on wings as eagles. They will rise higher and still higher, gaining greater and still greater strength, holding on to Christ, and climbing up by Christ, till in heaven they stand before God, trophies of grace, complete in Christ, clothed with the robe of His righteousness.’ *Letters and Manuscripts Vol 17, page 141.*

2. What will the promises accomplish for us if we cooperate with the lord?

 **2 Peter 1:4** —

NOTE : ‘Peter continues, saying: “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” We have been called to the knowledge of Christ, and that is to the knowledge of glory and virtue. It is a knowledge of the perfection of the divine character, manifested to us in Jesus Christ, that opens up to us communion with God. It is by the great and precious promises that we are to become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” *Youth Instructor Oct 24, 1895.*

Wednesday

1. How much resource does heaven make available to those who are wanting to prepare their hearts and lives for heaven?

 **Ephesians 3:20** —

NOTE : ‘Let sincerity and faith characterize your prayers. The Lord is willing to do for us “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.” Ephesians 3:20. Talk it; pray it. Do not talk unbelief. We cannot afford to let Satan see that he has power to darken our countenances and sadden our lives.” *7 Testimonies* page 273.

2. Can we have confidence that God can and will do the work on our character?

 **Jude 1:24** —

NOTE : ‘We need to be constantly on our guard, to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. The indulgence of spiritual pride, of unholy desires, of evil thoughts, of anything that separates us from an intimate and sacred association with Jesus, imperils our souls. We must have living faith in God. We must “fight the good fight of faith,” if we would “lay hold on eternal life.” We are “kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.” If the thought of apostasy is grievous to you, and you do not desire to become the enemies of the truth, the accusers of the brethren, then “abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good;” and believe in Him who is “able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” *Review & Herald May 15. 1888.*

Thursday

1. What promise has God given that will mean everything when the plagues start falling?

 **Psalm 91:7 —**

 **Psalm 91:10 —**

NOTE : ‘Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood, as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to fear that the Lord has left them to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance. The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard. “Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed his people?” But the waiting ones remember Jesus dying upon Calvary’s cross, and the chief priests and rulers shouting in mockery, “He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.” [Matthew 27:42.] Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God. Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. Yet they cease not their earnest intercession. Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ’s patience.” *The 1888 Edition Great Controversy page 630.*

2. What wonderful relation has God offered to lost humanity?

 **1 John 3:1 —**

NOTE : ‘John calls our attention to the love God has bestowed on us. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” [1 John 3:1.] Can we comprehend this love? Even if we expanded the mind to its utmost limit, could we take in its measurement or give the gift of love the appreciation it deserves?” 15 Letters & Manuscripts, Letter 79, 1900,

Friday

1. When Jesus returns, what does the word of God tell us his waiting saints will be like?

 **1 John 3:2 —**

NOTE : ‘But though God’s people are strangers among men, accounted weak, foolish, and unworthy of notice, though the world fails to discern the relationship that exists between them and God, yet they are more precious in his sight than the gold of Ophir. “It doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” *Signs of the Times December 17, 1896.*

2. How does God encourage us over the problem of sin?

 **1 John 3:7 —**

NOTE : ‘Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” [Revelation 16:15.] “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.” [2 Corinthians 5:10.] “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” [Verse 17.] We will not then retain our old, sinful habits and practices, for we are cleansed, we are sanctified, as vessels unto honour. “Whosoever abides in him, sins not: whosoever sins hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.” Letters & Manuscripts, Letter 151, 1897.

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