

“Behold, I Will Send You Elijah”



**STUDENT'S PERSONAL
STUDY NOTES**

OVERVIEW

General Introduction for the 4th Quarter, 2024

‘Behold, I Will Send You Elijah’

The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ.

Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ's first advent. Our message must be as direct as was that of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding the peril his life was in, he never allowed truth to languish on his lips. In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elijah. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: “Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.” With the earnestness that characterised Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's Second Advent.

The hour of God's judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin.

All can do something in the work. None will be pronounced guiltless before God unless they have worked earnestly and unselfishly for the salvation of souls.

Your duty cannot be shifted upon another. No one but yourself can do your work. If you withhold your light, someone must be left in darkness through your neglect.

The Lord has a place for everyone in His great plan.

—*The Faith I Live By*, page 290

NOTATIONS

Please Note:

In addition to the writings of Ellen G. White, the works of a number of other authors have been used in the notes for some of these lessons. While these notes were chosen by the compiler of these lessons, and therefore reflect his own views, they should be seen as providing topics for discussion and further study, rather than authoritative.

This year’s Devotional:

“Radiant Religion” by E.G. White

Heaven’s Hotline:

The daily prayer at the end of each lesson, is purely optional to complete and is intended to aid one in their prayer life with The LORD along with the application of the lesson materials into one’s daily life. It is encouraged that you ponder the lesson during, as well as on completion, and while you wait upon The LORD, compose a small prayer request. It is not essential that one reads this prayer out loud to the class, yet it is encouraged that one do so in a small prayer group. It is vital that we keep our prayer life in the foreground as this is the primary connection we have with The LORD.

INDEX

“Behold, I Will Send You Elijah”		September to December 2024
Lesson No.	Lesson Title	Lesson Date
	Overview	Page 2
	Notations	Page 3
	Index	This Page
	Sabbath Record	Page 5
1	The Word of The LORD Came to Him	Sep 28 — Oct 4
2	The Message of Elijah	Oct 5 — Oct 11
3	Give Them Warning Of Me	Oct 12 — Oct 18
4	The Just Shall Live by Faith	Oct 19 — Oct 25
5	How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions	Oct 26 — Nov 1
6	What Doest Thou Here?	Nov 2 — Nov 8
7	To Hearken to The Words of My Servants the Prophets	Nov 9 — Nov 15
8	Behold, I Send You Elijah	Nov 16 — Nov 22
9	Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord	Nov 23 — Nov 29
10	The Coming of the Great and Dreadful Day	Nov 30 — Dec 6
11	Babylon is Fallen	Dec 7 — Dec 13
12	Choose Ye This Day	Dec 14 — Dec 20
13	Come Out of Her My People	Dec 21 — Dec 27

SABBATH RECORD

- / / Lesson 1
- / / Lesson 2
- / / Lesson 3
- / / Lesson 4
- / / Lesson 5
- / / Lesson 6
- / / Lesson 7
- / / Lesson 8
- / / Lesson 9
- / / Lesson 10
- / / Lesson 11
- / / Lesson 12
- / / Lesson 13

LESSON 1

“THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO HIM”

September 28 - October 4

MEMORY VERSE : “And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of The LORD in your mouth is truth.” [1 Kings 17:24]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Prophets & Kings, pages 119-132

SCRIPTURE : 1 Kings 17

LESSON AIM : To understand the early days of Elijah's ministry.

INTRODUCTION : Elijah's whole life was devoted to the work of reform. He was a voice crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of moral evil. And while he appeared to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the Balm of Gilead for the sin-sick souls of all who would be healed. His zeal for God's glory and his deep love for the house of Israel present lessons for the instruction of all who stand today as representatives of God's work in the earth.' —*Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 15, page 5.*

Sabbath, September 28th

1. How did Elijah burst on the scene?

➤ 1 Kings 17:1 —

NOTE : We know nothing of Elijah before his sudden emergence with a prophecy of the coming drought. We are told nothing of his birth or parentage. We are not even told of his call to the prophetic office. Mount Gilead was east of the River Jordan in the land given to the tribe of Gad. It has even been suggested (by Michaelis) that the phrase 'of the inhabitants of Gilead' might mean that he was not an Israelite by race, but an Ishmaelite, many of whom lived within the land of Gilead. If this is so, it would be a standing rebuke and shame to the apostate people of Israel that the Lord would employ a believing Gentile to rebuke and shame them. His name Elijah, which means Jehovah is my God, testifies to his worship of the true God. He is called 'the Tishbite' and some have linked this name with Thisbe, the exact location of which is unknown, though it has been suggested that it was in the territory of Naphtali.

'Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and

press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed. To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven's message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord's messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honour of God's cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king.'—*Conflict & Courage*, page 205.

2. Heaven's Hotline



EGW Study Help

Sabbath, September 28th, 2024

**Prophets and Kings
Chapter 9 & 10, p. 119-132**

“Elijah the Tishbite” & “The Voice of Stern Rebuke”

Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God's purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed. {PK 119.1}

As Elijah saw Israel going deeper and deeper into idolatry, his soul was distressed and his indignation aroused. God had done great things for His people. He had delivered them from bondage and given them "the lands of the heathen, . . . that they might observe His statutes, and keep His laws." Psalm 105:44, 45. But the beneficent designs of Jehovah were now well-nigh forgotten. Unbelief was fast separating the chosen nation from the Source of their strength. Viewing this apostasy from his mountain retreat, Elijah was overwhelmed with sorrow. In anguish of soul he besought God to arrest the once-favoured people in their wicked course, to visit them with judgments, if need be, that they might be led to see in its true light their departure from Heaven. He longed to see them brought to repentance before they should go to such lengths in evil-doing as to provoke the Lord to destroy them utterly. {PK 119.2}

Elijah's prayer was answered. Oft-repeated appeals, remonstrances, and warnings had failed to bring Israel to repentance. The time had come when God must speak to them by means of judgments. Inasmuch as the worshippers of Baal claimed that the treasures of heaven, the dew and the rain, came not from Jehovah, but from the ruling forces of nature, and that it was through the creative energy of the sun that the earth was enriched and made to bring forth abundantly, the curse of God was to rest heavily upon the polluted land. The apostate tribes of Israel were to be shown the folly of trusting to the power of Baal for temporal blessings. Until they should turn to God with repentance, and acknowledge Him as the source of all blessing, there should fall upon the land neither dew nor rain. {PK 120.1}

To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven's message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord's messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honour of God's cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king. The prophet set out at once and travelled night and day until he reached Samaria. At the palace he solicited no admission, nor waited to be formally announced. Clad in the coarse garments usually worn by the prophets of that time, he passed the guards, apparently unnoticed, and stood for a moment before the astonished king. {PK 120.2}

Elijah made no apology for his abrupt appearance. A Greater than the ruler of Israel had commissioned him to speak; and, lifting his hand toward heaven, he solemnly affirmed by the living God that the judgments of the Most High were about to fall upon Israel. "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand," he declared, "there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." {PK 121.1}

It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God's word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief. He fully believed that God would humble apostate Israel, and that through judgments they would be brought to repentance. The fiat of Heaven had gone forth; God's word could not fail; and at the peril of his life Elijah fearlessly fulfilled his commission. Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, the message of impending judgment fell upon the ears of the

wicked king; but before Ahab could recover from his astonishment, or frame a reply, Elijah disappeared as abruptly as he had come, without waiting to witness the effect of his message. And the Lord went before him, making plain the way. "Turn thee eastward," the prophet was bidden, "and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee." {PK 121.2}

The king made diligent inquiry, but the prophet was not to be found. Queen Jezebel, angered over the message that had locked up the treasures of heaven, lost no time in conferring with the priests of Baal, who united with her in cursing the prophet and in defying the wrath of Jehovah. But notwithstanding their desire to find him who had uttered the word of woe, they were destined to meet with disappointment. Nor could they conceal from others a knowledge of the judgment pronounced in consequence of the prevailing apostasy. Tidings of Elijah's denunciation of the sins of Israel, and of his prophecy of swift-coming punishment, quickly spread throughout the land. The fears of some were aroused, but in general the heavenly message was received with scorn and ridicule. {PK 123.1}

The prophet's words went into immediate effect. Those who were at first inclined to scoff at the thought of calamity, soon had occasion for serious reflection; for after a few months the earth, unrefreshed by dew or rain, became dry, and vegetation withered. As time passed, streams that had never been known to fail began to decrease, and brooks began to dry up. Yet the people were urged by their leaders to have confidence in the power of Baal and to set aside as idle words the prophecy of Elijah. The priests still insisted that it was through the power of Baal that the showers of rain fell. Fear not the God of Elijah, nor tremble at His word, they urged, it is Baal that brings forth the harvest in its season and provides for man and beast. {PK 123.2}

God's message to Ahab gave Jezebel and her priests and all the followers of Baal and Ashtoreth opportunity to test the power of their gods, and, if possible, to prove the word of Elijah false. Against the assurances of hundreds of idolatrous priests, the prophecy of Elijah stood alone. If, notwithstanding the prophet's declaration, Baal could still give dew and rain, causing the streams to continue to flow and vegetation to flourish, then let the king of Israel worship him and the people say that he is God. {PK 124.1}

Determined to keep the people in deception, the priests of Baal continue to offer sacrifices to their gods and to call upon them night and day to refresh the earth. With costly offerings the priests attempt to appease the anger of their gods; with a zeal and a perseverance worthy of a better cause they linger round their pagan altars and pray earnestly for rain. Night after night, throughout the doomed land, their cries and entreaties arise. But no clouds appear in the heavens by day to hide the burning rays of the sun. No dew or rain refreshes the thirsty earth. The word of Jehovah stands unchanged by anything the priests of Baal can do. {PK 124.2}

A year passes, and yet there is no rain. The earth is parched as if with fire. The scorching heat of the sun destroys what little vegetation has survived. Streams dry up, and lowing herds and bleating flocks wander hither and thither in distress. Once-flourishing fields have become like burning desert sands, a desolate waste. The groves dedicated to idol worship are leafless; the forest trees, gaunt skeletons of nature, afford no shade. The air is dry and suffocating; dust storms blind the eyes and nearly stop the breath. Once-prosperous cities and villages have become places of mourning. Hunger and thirst are telling upon man and beast with fearful mortality. Famine, with all its horror, comes closer and still closer. {PK 124.3}

Yet notwithstanding these evidences of God's power, Israel repented not, nor learned the lesson that God would have them learn. They did not see that He who created nature controls her laws, and can make of them instruments of blessing or of destruction. Proudhearted, enamoured of their false worship, they were unwilling to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, and they began to cast about for some other cause to which to attribute their sufferings. {PK 125.1}

Jezebel utterly refused to recognize the drought as a judgment from Jehovah. Unyielding in her determination to defy the God of heaven, she, with nearly the whole of Israel, united in denouncing Elijah as the cause of all their misery. Had he not borne testimony against their forms of worship? If only he could be put out of the way, she argued, the anger of their gods would be appeased, and their troubles would end. {PK 126.1}

Urged on by the queen, Ahab instituted a most diligent search for the hiding place of the prophet. To the surrounding nations, far and near, he sent messengers to seek for the man whom he hated, yet feared; and in his anxiety to make the search as thorough as possible, he required of these kingdoms and nations an oath that they knew nothing of the whereabouts of the prophet. But the search was in vain. The prophet was safe from the malice of the king whose sins had brought upon the land the denunciation of an offended God. {PK 126.2}

Failing in her efforts against Elijah, Jezebel determined to avenge herself by slaying all the prophets of Jehovah in Israel. Not one should be left alive. The infuriated woman carried out her purpose in the massacre of many of God's servants. Not all, however, perished. Obadiah, the governor of Ahab's house, yet faithful to God, "took an hundred prophets," and at the risk of his own life, "hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water." 1 Kings 18:4. {PK 126.3}

The second year of famine passed, and still the pitiless heavens gave no sign of rain. Drought and famine continued their devastation throughout the kingdom. Fathers and mothers, powerless to relieve the sufferings of their children, were forced to see them die. Yet still apostate Israel refused to humble their hearts before God and continued to murmur against the man by whose word these terrible judgments had been brought upon them. They seemed unable to discern in their suffering and distress a call to repentance, a divine interposition to save them from taking the fatal step beyond the boundary of Heaven's forgiveness. {PK 127.1}

The apostasy of Israel was an evil more dreadful than all the multiplied horrors of famine. God was seeking to free the people from their delusion and lead them to understand their accountability to the One to whom they owed their life and all things. He was trying to help them to recover their lost faith, and He must needs bring upon them great affliction. {PK 127.2}

"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?" "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezekiel 18:23, 31, 32; 33:11. {PK 127.3}

God had sent messengers to Israel, with appeals to return to their allegiance. Had they heeded these appeals, had they turned from Baal to the living God, Elijah's message of judgment would never have been given. But the warnings that might have been a savour of life unto life had proved to them a savour of death unto death. Their pride had been wounded, their anger had been aroused against the messengers, and now they regarded with intense hatred the prophet Elijah. If only he should fall into their hands, gladly they would deliver him to Jezebel--as if by silencing his voice they could stay the fulfillment of his words! In the face of calamity they continued to stand firm in their idolatry. Thus they were adding to the guilt that had brought the judgments of Heaven upon the land. {PK 127.4}

For stricken Israel there was but one remedy--a turning away from the sins that had brought upon them the chastening hand of the Almighty, and a turning to the Lord with full purpose of heart. To them had been given the assurance, "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; if My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14. It was to bring to pass this blessed result that God continued to withhold from them the dew and the rain until a decided reformation should take place. {PK 128.1}

Chap. 10 - The Voice of Stern Rebuke

For a time Elijah remained hidden in the mountains by the brook Cherith. There for many months he was miraculously provided with food. Later on, when, because of the continued drought, the brook became dry, God bade His servant find refuge in a heathen land. "Arise," He bade him, "get thee to Zarephath, [known in New Testament times as Sarepta], which belongs to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." {PK 129.1}

This woman was not an Israelite. She had never had the privileges and blessings that the chosen people of God had enjoyed; but she was a believer in the true God and had walked in all the light that was shining on her pathway. And now, when there was no safety for Elijah in the land of Israel, God sent him to this woman to find an asylum in her home. {PK 129.2}

"So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine

hand." {PK 129.3}

In this poverty-stricken home the famine pressed sore, and the pitifully meagre fare seemed about to fail. The coming of Elijah on the very day when the widow feared that she must give up the struggle to sustain life tested to the utmost her faith in the power of the living God to provide for her necessities. But even in her dire extremity she bore witness to her faith by a compliance with the request of the stranger who was asking her to share her last morsel with him. {PK 130.1}

In response to Elijah's request for food and drink, the widow said, "As the Lord thy God lives, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the Lord of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth." {PK 130.2}

No greater test of faith than this could have been required. The widow had hitherto treated all strangers with kindness and liberality. Now, regardless of the suffering that might result to herself and child, and trusting in the God of Israel to supply her every need, she met this supreme test of hospitality by doing "according to the saying of Elijah." {PK 130.3}

Wonderful was the hospitality shown to God's prophet by this Phoenician woman, and wonderfully were her faith and generosity rewarded. "She, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by Elijah. {PK 131.1}

"And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? {PK 131.2}

"And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. . . . And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord. . . . And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. {PK 131.3}

"And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son lives. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." {PK 131.4}

The widow of Zarephath shared her morsel with Elijah, and in return her life and that of her son were preserved. And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah. No less sure now than when spoken by our Saviour is the promise, "He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward." Matthew 10:41. {PK 131.5}

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Hebrews 13:2. These words have lost none of their force through the lapse of time. Our heavenly Father still continues to place in the pathway of His children opportunities that are blessings in disguise; and those who improve these opportunities find great joy. "If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:10, 11. {PK 132.1}

To His faithful servants today Christ says, "He that receives you receives Me, and he that receives Me receives Him that sent Me." No act of kindness shown in His name will fail to be recognized and rewarded. And in the same tender recognition Christ includes even the feeblest and lowliest of the family of God. "Whosoever shall give to drink," He says, "unto one of these little ones"--those who are as children in their faith and their knowledge of Christ--"a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matthew 10:40, 42. {PK 132.2}

Last Day Events

Sabbath, September 28th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 9, pp. 282***

***“The Close of Probation”
--
“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”***

September 28th

All the World Will Be Gathered on One Side or the Other

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:1, 7

All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought. And that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps. The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle.—*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 426 (1890).*

The enmity of Satan against good will be manifested more and more as he brings his forces into activity in his last work of rebellion, and every soul that is not fully surrendered to God and kept by divine power will form an alliance with Satan against heaven and join in battle against the Ruler of the universe.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 465 (1892).*

Soon all the inhabitants of the earth will have taken sides, either for or against the government of heaven.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 141 (1902).*

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, September 28th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 14

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 14:1 In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.
- 2Ki 14:2 He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 14:3 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.
- 2Ki 14:4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.
- 2Ki 14:5 And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.
- 2Ki 14:6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.
- 2Ki 14:7 He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.
- 2Ki 14:8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash, the son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us look one another in the face.
- 2Ki 14:9 And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that *was* in Lebanon sent to the cedar that *was* in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that *was* in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.
- 2Ki 14:10 Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory *of this*, and tarry at home: for why should thou meddle to *thy* hurt, that thou should fall, *even* thou, and Judah with thee?
- 2Ki 14:11 But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one another in the face at Bethshemesh, which *belongs* to Judah.
- 2Ki 14:12 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents.
- 2Ki 14:13 And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Bethshemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits.
- 2Ki 14:14 And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.
- 2Ki 14:15 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did, and his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 14:16 And Jehoash slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel; and Jeroboam his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 14:17 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.
- 2Ki 14:18 And the rest of the acts of Amaziah, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 14:19 Now they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem: and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish, and slew him there.
- 2Ki 14:20 And they brought him on horses: and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

- 2Ki 14:21 And all the people of Judah took Azariah, which *was* sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.
- 2Ki 14:22 He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

Jeroboam II Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, *and reigned* forty and one years.
- 2Ki 14:24 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.
- 2Ki 14:25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which *was* of Gathhepher.
- 2Ki 14:26 For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, *that it was* very bitter: for *there was* not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.
- 2Ki 14:27 And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.
- 2Ki 14:28 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did, and his might, how he warred, and how he recovered Damascus, and Hamath, *which belonged* to Judah, for Israel, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 14:29 And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, *even* with the kings of Israel; and Zachariah his son reigned in his stead.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, June 29th, 2024



Do you know what “extraordinary” means?

If something is extraordinary, it is very unusual. If something is extraordinary, it is very, very special.

There is a town named Page in the U.S. state of Arizona. In the town, there is an extraordinary garden.

Now, some people may think that a garden cannot be extraordinary. But to the people of this town, this garden is extraordinary. You see, the town is located in a dry, hot desert where fruits and vegetables do not like to grow.

Some people who wanted fresh fruits and vegetables even traveled to faraway places that are less dry and less hot. They brought back fruits and vegetables to plant in their town. But instead of growing, those plants withered and died under the hot sun.

Then along came Pastor James and his wife, Mrs. Nancy.

Pastor James and Mrs. Nancy planted a huge garden at the Seventh-day Adventist church in town.

Everyone thought that the red tomato vines would wither and die. Everyone thought that the green zucchini and yellow squash plants would wither and die. Everyone thought that the apple, peach, and pomegranate trees would wither and die.

But instead of withering and dying, the plants and trees grew and grew and grew.

People said that it was a very unusual garden. People said that it was a very, very special garden. People said that it was an extraordinary garden! Now, in the same town lived 3-year-old Kaston and his mother.

Kaston had lived with his grandparents for most of his life, but then Mother had brought him home.

The boy and his mother didn’t know each other very well. Kaston wanted to be her friend, and Mother wanted to be his friend. But how?

Then Mother heard about the extraordinary garden at the Seventh-day Adventist church. She heard that children could go to a fun program at the garden. She told Kaston that they would go.

“I think we’re going to see other children,” she said. “I think we’re going to learn about plants.”

Kaston squealed with delight.

“Yeah!” he exclaimed.

On a Tuesday, Kaston and Mother arrived at the extraordinary garden at the Adventist church. Eight other little children also came to hear Mrs. Nancy talk about her garden.

Mrs. Nancy showed a bright, yellow sunflower that grew in the garden. She showed the long roots at the bottom and the seeds at the top.

Kaston loved learning about sunflowers. He loved tasting the yummy seeds. He loved being with Mother. She was a pretty good friend!

After that day, Kaston enjoyed returning to the garden every week. Some weeks, he learned about fruits that grew in the garden and got to taste them. Other times, he learned about sheep and chickens that lived in a garden pen and got to pet them. He learned about the wonderful God who creates plants, animals, and children and helps them grow.

As Kaston and Mother came to the extraordinary garden, something extraordinary happened. They became close friends. Then they became best friends.

So, an extraordinary thing happened at the extraordinary garden. The garden not only grew fruits and vegetables in a dry, hot desert. But the garden also helped a little boy and his mother become extraordinary friends.

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2011 helped open the Seventh-day Adventist church with the extraordinary garden in Page, Arizona. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help more people learn about our extraordinary Friend, Jesus.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – September 29th

1. What light does James shed on Elijah's prophecy?

➤ James 5:17 —

NOTE : 'It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God's word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief. He fully believed that God would humble apostate Israel, and that through judgments they would be brought to repentance. The fiat of Heaven had gone forth; God's word could not fail; and at the peril of his life Elijah fearlessly fulfilled his commission. Like a thunderbolt from a clear sky, the message of impending judgment fell upon the ears of the wicked king; but before Ahab could recover from his astonishment, or frame a reply, Elijah disappeared as abruptly as he had come, without waiting to witness the effect of his message. And the Lord went before him, making plain the way.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 121.*

'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; for of the prophet from the mountains of Gilead it is written: “*Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*” [James 5:17]' —*Prophets & Kings, page 156.*

2. What command was Elijah given after he had proclaimed his prophecy?

➤ 1 Kings 17:2-4 —

NOTE : 'Like a child, you shall receive day by day what is required for the day's need. Every day you are to pray, “*Give us this day our daily bread.*” [Matthew 6:11] Be not disturbed if you have not sufficient for tomorrow. You have the assurance of His promise, “*Thou shalt dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*” [psalm 37:3] David says, “*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*” [Psalm 37:25] That God who sent the ravens to feed Elijah by the brook Cherith will not pass by one of His faithful, self-sacrificing children. Of him that walks righteously it is written, “*Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.*” [Isaiah 33:16] “*They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.*” [Psalm 37:19] “*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]' —*Lift Him Up, page 131.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, September 29th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 9, pp. 283***

***“The Close of Probation”
--
“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”***

September 29th

The Seventh Plague

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

Revelation 16:17

We need to study the pouring out of the seventh vial [see Revelation 16:17-21] The powers of evil will not yield up the conflict without a struggle. But Providence has a part to act in the battle of Armageddon. When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation eighteen, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 983 (1899).*

The battle of Armageddon is soon to be fought. He on whose vesture is written the name, King of kings and Lord of lords, leads forth the armies of heaven on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and white [see Revelation 19:11-16] —*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 982 (1899).*

The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness, are swallowed up by the angry waters. . . . The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free.—*The Great Controversy, p. 637 (1911).*

Daily Scripture

Sunday, September 29th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 15

Azariah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 15:1 In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.
- 2Ki 15:2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jecholiah of Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 15:3 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;
- 2Ki 15:4 Save that the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places.
- 2Ki 15:5 And the LORD smote the king, so that he was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house. And Jotham the king's son *was* over the house, judging the people of the land.
- 2Ki 15:6 And the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 15:7 So Azariah slept with his fathers; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

Zechariah Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 15:8 In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months.
- 2Ki 15:9 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.
- 2Ki 15:10 And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 15:11 And the rest of the acts of Zachariah, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.
- 2Ki 15:12 This *was* the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth *generation*. And so it came to pass.

Shallum Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 15:13 Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.
- 2Ki 15:14 For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, and came to Samaria, and smote Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria, and slew him, and reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 15:15 And the rest of the acts of Shallum, and his conspiracy which he made, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.
- 2Ki 15:16 Then Menahem smote Tiphseh, and all that *were* therein, and the coasts thereof from Tirzah: because they opened not *to him*, therefore he smote *it*; *and* all the women therein that were with child he ripped up.

Menahem Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 15:17 In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, *and reigned* ten years in Samaria.
- 2Ki 15:18 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

- 2Ki 15:19 *And* Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.
- 2Ki 15:20 And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, *even* of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.
- 2Ki 15:21 And the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?
- 2Ki 15:22 And Menahem slept with his fathers; and Pekahiah his son reigned in his stead.

Pekahiah Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 15:23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* two years.
- 2Ki 15:24 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.
- 2Ki 15:25 But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room.
- 2Ki 15:26 And the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Pekah Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 15:27 In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* twenty years.
- 2Ki 15:28 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.
- 2Ki 15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.
- 2Ki 15:30 And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.
- 2Ki 15:31 And the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, behold, they *are* written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Jotham Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 15:32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.
- 2Ki 15:33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.
- 2Ki 15:34 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.
- 2Ki 15:35 Howbeit the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burned incense still in the high places. He built the higher gate of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 15:36 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 15:37 In those days the LORD began to send against Judah Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah.
- 2Ki 15:38 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

Monday – September 30th

1. How were the words of the Lord fulfilled for Elijah?

➤ **1 Kings 17:5-6** —

NOTE : 'The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.' —*Early Writings*, page 56.

2. When the brook finally dried up, what further provision did the Lord make for Elijah?

➤ **1 Kings 17:7-9** —

NOTE : Zarephath, or Sarepta, was a Sidonian city, far away on the western coast, about nine miles south of Sidon and within the territory of Jezebel's idolatrous father. The great enemy of Baal worship would hardly be expected to find refuge there. 'The servants whom God had chosen for a special work were not allowed to labour for a hardhearted and unbelieving people. But those who had hearts to feel and faith to believe were especially favoured with evidences of His power through the prophets. In the days of Elijah, Israel had departed from God. They clung to their sins, and rejected the warnings of the Spirit through the Lord's messengers. Thus they cut themselves off from the channel by which God's blessing could come to them. The Lord passed by the homes of Israel, and found a refuge for His servant in a heathen land, with a woman who did not belong to the chosen people. But this woman was favoured because she had followed the light she had received, and her heart was open to the greater light that God sent her through His prophet.' —*The Desire of Ages*, page 238.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, September 30th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 9, pp. 284***

“The Close of Probation”

--

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Wicked”

September 30th

The Great Time of Trouble Begins After Probation's Close

But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

Psalm 37:39

When Christ shall cease His work as mediator in man's behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin. When Jesus leaves His position as man's intercessor before God the solemn announcement is made, "*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*" [Revelation 22:11] Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 201 (1890).

Daily Scripture

Monday, September 30th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 16

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 16:1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah Ahaz the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.
- 2Ki 16:2 Twenty years old *was* Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.
- 2Ki 16:3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.
- 2Ki 16:4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
- 2Ki 16:5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome *him*.
- 2Ki 16:6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.
- 2Ki 16:7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, *I am* thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.
- 2Ki 16:8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent *it for* a present to the king of Assyria.
- 2Ki 16:9 And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of* it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.
- 2Ki 16:10 And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that *was* at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof.
- 2Ki 16:11 And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made *it* against king Ahaz came from Damascus.
- 2Ki 16:12 And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon.
- 2Ki 16:13 And he burnt his burnt offering and his meat offering, and poured his drink offering, and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings, upon the altar.
- 2Ki 16:14 And he brought also the brasen altar, which *was* before the LORD, from the forefront of the house, from between the altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of the altar.
- 2Ki 16:15 And king Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, Upon the great altar burn the morning burnt offering, and the evening meat offering, and the king's burnt sacrifice, and his meat offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle upon it all the blood of the burnt offering, and all the blood of the sacrifice: and the brasen altar shall be for me to enquire *by*.
- 2Ki 16:16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that king Ahaz commanded.
- 2Ki 16:17 And king Ahaz cut off the borders of the bases, and removed the laver from off them; and took down the sea from off the brasen oxen that *were* under it, and put it upon a pavement of stones.
- 2Ki 16:18 And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.
- 2Ki 16:19 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 16:20 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Tuesday – October 1st

1. What lesson did Jesus draw from this circumstance?

➤ **Luke 4:24-26:4** —

NOTE : 'Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favourable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession.' —*The Desire of Ages*, page 239.

2. What request did Elijah make to the widow at the gate of Zarephath?

➤ **1 Kings 17:10-11** —

NOTE : 'In this poverty-stricken home the famine pressed sore, and the pitifully meagre fare seemed about to fail. The coming of Elijah on the very day when the widow feared that she must give up the struggle to sustain life tested to the utmost her faith in the power of the living God to provide for her necessities.' —*Prophets & Kings*, page 130.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 285***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 1st

God's People Are Prepared for the Trying Hour Before Them

And 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, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Daniel 7:27

When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received "*the latter rain*," [see James 5:7] "*the refreshing from the presence of the Lord*," [Acts 3:19] and they are prepared for the trying hour before them.

Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "*the seal of the living God*." [Revelation 7:2] Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. . . . Christ has made the atonement for His people, and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; "*the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven*," [Daniel 7:27] is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as "King of kings, and Lord of lords." [Revelation 19:16]—*The Great Controversy*, p. 613, 614 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 17

Hoshea Reigns in Israel

- 2Ki 17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.
- 2Ki 17:2 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.
- 2Ki 17:3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.
- 2Ki 17:4 And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.
- 2Ki 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

The Fall of Israel

- 2Ki 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

Exile Because of Idolatry

- 2Ki 17:7 For *so* it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,
- 2Ki 17:8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.
- 2Ki 17:9 And the children of Israel did secretly *those* things that *were* not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.
- 2Ki 17:10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:
- 2Ki 17:11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as *did* the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:
- 2Ki 17:12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.
- 2Ki 17:13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.
- 2Ki 17:14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.
- 2Ki 17:15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.
- 2Ki 17:16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.
- 2Ki 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.
- 2Ki 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

- 2Ki 17:19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.
- 2Ki 17:20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.
- 2Ki 17:21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king; and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.
- 2Ki 17:22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;
- 2Ki 17:23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

Assyria Resettles Samaria

- 2Ki 17:24 And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.
- 2Ki 17:25 And *so* it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew *some* of them.
- 2Ki 17:26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.
- 2Ki 17:27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.
- 2Ki 17:28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.
- 2Ki 17:29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put *them* in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.
- 2Ki 17:30 And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,
- 2Ki 17:31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.
- 2Ki 17:32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.
- 2Ki 17:33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.
- 2Ki 17:34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;
- 2Ki 17:35 With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:
- 2Ki 17:36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.
- 2Ki 17:37 And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.
- 2Ki 17:38 And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.
- 2Ki 17:39 But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.
- 2Ki 17:40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.
- 2Ki 17:41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

Wednesday – October 2nd

1. What reply did the widow make to Elijah?

➤ 1 Kings 17:12 —

NOTE : 'No greater test of faith than this could have been required. The widow had hitherto treated all strangers with kindness and liberality. Now, regardless of the suffering that might result to herself and child, and trusting in the God of Israel to supply her every need, she met this supreme test of hospitality by doing “according to the saying of Elijah.” [1 Kings 17:15]—*Prophets & Kings, page 130.*

➤

2. With what prophecy did Elijah respond to the widow's words?

➤ 1 Kings 17:13-14 —

NOTE : 'To all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah. No less sure now than when spoken by our Saviour is the promise, “*He that receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.*” [Matthew 10:41]

“*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*” [Hebrews 13:2] These words have lost none of their force through the lapse of time. Our heavenly Father still continues to place in the pathway of His children opportunities that are blessings in disguise; and those who improve these opportunities find great joy. “*If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*” [Isaiah 58:10, 11]—*Prophets & Kings, page 131-132.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 286***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 2nd

Terrible Beyond Comprehension

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Revelation 21:6

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger--a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. . .

The "*time of trouble such as never was*," [Daniel 12:1] is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 621, 622 (1911).

When Jesus leaves the most holy His restraining Spirit is withdrawn from rulers and people. They are left to the control of evil angels. Then such laws will be made by the counsel and direction of Satan that, unless time should be very short, no flesh could be saved.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 204 (1859).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 18

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 18:1 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.
- 2Ki 18:2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.
- 2Ki 18:3 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.
- 2Ki 18:4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.
- 2Ki 18:5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor *any* that were before him.
- 2Ki 18:6 For he clave to the LORD, *and* departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.
- 2Ki 18:7 And the LORD was with him; *and* he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.
- 2Ki 18:8 He smote the Philistines, *even* unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.
- 2Ki 18:9 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which *was* the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, *that* Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it.
- 2Ki 18:10 And at the end of three years they took it: *even* in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that *is* the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.
- 2Ki 18:11 And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:
- 2Ki 18:12 Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, *and* all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear *them*, nor do *them*.

Sennacherib Attacks Judah

- 2Ki 18:13 Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.
- 2Ki 18:14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou put on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.
- 2Ki 18:15 And Hezekiah gave *him* all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house.
- 2Ki 18:16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off *the gold from* the doors of the temple of the LORD, and *from* the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.
- 2Ki 18:17 And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which *is* in the highway of the fuller's field.
- 2Ki 18:18 And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.
- 2Ki 18:19 And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence *is* this wherein thou trust?
- 2Ki 18:20 Thou say, (but *they are but* vain words,) *I have* counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebel against me?

- 2Ki 18:21 Now, behold, thou trust upon the staff of this bruised reed, *even* upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so *is* Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.
- 2Ki 18:22 But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: *is* not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?
- 2Ki 18:23 Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.
- 2Ki 18:24 How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?
- 2Ki 18:25 Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.
- 2Ki 18:26 Then said Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand *it*: and talk not with us in the Jews' language in the ears of the people that *are* on the wall.
- 2Ki 18:27 But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? *hath he* not *sent me* to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?
- 2Ki 18:28 Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria:
- 2Ki 18:29 Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand:
- 2Ki 18:30 Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.
- 2Ki 18:31 Harken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make *an agreement* with me by a present, and come out to me, and *then* eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:
- 2Ki 18:32 Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuades you, saying, The LORD will deliver us.
- 2Ki 18:33 Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?
- 2Ki 18:34 Where *are* the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where *are* the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?
- 2Ki 18:35 Who *are* they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?
- 2Ki 18:36 But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.
- 2Ki 18:37 Then came Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, which *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with *their* clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh.

Thursday – October 3rd

1. How was Elijah's prophecy fulfilled?

- 1 Kings 17:15-16 —
- Philippians 4:19 —
- Isaiah 33:15-17 —

NOTE : 'The widow of Zarephath shared her morsel with Elijah, and in return her life and that of her son were preserved... That God who cared for Elijah in the time of famine, will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who has numbered the hairs of their head, will care for them, and in the days of famine they will be satisfied. While the wicked are perishing all around them for want of bread, their bread and water will be sure.'—*Conflict & Courage*, page 206.5

2. What tragedy befell the widow's household?

- 1 Kings 17:17-18 —

NOTE : 'The ways of Providence cannot always be read or traced; they appear inexplicable to the wounded, stricken heart. The words of Jesus, “*What I do thou know not now, but thou shalt know hereafter,*” [John 13:7] are applicable to these bereaved ones. If our loved ones have given their hearts to Jesus, there is cause for joy. It is impossible to tell what might be their future. Many families experience a grief that is worse than sorrow for the death of friends. When their children pursue a course that will bring shame upon their parents, when they become impatient of restraint, break the ties which bind them to father and mother, and renounce the vows that held them in holy, happy allegiance to their Maker, then there is sorrow indeed. “*Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.*” [Revelation 14:13] Let the bereaved Rachels be comforted; for their children shall “come again from the land of the enemy.”—*Review & Herald*, November 27, 1883.

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 287***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 3rd

Many Laid to Rest Before Time of Trouble

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. . . . He knows whether or not those for whom petitions are offered would be able to endure the trial and test that would come upon them if they lived. He knows the end from the beginning. Many will be laid away to sleep before the fiery ordeal of the time of trouble shall come upon our world.—*Counsels on Health*, p. 375 (1897).

The Lord has often instructed me that many little ones are to be laid away before the time of trouble. We shall see our children again. We shall meet them and know them in the heavenly courts.—*Selected Messages, Book 2*, p. 259 (1899).

Daily Scripture

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 19

Isaiah Reassures Hezekiah

- 2Ki 19:1 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard *it*, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 19:2 And he sent Eliakim, which *was* over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.
- 2Ki 19:3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day *is* a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and *there is* not strength to bring forth.
- 2Ki 19:4 It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up *thy* prayer for the remnant that are left.
- 2Ki 19:5 So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.
- 2Ki 19:6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.
- 2Ki 19:7 Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

Sennacherib Defies the Lord

- 2Ki 19:8 So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.
- 2Ki 19:9 And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying,
- 2Ki 19:10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trust deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.
- 2Ki 19:11 Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered?
- 2Ki 19:12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; *as* Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeeph, and the children of Eden which *were* in Thelasar?
- 2Ki 19:13 Where *is* the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?

Hezekiah's Prayer

- 2Ki 19:14 And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.
- 2Ki 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwells *between* the cherubims, thou art the God, *even* thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.
- 2Ki 19:16 LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.
- 2Ki 19:17 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands,
- 2Ki 19:18 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they *were* no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.
- 2Ki 19:19 Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou *art* the LORD God, *even* thou only.

Isaiah Prophesies Sennacherib's Fall

- 2Ki 19:20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, *That* which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.
- 2Ki 19:21 This *is* the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, *and* laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.
- 2Ki 19:22 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted *thy* voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? *even* against the Holy *One* of Israel.
- 2Ki 19:23 By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, *and* the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, *and into* the forest of his Carmel.
- 2Ki 19:24 I have dug and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of besieged places.
- 2Ki 19:25 Hast thou not heard long ago *how* I have done it, *and* of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou should be to lay waste fenced cities *into* ruinous heaps.
- 2Ki 19:26 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were *as* the grass of the field, and *as* the green herb, *as* the grass on the housetops, and *as* corn blasted before it be grown up.
- 2Ki 19:27 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.
- 2Ki 19:28 Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou came.
- 2Ki 19:29 And this *shall be* a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springs of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.
- 2Ki 19:30 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.
- 2Ki 19:31 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD *of hosts* shall do this.
- 2Ki 19:32 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.
- 2Ki 19:33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.
- 2Ki 19:34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.
- 2Ki 19:35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses.
- 2Ki 19:36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.
- 2Ki 19:37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

Preparation Day – October 4th

1. How did Elijah respond to the widow's reproach?

➤ **1 Kings 17:19-23** —

NOTE : 'Bible religion is not a garment which can be put on and taken off at pleasure. It is an all-pervading influence, which leads us to be patient, self-denying followers of Christ, doing as He did, walking as He walked. If no one ever came under your notice who needed your sympathy, your words of compassion and pity, then you would be guiltless before God for failing to exercise these precious gifts; but every follower of Christ will find opportunity to show Christian kindness and love; and in so doing he will prove that he is a possessor of the religion of Jesus Christ. This religion teaches us to exercise patience and long-suffering when brought into places where we receive treatment that is harsh and unjust. *“Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that you are thereunto called, that we should inherit a blessing.”* [1 Peter 3:9] When Christ was reviled, He reviled not again. His religion brings with it a meek and quiet spirit. There is constant need of patience, gentleness, self-denial, and self-sacrifice in the exercise of Bible religion. But if the word of God is made an abiding principle in our lives, everything with which we have to do, each word, each trivial act, will reveal that we are subject to Jesus Christ. If the word of God is received into the heart, it will empty the soul of self-sufficiency and self-dependence. Our lives will be a power for good, because the Holy Spirit will fill our minds with the things of God.'—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 248.

2. What was the widow's response to the revival of her son?

➤ **1 Kings 17:24** —

NOTE : 'The Lord is calling upon His people to take up different lines of missionary work, to sow beside all waters. We do but a small part of the work that He desires us to do among our neighbours and friends. By kindness to the poor, the sick, or the bereaved we may obtain an influence over them, so that divine truth will find access to their hearts. No such opportunity for service should be allowed to pass unimproved. It is the highest missionary work that we can do.' —*Review & Herald*, June 6, 1912.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, October 4th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 288***

***“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”
--
“Christ's Return”***

October 4th

Satan's Goal: Destroy All Sabbath Keepers

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Revelation 6:11

Says the great deceiver: . . . "Our principal concern is to silence this sect of Sabbath keepers. . . . We will finally have a law to exterminate all who will not submit to our authority."—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 472, 473 (1884).

It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed.—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 37 (1893).

The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects. He has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 231 (1909).

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, October 4th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 20

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

- 2Ki 20:1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.
- 2Ki 20:2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying,
- 2Ki 20:3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which is* good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.
- 2Ki 20:4 And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
- 2Ki 20:5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 20:6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.
- 2Ki 20:7 And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid *it* on the boil, and he recovered.
- 2Ki 20:8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What *shall be* the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?
- 2Ki 20:9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?
- 2Ki 20:10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.
- 2Ki 20:11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

Hezekiah and the Babylonian Envoys

- 2Ki 20:12 At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.
- 2Ki 20:13 And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and *all* the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.
- 2Ki 20:14 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, *even* from Babylon.
- 2Ki 20:15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All *the things* that *are* in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.
- 2Ki 20:16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD.
- 2Ki 20:17 Behold, the days come, that all that *is* in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.
- 2Ki 20:18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- 2Ki 20:19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good *is* the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, *Is it not good*, if peace and truth be in my days?
- 2Ki 20:20 And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

[2Ki 20:21](#) And Hezekiah slept with his fathers: and Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, October 4th, 2024



Allison, a horsemanship teacher at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, first heard about skin-walkers when a student sharply told her to stop whistling in the dark.

“Stop right now!” said the girl, Kai.

“Why?” said Allison, who enjoyed whistling both in the dark and in the light.

Kai fearfully explained that whistling in the dark was an invitation for skin-walkers to visit. In her Navajo culture, a skin-walker is an evil witch who has powers to transform into an animal, to possess an animal, or to masquerade as an animal.

Allison reassured the girl that God was more powerful than any skin-walker and that if she joined God’s team, she would have nothing to fear. “I think I’ll keep on whistling,” she said, kindly. “I’m sorry, but I’m not part of any other team.”

When Kai saw Allison wasn’t alarmed and realized that she also could be part of God’s team, she stopped being scared.

Kai wasn’t the only girl scared of skin-walkers at Holbrook.

Fifteen-year-old Enola took a friend with her every night when she went to the school barn to feed and water her horse as part of her horsemanship lessons. She had asked for permission first and, Allison, seeing that she was afraid of the dark, had consented, saying, “That’s fine as long as it doesn’t take you longer to do your work.”

Then one morning, Enola announced that she had gone to the barn the previous night without her friend.

“I went to the barn to do my horse by myself for the very first time,” she said.

Allison expressed surprise. “You didn’t take anyone with you?” she said.

“No,” Enola said.

“Weren’t you scared of the dark?” Allison said.

Enola replied rather sassily, “Well, yeah. Why do you think that I always take someone with me?”

“Well, were you scared?” Allison asked.

“Yes, of course I was,” the girl said.

“But I kind of wanted to see if anything would happen.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, being in the dark around here is not safe. That’s when the skin-walkers can get you.”

Then Allison understood Enola’s fear of the dark. She said, “And ... ?”

“And ... nothing happened!” Enola exclaimed.

“Of course not!” Allison said.

“No, you don’t understand,” the girl said. “They almost got me before. But then I realized that I’m so stupid. Why would they get me here?”

“Tell me more,” Allison said.

“Well, it’s like nothing can ever get me when I’m on the school campus,” the girl said. “I sometimes wonder, ‘If I put a foot on one side of the main gate and the other on the other side, can they get half of me?’”

She laughed.

Allison smiled. She was glad that Enola was witnessing the power of the God of heaven on the Holbrook school campus in Arizona. Enola’s decision to go alone to the barn in the dark had been an opportunity for God to prove that He indeed was worthy of trust. It was good to be on His team!

The experience reminded Allison that Holbrook is a real mission school in the United States. “This is a mission field for sure,” she said.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings that have supported Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. The two most recent Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings for the North American Division, collected in 2018 and 2021, are helping to construct a new Student Life Center on the campus where God lives and students do not need to fear skin-walkers.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 2

“THE MESSAGE OF ELIJAH”

October 5 - October 11

MEMORY VERSE : “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are The LORD God, and that You have turned their heart back again.” [1 Kings 18:37]

STUDY HELP : ✓ The Faith I Live By, page 290

SCRIPTURE : Malachi 4:5-6

LESSON AIM : To understand the different aspects of Elijah's message.

INTRODUCTION : ‘In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to His people, through the instruments He has chosen, and He would have all heed the admonitions and warnings He sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear, “Prepare to meet thy God.”—*SDA Bible Commentary, volume 4, page 1184.*

Sabbath – October 5th

1. What message of warning was Elijah called to give?

➤ 1 Kings 17:1 —

NOTE : ‘In every generation God has sent His servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible, doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning. Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them.’ —*The Great Controversy, page 606.*

2. Heaven’s Hotline



EGW Study Help

Sabbath, October 5th, 2024

**The Faith I Live By
Chapter 10, p. 290**

“A Purified Church”

January 10th

Elijah and the Modern Church

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ.

Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ's first advent.

Our message must be as direct as was that of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding the peril his life was in, he never allowed truth to languish on his lips. . . .

In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: "*Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.*" [Revelation 14:7] With the earnestness that characterized Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's second advent.

The hour of God's judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin.

All can do something in the work. None will be pronounced guiltless before God unless they have worked earnestly and unselfishly for the salvation of souls.

Your duty cannot be shifted upon another. No one but yourself can do your work. If you withhold your light, someone must be left in darkness through your neglect.

The Lord has a place for everyone in His great plan.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, October 5th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 289***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 5th

Arguments Used Against God's People

And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Revelation 13:14

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed.—*Early Writings*, p. 36 (1851).

When the angel of mercy folds her wings and departs Satan will do the evil deeds he has long wished to do. Storm and tempest, war and bloodshed--in these things he delights, and thus he gathers in his harvest. And so completely will men be deceived by him that they will declare that these calamities are the result of the desecration of the first day of the week. From the pulpits of the popular churches will be heard the statement that the world is being punished because Sunday is not honoured as it should be.—*The Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901.

It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state, ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the "rulers of the people." . . . This argument will appear conclusive.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 615 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, October 5th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 21

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 21:1 Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Hephzibah.
- 2Ki 21:2 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.
- 2Ki 21:3 For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.
- 2Ki 21:4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.
- 2Ki 21:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 21:6 And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke *him* to anger.
- 2Ki 21:7 And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:
- 2Ki 21:8 Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.
- 2Ki 21:9 But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

Manasseh's Idolatry Denounced

- 2Ki 21:10 And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying,
- 2Ki 21:11 Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, *and* hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which *were* before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:
- 2Ki 21:12 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I *am* bringing *such* evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever hears of it, both his ears shall tingle.
- 2Ki 21:13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as *a man* wipes a dish, wiping *it*, and turning *it* upside down.
- 2Ki 21:14 And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;
- 2Ki 21:15 Because they have done *that which was* evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.
- 2Ki 21:16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD.
- 2Ki 21:17 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and all that he did, and his sin that he sinned, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

2Ki 21:18 And Manasseh slept with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

Amon Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 21:19 Amon *was* twenty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Meshullemeth, the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.
- 2Ki 21:20 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh did.
- 2Ki 21:21 And he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them:
- 2Ki 21:22 And he forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the LORD.
- 2Ki 21:23 And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house.
- 2Ki 21:24 And the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.
- 2Ki 21:25 Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 21:26 And he was buried in his sepulchre in the garden of Uzzah: and Josiah his son reigned in his stead.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, October 5th, 2024



The 11-year-old Navajo girl was scared of ghosts.

But Sarah didn’t tell Teacher Nancy that she was scared of ghosts when she began to study at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Page, Arizona. She didn’t talk to anyone about her fears except Tatum. Tatum was her 9-year-old sister, and Tatum understood. She was also scared of ghosts.

Then one day Sarah confided to Teacher Nancy that strange things were happening in her bedroom at night. She didn’t say much about what was happening, but Teacher Nancy could see that she was very scared.

“When those kinds of scary things happen at your house, you need to pray to Jesus,” Teacher Nancy said. “Jesus will save you from those things.”

Then she invited Sarah to go to the library for a talk. The library was located in a small room on the second-floor of the church.

The girl settled down on the floor, and Teacher Nancy sat in a chair near shelves of books.

“Ghosts are nothing more than evil spirits who want to frighten people,” Teacher Nancy said. “But Jesus is stronger than evil spirits and will protect you.”

Sarah listened carefully.

“You don’t have to be afraid,” Teacher Nancy said. “You can pray to Jesus, and you don’t have to be afraid of ghosts coming into your room.”

Then she taught Sarah how to pray to Jesus for help. “Ask Jesus for what you need,” she said. “You can just say, ‘Help me, Jesus.’ Then the evil spirit will go out of your house.”

Sarah didn’t say anything.

But when she got home, she told her little sister Tatum about what Teacher Nancy had said.

“She told me that we don’t need to be afraid,” Sarah said. “If we see something, we just need to pray to Jesus.”

Tatum slept in another bedroom in the house, and strange things also happened in her bedroom at night.

Sarah taught Tatum how to pray.

A few nights later, something strange happened again in Sarah’s bedroom. Sarah was scared, and she pulled the blanket over her head and began to cry. Tatum heard her crying and came to her room. She crawled under the blanket with Sarah.

At that moment, Sarah remembered what Teacher Nancy had said about praying to Jesus. She decided to pray.

“Jesus, help me,” Sarah said.

Immediately, she felt a whole lot better. Peace returned to the bedroom, and she was able to fall asleep.

Tatum stayed cuddled up beside her for the rest of the night. It was nice having her sister nearby. But it was even more wonderful knowing that Jesus was there.

From that night, Sarah knew that she no longer needed to be scared of ghosts. She could pray, and Jesus would protect her. He had protected her that night, and He would do it again. All she had to do was ask.

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2011 helped to open the Seventh-day Adventist church where Sarah learned about the power of prayer in Page, Arizona. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help more people learn about Jesus.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – October 6th

1. What accusation was made against Elijah because of the message God asked him to deliver?

➤ **1 Kings 18:17** —

NOTE : 'Now as in former ages, the presentation of a truth that reprove the sins and errors of the times will excite opposition. “*Everyone that doeth evil hates the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.*” [John 3:20] As men see that they cannot maintain their position by the Scriptures, many determine to maintain it at all hazards, and with a malicious spirit they assail the character and motives of those who stand in defence of unpopular truth. It is the same policy which has been pursued in all ages. Elijah was declared to be a troubler in Israel, Jeremiah a traitor, Paul a polluter of the temple. From that day to this, those who would be loyal to truth have been denounced as seditious, heretical, or schismatic. Multitudes who are too unbelieving to accept the sure word of prophecy will receive with unquestioning credulity an accusation against those who dare to reprove fashionable sins. This spirit will increase more and more. And the Bible plainly teaches that a time is approaching when the laws of the state will so conflict with the law of God that whosoever would obey all the divine precepts must brave reproach and punishment as an evildoer.’—*The Great Controversy*, page 458.

2. What message of rebuke did Elijah bear to the king of Israel?

➤ **1 Kings 18:18** —

NOTE : 'The prophets of God were hated by apostate Israel because through them their hidden sins were brought to light. Ahab regarded Elijah as his enemy because the prophet was faithful to rebuke the king's secret iniquities. So today the servant of Christ, the reprover of sin, meets with scorn and rebuffs. Bible truth, the religion of Christ, struggles against a strong current of oral impurity. Prejudice is even stronger in the hearts of men now than in Christ's day.' —*The Desire of Ages*, page 587.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, October 6th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 290***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 6th

Death for All Who Do Not Honour Sunday

Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

1 Thessalonians 2:15

A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance.—*Early Writings*, p. 36, 37 (1851).

As Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death. . . . Let all read carefully the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, for it concerns every human agent, great and small.—*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 14, p. 91 (1896).

The time of trouble is about to come upon the people of God. Then it is that the decree will go forth forbidding those who keep the Sabbath of the Lord to buy or sell, and threatening them with punishment, and even death, if they do not observe the first day of the week as the Sabbath.—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 344 (1908).

The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that "*all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond*" [Revelation 13:16], shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 604 (1911).

Especially will the wrath of man be aroused against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and at last a universal decree will denounce these as deserving of death.—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 512 (c. 1914).

Daily Scripture

Sunday, October 6th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 22

Josiah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 22:1 Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.
- 2Ki 22:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

Josiah Repairs the Temple

- 2Ki 22:3 And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, *that* the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the LORD, saying,
- 2Ki 22:4 Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people:
- 2Ki 22:5 And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which *is* in the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house,
- 2Ki 22:6 Unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.
- 2Ki 22:7 Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully.

Hilkiah Finds the Book of the Law

- 2Ki 22:8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.
- 2Ki 22:9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 22:10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.
- 2Ki 22:11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.
- 2Ki 22:12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,
- 2Ki 22:13 Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.
- 2Ki 22:14 So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her.
- 2Ki 22:15 And she said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me,
- 2Ki 22:16 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, *even* all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read:

- 2Ki 22:17 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched.
- 2Ki 22:18 But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, *As touching* the words which thou hast heard;
- 2Ki 22:19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heard what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard *thee*, saith the LORD.
- 2Ki 22:20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again.

Monday – October 7th

1. What is the Lord's purpose in rebuking His people?

➤ Hebrews 12:5-7 —

NOTE : 'The people who profess to keep the law of God, He corrects, He reproves. He points out their sins, and lays open their iniquity; because He wishes to separate all sin and wickedness from them, that they may perfect holiness in His fear, and be prepared to die in the Lord, or to be translated to Heaven. God will rebuke, reprove, and correct them, that they may be refined, sanctified, elevated, and finally exalted to His throne.' —*A Solemn Appeal*, page 144-145.

2. What challenge did Elijah present to the people of Israel?

➤ 1 Kings 18:21 —

NOTE : '[Elijah] was to vindicate the glory of God. He was to challenge apostate Israel either to serve God fully or Baal fully.'—*1888 Materials*, page 489.

'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, seemingly without support, either human or divine; apparently defenceless in the presence of the men of war, the prophets of Baal, the monarch of Israel, and the surrounding thousands. But Elijah is not alone. Above and around him are the protecting hosts of heaven,—angels that excel in strength. Realizing his source of power, Elijah could say, “*The Lord is with me as a mighty, terrible One: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.*” [Jeremiah 20:11] In that vast multitude the prophet is undaunted. Unashamed and unterrified, he stands before the people, his countenance 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 you between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.*” [1 Kings 18:21]—*Review & Herald*, September 18, 1913.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, October 7th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 291***

***“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”
--
“Christ's Return”***

October 7th

Death Decree Similar to That Issued by Ahasuerus

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

2 Corinthians 4:11

The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath.—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 605 (c. 1914).

I saw the leading men of the earth consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty after a certain time, to put them to death.—*Early Writings*, p. 282, 283 (1858).

If the people of God will put their trust in Him and by faith rely upon His power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.—*Signs of the Times*, Feb. 22, 1910.

Daily Scripture

Monday, October 7th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 23

Josiah's Reforms

- 2Ki 23:1 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 23:2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 23:3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all *their* heart and all *their* soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.
- 2Ki 23:4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.
- 2Ki 23:5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.
- 2Ki 23:6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped *it* small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.
- 2Ki 23:7 And he broke down the houses of the sodomites, that *were* by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove.
- 2Ki 23:8 And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that *were* in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which *were* on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.
- 2Ki 23:9 Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.
- 2Ki 23:10 And he defiled Topheth, which *is* in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.
- 2Ki 23:11 And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which *was* in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.
- 2Ki 23:12 And the altars that *were* on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake *them* down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.
- 2Ki 23:13 And the high places that *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.
- 2Ki 23:14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

- 2Ki 23:15 Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove.
- 2Ki 23:16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that *were* there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned *them* upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.
- 2Ki 23:17 Then he said, What title *is* that that I see? And the men of the city told him, *It is* the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.
- 2Ki 23:18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.
- 2Ki 23:19 And all the houses also of the high places that *were* in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke *the LORD* to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Bethel.
- 2Ki 23:20 And he slew all the priests of the high places that *were* there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

Josiah Restores the Passover

- 2Ki 23:21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the Passover unto the LORD your God, as *it is* written in the book of this covenant.
- 2Ki 23:22 Surely there was not holden such a Passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;
- 2Ki 23:23 But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, *wherein* this Passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 23:24 Moreover the *workers with* familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ki 23:25 And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there *any* like him.
- 2Ki 23:26 Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.
- 2Ki 23:27 And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.

Josiah's Death in Battle

- 2Ki 23:28 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 23:29 In his days Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.
- 2Ki 23:30 And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.

Jehoahaz's Reign and Captivity

- 2Ki 23:31 Jehoahaz *was* twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
- 2Ki 23:32 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

- 2Ki 23:33 And Pharaohnechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.
- 2Ki 23:34 And Pharaohnechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.
- 2Ki 23:35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give *it* unto Pharaohnechoh.

Jehoiakim Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 23:36 Jehoiakim *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.
- 2Ki 23:37 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

Tuesday – October 8th

1. What was the people's answer to Elijah's challenge?

➤ **1 Kings 18:21, last part —**

NOTE : 'The people answer him not a word. Not one in that vast assembly dare utter a word for God, not one dare reveal loyalty to Jehovah. Like a dark cloud, deception and blindness had covered Israel. Not all at once had this fatal apostasy closed about them; but gradually, as from time to time they had refused to heed the words of warning and reproof that the Lord sent them. Each departure from right-doing, each refusal to repent, had deepened their guilt, and driven them farther from Heaven. And now, in this crisis, they refused to take their stand for God.' —*Review & Herald, September 18, 1913.*

'What astonishing deception and fearful blindness had, like a dark cloud, covered Israel! This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly, but it had come upon them gradually, as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. They, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king, remain neutral. If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is of doing nothing in a case of emergency. Indifference or neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime; and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.' —*Review & Herald, September 30, 1873.*

2. What message of judgement did Elijah bring to Ahab and Jezebel because of their sin in stealing Naboth's vineyard?

➤ **1 Kings 21:19 & 23 —**

NOTE : 'The king was not allowed to enjoy unrebuked that which he had gained by fraud and bloodshed. “*The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?*” [1 Kings 21:17-19] And the Lord further instructed Elijah to pronounce upon Ahab a terrible judgment. The prophet hastened to carry out the divine command. The guilty ruler, meeting the stern messenger of Jehovah face to face in the vineyard, gave voice to his startled fear in the words, “*Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?*” [1 Kings 21:20] Without hesitation the messenger of the Lord replied, “*I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity.*” [1 Kings 21:20-21] No mercy was to be shown. The house of Ahab was to be utterly destroyed, “*like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah,*” [1 Kings 21:22] The Lord declared through His servant, “*for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked Me to anger, and made Israel to sin.*” [1 Kings 21:22] And of Jezebel the Lord declared, “*The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dies of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dies in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.*” [1 Kings 21:23-24]’— *Prophets & Kings, pages 206- 207*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 292***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 8th

The Remnant Make God Their Defense

And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

Isaiah 33:6

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" [Daniel 12:1]. When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people.

This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshalled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance!—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 212, 213 (1882).*

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 24

- 2Ki 24:1 In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.
- 2Ki 24:2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.
- 2Ki 24:3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came *this* upon Judah, to remove *them* out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;
- 2Ki 24:4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.
- 2Ki 24:5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 2Ki 24:6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ki 24:7 And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

Jehoiachin Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 24:8 Jehoiachin *was* eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name *was* Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.
- 2Ki 24:9 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

Jerusalem Captured

- 2Ki 24:10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.
- 2Ki 24:11 And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.
- 2Ki 24:12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
- 2Ki 24:13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.
- 2Ki 24:14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, *even* ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.
- 2Ki 24:15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, *those* carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- 2Ki 24:16 And all the men of might, *even* seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, *all that were* strong *and* apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.
- 2Ki 24:17 And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Zedekiah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ki 24:18 Zedekiah *was* twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
- 2Ki 24:19 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
- 2Ki 24:20 For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Wednesday – October 9th

1. How did Ahab respond to Elijah's message?

➤ 1 Kings 21:27 —

NOTE : 'If those whose errors are pointed out make confession of their wrongdoing, the spell of the enemy may be broken. If they will repent and forsake their sins, God is faithful and just to forgive their sins, and to cleanse them from all unrighteousness.'—*Selected Messages, Book1, page 52.*

2. What mitigation of His judgement on Ahab did God make?

➤ 1 Kings 21:28-29 —

NOTE : 'The unwillingness of the Lord to chastise is here vividly shown. He stays His judgments that He may plead with the impenitent. He who exercises “*loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth,*” [Jeremiah 9:24] yearns over His erring children; in every way possible He seeks to teach them the way of life everlasting...Though they had wandered long in idolatry and had slighted His warnings, yet He now declares His willingness to defer chastisement and grant yet another opportunity for repentance. He makes plain the fact that only by the most thorough heart reformation could the impending doom be averted.'—*Prophets & Kings, page 413.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 293***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

***--
“Christ's Return”***

October 9th

God's People Flee the Cities; Many Imprisoned

At the noise of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of thyself the nations were scattered.

Isaiah 33:3

As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. . . . But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 626 (1911).

Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and before the time specified, will endeavour to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war.—*ibid*, p. 631 (1911).

The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies and in all parts of the earth; and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 1143 (1908).

The faith of individual members of the church will be tested as though there were not another person in the world.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 74, p. 983 (1890).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

2nd Kings

Chapter 25

Fall and Captivity of Judah

- 2Ki 25:1 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, *that* Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.
- 2Ki 25:2 And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.
- 2Ki 25:3 And on the ninth *day* of the *fourth* month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.
- 2Ki 25:4 And the city was broken up, and all the men of war *fled* by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which *is* by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees *were* against the city round about:) and *the king* went the way toward the plain.
- 2Ki 25:5 And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him.
- 2Ki 25:6 So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him.
- 2Ki 25:7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.
- 2Ki 25:8 And in the fifth month, on the seventh *day* of the month, which *is* the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem:
- 2Ki 25:9 And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great *man's* house burnt he with fire.
- 2Ki 25:10 And all the army of the Chaldees, that *were with* the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about.
- 2Ki 25:11 Now the rest of the people *that were* left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away.
- 2Ki 25:12 But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land *to be* vinedressers and husbandmen.
- 2Ki 25:13 And the pillars of brass that *were* in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen sea that *was* in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon.
- 2Ki 25:14 And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away.
- 2Ki 25:15 And the firepans, and the bowls, *and* such things as *were* of gold, *in* gold, and of silver, *in* silver, the captain of the guard took away.
- 2Ki 25:16 The two pillars, one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD; the brass of all these vessels was without weight.
- 2Ki 25:17 The height of the one pillar *was* eighteen cubits, and the chapter upon it *was* brass: and the height of the chapter three cubits; and the wreathen work, and pomegranates upon the chapter round about, all of brass: and like unto these had the second pillar with wreathen work.
- 2Ki 25:18 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:
- 2Ki 25:19 And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which

mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land *that were* found in the city:

2Ki 25:20 And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah:

2Ki 25:21 And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land.

Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah

2Ki 25:22 And *as for* the people that remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, ruler.

2Ki 25:23 And when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, there came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Careah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

2Ki 25:24 And Gedaliah swore to them, and to their men, and said unto them, Fear not to be the servants of the Chaldees: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it shall be well with you.

2Ki 25:25 But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah.

2Ki 25:26 And all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose, and came to Egypt: for they were afraid of the Chaldees.

Jehoiachin Released from Prison

2Ki 25:27 And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth *day* of the month, *that* Evilmerodach king of Babylon in the year that he began to reign did lift up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison;

2Ki 25:28 And he spake kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that *were* with him in Babylon;

2Ki 25:29 And changed his prison garments: and he did eat bread continually before him all the days of his life.

2Ki 25:30 And his allowance *was* a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.

Thursday – October 10th

1. Why did Elijah confront the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel?

➤ 1 Kings 18:36 —

➤ 1 Kings 19:14 —

NOTE : 'In [Christ's] service we need not expect ease, honour, and greatness in this life; for He, the Majesty of heaven, did not receive it. *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.”* [Isaiah 53:3] *“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”* [Isaiah 53:5] With this example before us, will we choose to shun the cross, and to be swayed by circumstances? Shall our zeal, our fervour, be kindled only when we are surrounded by those who are awake and zealous in the work and cause of God?' —*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2, page 516*

2. What was Elijah's prayer for his people and how was it answered?

➤ 1 Kings 18:37-39 —

NOTE : 'Reminding the people of the long-continued apostasy that has awakened the wrath of Jehovah, Elijah calls upon them to humble their hearts and turn to the God of their fathers, that the curse upon the land of Israel may be removed. Then bowing reverently before the unseen God, he raises his hands toward heaven, and offers a simple prayer... Elijah prays simply and fervently, asking God to show his superiority over Baal, that Israel may be led to turn to him. *“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel,”* the prophet pleads, *“let it be known this day that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that Thou art the Lord God, and that Thou hast turned their heart back again.”* [1 Kings 18:36-37]—*Review & Herald, September 25, 1913*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, October 10th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 294***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 10th

Houses and Lands of No Use

And I will make the rivers dry, and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: I the LORD have spoken it.

Ezekiel 30:12

Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. . . .

I saw that if any held on to their property, and did not inquire of the Lord as to their duty, He would not make duty known, and they would be permitted to keep their property, and in the time of trouble it would come up before them like a mountain to crush them, and they would try to dispose of it, but would not be able. . . . But if they desired to be taught, He would teach them, in a time of need, when to sell and how much to sell.—*Early Writings*, p. 56, 57 (1851).

It is too late now to cling to worldly treasures. Soon unnecessary houses and lands will be of no benefit to anyone, for the curse of God will rest more and more heavily upon the earth. The call comes, "Sell that ye have, and give alms" [Luke 12:33]. This message should be faithfully borne--urged home to the hearts of the people--that God's own property may be returned to Him in offerings to advance His work in the world.—*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 16, p. 348 (1901).

Daily Scripture

Thursday, October 10th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 1

From Adam to Abraham

- 1Ch 1:1 Adam, Sheth, Enosh,
1Ch 1:2 Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jered,
1Ch 1:3 Henoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
1Ch 1:4 Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
1Ch 1:5 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.
1Ch 1:6 And the sons of Gomer; Ashchenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.
1Ch 1:7 And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.
1Ch 1:8 The sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.
1Ch 1:9 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabta, and Raamah, and Sabtechah. And the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.
1Ch 1:10 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be mighty upon the earth.
1Ch 1:11 And Mizraim begat Ludim, and Anamim, and Lehabim, and Naphtuhim,
1Ch 1:12 And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (of whom came the Philistines,) and Caphthorim.
1Ch 1:13 And Canaan begat Zidon his firstborn, and Heth,
1Ch 1:14 The Jebusite also, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite,
1Ch 1:15 And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,
1Ch 1:16 And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.
1Ch 1:17 The sons of Shem; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram, and Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and Meshech.
1Ch 1:18 And Arphaxad begat Shelah, and Shelah begat Eber.
1Ch 1:19 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of the one *was* Peleg; because in his days the earth was divided: and his brother's name *was* Joktan.
1Ch 1:20 And Joktan begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah,
1Ch 1:21 Hadoram also, and Uzal, and Diklah,
1Ch 1:22 And Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba,
1Ch 1:23 And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab. All these *were* the sons of Joktan.
1Ch 1:24 Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah,
1Ch 1:25 Eber, Peleg, Reu,
1Ch 1:26 Serug, Nahor, Terah,
1Ch 1:27 Abram; the same *is* Abraham.

From Abraham to Jacob

- 1Ch 1:28 The sons of Abraham; Isaac, and Ishmael.
1Ch 1:29 These *are* their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebaioth; then Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,
1Ch 1:30 Mishma, and Dumah, Massa, Hadad, and Tema,

- 1Ch 1:31 Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael.
- 1Ch 1:32 Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan.
- 1Ch 1:33 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Ephraim, and Henoah, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these *are* the sons of Keturah.
- 1Ch 1:34 And Abraham begat Isaac. The sons of Isaac; Esau and Israel.
- 1Ch 1:35 The sons of Esau; Eliphaz, Reuel, and Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah.
- 1Ch 1:36 The sons of Eliphaz; Teman, and Omar, Zephi, and Gatam, Kenaz, and Timna, and Amalek.
- 1Ch 1:37 The sons of Reuel; Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.
- 1Ch 1:38 And the sons of Seir; Lotan, and Shobal, and Zibeon, and Anah, and Dishon, and Ezer, and Dishan.
- 1Ch 1:39 And the sons of Lotan; Hori, and Homam: and Timna *was* Lotan's sister.
- 1Ch 1:40 The sons of Shobal; Alian, and Manahath, and Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. And the sons of Zibeon; Aiah, and Anah.
- 1Ch 1:41 The sons of Anah; Dishon. And the sons of Dishon; Amram, and Eshban, and Ithran, and Cheran.
- 1Ch 1:42 The sons of Ezer; Bilhan, and Zavan, *and* Jakan. The sons of Dishan; Uz, and Aran.
- 1Ch 1:43 Now these *are* the kings that reigned in the land of Edom before *any* king reigned over the children of Israel; Bela the son of Beor: and the name of his city *was* Dinhabah.
- 1Ch 1:44 And when Bela was dead, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 1:45 And when Jobab was dead, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 1:46 And when Husham was dead, Hadad the son of Bedad, which smote Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his stead: and the name of his city *was* Avith.
- 1Ch 1:47 And when Hadad was dead, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 1:48 And when Samlah was dead, Shaul of Rehoboth by the river reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 1:49 And when Shaul was dead, Baalhanan the son of Achbor reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 1:50 And when Baalhanan was dead, Hadad reigned in his stead: and the name of his city *was* Pai; and his wife's name *was* Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.
- 1Ch 1:51 Hadad died also. And the dukes of Edom were; duke Timnah, duke Aliah, duke Jetheth,
- 1Ch 1:52 Duke Aholibamah, duke Elah, duke Pinon,
- 1Ch 1:53 Duke Kenaz, duke Teman, duke Mibzar,
- 1Ch 1:54 Duke Magdiel, duke Iram. These *are* the dukes of Edom.

Preparation Day - October 11th

1. What message of hope did Elijah bring to the widow of Zarephath?

➤ **1 Kings 17:12-14** —

NOTE : 'It is difficult to know which most to wonder at: Elijah's calmness, consistency, and readiness of faith, or the widow's almost incredible simplicity of trustfulness. Elijah was not taken aback; he did not hesitate to go on with the trial of his hostess to the end; least of all was he afraid of the possible consequences. As in every real trial of our trust, there was first a general promise, and, on the ground of it, a specific demand, followed by an assurance to conquering faith.' —*Edersheim, History of Judah and Israel, page 193*

2. What promise is given to all those who put their trust in God?

➤ **Isaiah 33:16-17** —

NOTE : “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*” [Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4] Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. “*Seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” [Matthew 6:33] Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. 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. In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell. It will finally be decreed that they shall be put to death. [See Revelation 13:11-17] But to the obedient is given the promise, “*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 33:16] By this promise the children of God will live. When the earth shall be wasted with famine, they shall be fed. “*They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.*” [Psalm 37:19] —*The Desire of Ages, page 121*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, October 11th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 295***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

***--
“Christ's Return”***

October 11th

Like the Time of Jacob's Trouble

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Jeremiah 30:7

A decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World, and apostate Protestantism in the New, will pursue a similar course toward those who honour all the divine precepts. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 615, 616 (1911).

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. . . . 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.—*ibid*, p. 630 (1911).

Jacob's experience during that night of wrestling and anguish represents the trial through which the people of God must pass just before Christ's second coming. The prophet Jeremiah, in holy vision looking down to this time, said, "*We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.*" [Jeremiah 30:5-7]—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 201 (1890).

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, October 11th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 2

A Genealogy of David

- 1Ch 2:1 These *are* the sons of Israel; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun,
 1Ch 2:2 Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.
 1Ch 2:3 The sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah: *which* three were born unto him of the daughter of Shua the Canaanitess. And Er, the firstborn of Judah, was evil in the sight of the LORD; and he slew him.
 1Ch 2:4 And Tamar his daughter in law bare him Pharez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah *were* five.
 1Ch 2:5 The sons of Pharez; Hezron, and Hamul.
 1Ch 2:6 And the sons of Zerah; Zimri, and Ethan, and Heman, and Calcol, and Dara: five of them in all.
 1Ch 2:7 And the sons of Carmi; Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the thing accursed.
 1Ch 2:8 And the sons of Ethan; Azariah.
 1Ch 2:9 The sons also of Hezron, that were born unto him; Jerahmeel, and Ram, and Chelubai.
 1Ch 2:10 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah;
 1Ch 2:11 And Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz,
 1Ch 2:12 And Boaz begat Obed, and Obed begat Jesse,
 1Ch 2:13 And Jesse begat his firstborn Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimma the third,
 1Ch 2:14 Nethaneel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,
 1Ch 2:15 Ozem the sixth, David the seventh:
 1Ch 2:16 Whose sisters *were* Zeruiah, and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah; Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three.
 1Ch 2:17 And Abigail bare Amasa: and the father of Amasa *was* Jether the Ishmeelite.
 1Ch 2:18 And Caleb the son of Hezron begat *children* of Azubah *his* wife, and of Jerioth: her sons *are* these; Jeshur, and Shobab, and Ardon.
 1Ch 2:19 And when Azubah was dead, Caleb took unto him Ephrath, which bare him Hur.
 1Ch 2:20 And Hur begat Uri, and Uri begat Bezaleel.
 1Ch 2:21 And afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he *was* threescore years old; and she bare him Segub.
 1Ch 2:22 And Segub begat Jair, who had three and twenty cities in the land of Gilead.
 1Ch 2:23 And he took Geshur, and Aram, with the towns of Jair, from them, with Kenath, and the towns thereof, *even* threescore cities. All these *belonged to* the sons of Machir the father of Gilead.
 1Ch 2:24 And after that Hezron was dead in Calebephratah, then Abiah Hezron's wife bare him Ashur the father of Tekoa.
 1Ch 2:25 And the sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron were, Ram the firstborn, and Bunah, and Oren, and Ozem, *and* Ahijah.
 1Ch 2:26 Jerahmeel had also another wife, whose name *was* Atarah; she *was* the mother of Onam.
 1Ch 2:27 And the sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel were, Maaz, and Jamin, and Eker.
 1Ch 2:28 And the sons of Onam were, Shammai, and Jada. And the sons of Shammai; Nadab, and Abishur.
 1Ch 2:29 And the name of the wife of Abishur *was* Abihail, and she bare him Ahban, and Molid.
 1Ch 2:30 And the sons of Nadab; Seled, and Appaim: but Seled died without children.

- 1Ch 2:31 And the sons of Appaim; Ishi. And the sons of Ishi; Sheshan. And the children of Sheshan; Ahlai.
- 1Ch 2:32 And the sons of Jada the brother of Shammai; Jether, and Jonathan: and Jether died without children.
- 1Ch 2:33 And the sons of Jonathan; Peleth, and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel.
- 1Ch 2:34 Now Sheshan had no sons, but daughters. And Sheshan had a servant, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Jarha.
- 1Ch 2:35 And Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant to wife; and she bare him Attai.
- 1Ch 2:36 And Attai begat Nathan, and Nathan begat Zabad,
- 1Ch 2:37 And Zabad begat Ephlal, and Ephlal begat Obed,
- 1Ch 2:38 And Obed begat Jehu, and Jehu begat Azariah,
- 1Ch 2:39 And Azariah begat Helez, and Helez begat Eleasah,
- 1Ch 2:40 And Eleasah begat Sisamai, and Sisamai begat Shallum,
- 1Ch 2:41 And Shallum begat Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begat Elishama.
- 1Ch 2:42 Now the sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel *were*, Mesha his firstborn, which was the father of Ziph; and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron.
- 1Ch 2:43 And the sons of Hebron; Korah, and Tappuah, and Rekem, and Shema.
- 1Ch 2:44 And Shema begat Raham, the father of Jorkoam: and Rekem begat Shammai.
- 1Ch 2:45 And the son of Shammai *was* Maon: and Maon *was* the father of Bethzur.
- 1Ch 2:46 And Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bare Haran, and Moza, and Gazez: and Haran begat Gazez.
- 1Ch 2:47 And the sons of Jahdai; Regem, and Jotham, and Geshan, and Pelet, and Ephah, and Shaaph.
- 1Ch 2:48 Maachah, Caleb's concubine, bare Sheber, and Tirhanah.
- 1Ch 2:49 She bare also Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbenah, and the father of Gibeaz: and the daughter of Caleb *was* Achsah.
- 1Ch 2:50 These were the sons of Caleb the son of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah; Shobal the father of Kirjathjearim,
- 1Ch 2:51 Salma the father of Bethlehem, Hareph the father of Bethgader.
- 1Ch 2:52 And Shobal the father of Kirjathjearim had sons; Haroeh, *and* half of the Manahethites.
- 1Ch 2:53 And the families of Kirjathjearim; the Ithrites, and the Puhites, and the Shumathites, and the Mishraites; of them came the Zareathites, and the Eshtaulites.
- 1Ch 2:54 The sons of Salma; Bethlehem, and the Netophathites, Ataroth, the house of Joab, and half of the Manahethites, the Zorites.
- 1Ch 2:55 And the families of the scribes which dwelt at Jabez; the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, *and* Suchathites. These *are* the Kenites that came of Hemath, the father of the house of Rechab.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, October 11th, 2024



It was a tough day. Pedro decided that it was time to resign as principal of Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School in Arizona.

“I think this is it,” he told his wife. “I think it’s time for me to find another job.”

It was the beginning of Pedro’s 12th year as principal. He had just finished difficult conversations with several staff members. He had just reflected on the challenges of the school year. The burden seemed overwhelming. But then Pedro remembered that he had made a promise to God on his first day as principal. He had prayed, “God, You have a big job to do to help me with this job. I’m going to stay here until You say otherwise.”

Now, on the tough day, Pedro had another chat with God.

“I remember my promise,” he said. “I don’t want to be a liar. So, is it You who is telling me that it is time to go?”

He didn’t receive an immediate answer. So, he did what he often told Holbrook teachers and students to do. He waited for God to be God.

A week passed. Then Pedro heard that a girl who had finished first grade at Holbrook two years earlier wanted to return. The girl, Raine, was precious and very smart. Her mother had kept her out of school for two years amid the Covid scare. Many Native American parents kept their children out of school for those two years. Pedro had been sad to see her leave, and he now wished that she would return. But he was skeptical about the news that she wanted to come back. Two times already he had heard that she might return, and she hadn’t.

A short time later, Pedro heard that Raine’s mother was ready to schedule an interview with him. Pedro interviewed all returning students who had been gone for a long time. He felt a flicker of excitement. But he didn’t get too excited because he wasn’t sure that she would show up.

When the mother scheduled an interview for 10’clock on a Friday morning, the emotions hit. Pedro thought, “This is actually happening!”

On Friday morning, Pedro saw a car pull into the parking lot. He kept looking until someone got out of the car. It was Raine and her mother. They were walking toward the administration building.

Pedro went to the glass front doors of the administrative building to greet them. He crouched down, pressed his face and nose against the glass, and he peered out.

Raine saw him and ran excitedly toward him. As she approached, Pedro opened the doors, and she ran into his arms. It was pure love. At that moment, Pedro knew that he had his answer. It was not time to leave Holbrook. God still had a plan for him at the school.

“I missed you,” he told Raine.

“I missed you, too,” she said.

“It’s good to see you.”

“It’s good to see you, too.”

After the interview, Raine asked if she could play on the playground. She had missed the swings, the slide, and the other playground equipment.

“Yes, but please tell me before you leave so I can say goodbye,” Pedro said.

A little while later, Raine returned to his office.

“OK, we are going to leave now,” she said.

“I can’t wait to see you on registration day on the 13th,” he said.

“Can you make that sooner?” she said.

“What? You want to come back here sooner?”

“Yeah.”

“I wish I could do that.”

“Aren’t you the principal? You can do anything!”

It was true. Pedro could do anything —with God. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13, NKJV).

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings that have supported Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. The two most recent Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings for the North American Division, collected in 2018 and 2021, are helping to construct a new gym and multipurpose building on the campus.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 3

“GIVE THEM WARNING FROM ME”

October 12 - October 18

MEMORY VERSE : “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.” [Ezekiel 3:17]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Acts of the Apostles, pages 9-13

SCRIPTURE : Ezekiel 3:17-21

LESSON AIM : To study God's messages of warning throughout the Bible

INTRODUCTION : ‘To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven's message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord's messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honour of God's cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king.’ —*Prophets & Kings*, page 120

Sabbath – October 12th

1. From whom did Elijah's message of judgement come?

➤ 1 Kings 17:1 —

NOTE : ‘Elijah made no apology for his abrupt appearance. A Greater than the ruler of Israel had commissioned him to speak; and, lifting his hand toward heaven, he solemnly affirmed by the living God that the judgments of the Most High were about to fall upon Israel. “*As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand,*” he declared, “*there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*” [1 Kings 17:1]’—*Prophets & Kings*, page 121.

2. Why does God bring His judgements upon His people?

➤ Isaiah 26:9, last part. —

NOTE : “*If thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes,*” [Deuteronomy 28:15] the Israelites had been warned, “*thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*” [Deuteronomy 28: 23-24] These were among the wise counsels of Jehovah to ancient Israel. “*Lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul,*” He had commanded His chosen people, “*and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sits in thine house, and when thou walks by the way, when thou lies down, and when thou rises up.*” [Deuteronomy 11:18-19] Plain were these commands,

yet as the centuries passed, and generation after generation lost sight of the provision made for their spiritual welfare, the ruinous influences of apostasy threatened to sweep aside every barrier of divine grace. Thus it had come to pass that God was now visiting His people with the severest of His judgments.' —*Prophets & Kings*, pages 136-137

3. Heaven's Hotline



EGW Study Help

Sabbath, October 12th, 2024

Acts of The Apostles

Chapter 1, p. 9-13

“God's Purpose for His Church”

The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvellous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10. {AA 9.1}

Many and wonderful are the promises recorded in the Scriptures regarding the church. "Mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people." Isaiah 56:7. "I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing." "And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more. Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are My people, saith the Lord God. And ye My flock, the flock of My pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 34:26, 29-31. {AA 9.2}

"Ye are My witnesses, saith the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside Me there is no Saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are My witnesses." "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." Isaiah 43:10-12; 42:6, 7. {AA 10.1}

"In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; that thou may say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for He that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall He guide them. And I will make all My mountains a way, and My highways shall be exalted. . . . {AA 10.2}

"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me." Isaiah 49:8-16. {AA 11.1}

The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. 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. {AA 11.2}

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. All His purposes will be fulfilled. His law is linked with His throne, and no power of evil can destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; and it will triumph over all opposition. {AA 11.3}

During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theatre of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts. {AA 12.1}

"Whereunto," asked Christ, "shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?" Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished. This kingdom is to uplift and ennoble humanity. God's church is the court of holy life, filled with varied gifts and endowed with the Holy Spirit. The members are to find their happiness in the happiness of those whom they help and bless. {AA 12.2}

Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified. A picture of this work is given in Ezekiel's vision of the river of healing: "These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that everything that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: . . . and by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine." Ezekiel 47:8-12. {AA 13.1}

From the beginning God has wrought through His people to bring blessing to the world. To the ancient Egyptian nation God made Joseph a fountain of life. Through the integrity of Joseph the life of that whole people was preserved. Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon. And these deliverances are as object lessons; they illustrate the spiritual blessings offered to the world through connection with the God whom Joseph and Daniel worshiped. Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life. {AA 13.2}

Last Day Events

Sabbath, October 12th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 296***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 12th

The Righteous Have No Concealed Wrongs to Reveal

And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.

Genesis 32:6

In the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment, and have been blotted out; and they cannot bring them to remembrance.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 620 (1911).

God's people . . . will have a deep sense of their shortcomings, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. But remembering the greatness of God's mercy, and their own sincere repentance, they will plead His promises made through Christ to helpless, repenting sinners. Their faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. They will lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and the language of their souls will be, “*I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.*” [Genesis 32:26]—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 202 (1890).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, October 12th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 3

Descendants of David

- 1Ch 3:1 Now these were the sons of David, which were born unto him in Hebron; the firstborn Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second Daniel, of Abigail the Carmelitess:
- 1Ch 3:2 The third, Absalom the son of Maachah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur: the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith:
- 1Ch 3:3 The fifth, Shephatiah of Abital: the sixth, Ithream by Eglah his wife.
- 1Ch 3:4 *These* six were born unto him in Hebron; and there he reigned seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years.
- 1Ch 3:5 And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel:
- 1Ch 3:6 Ibhar also, and Elishama, and Eliphelet,
- 1Ch 3:7 And Nogah, and Nepheg, and Japhia,
- 1Ch 3:8 And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine.
- 1Ch 3:9 *These were* all the sons of David, beside the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.
- 1Ch 3:10 And Solomon's son *was* Rehoboam, Abia his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,
- 1Ch 3:11 Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,
- 1Ch 3:12 Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son,
- 1Ch 3:13 Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,
- 1Ch 3:14 Amon his son, Josiah his son.
- 1Ch 3:15 And the sons of Josiah *were*, the firstborn Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum.
- 1Ch 3:16 And the sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son.
- 1Ch 3:17 And the sons of Jeconiah; Assir, Salathiel his son,
- 1Ch 3:18 Malchiram also, and Pedaiah, and Shenazar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.
- 1Ch 3:19 And the sons of Pedaiah *were*, Zerubbabel, and Shimei: and the sons of Zerubbabel; Meshullam, and Hananiah, and Shelomith their sister:
- 1Ch 3:20 And Hashubah, and Ohel, and Berechiah, and Hasadiah, Jushabhesed, five.
- 1Ch 3:21 And the sons of Hananiah; Pelatiah, and Jesaiah: the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, the sons of Shechaniah.
- 1Ch 3:22 And the sons of Shechaniah; Shemaiah: and the sons of Shemaiah; Hattush, and Igeal, and Bariah, and Neariah, and Shaphat, six.
- 1Ch 3:23 And the sons of Neariah; Elioenai, and Hezekiah, and Azrikam, three.
- 1Ch 3:24 And the sons of Elioenai *were*, Hodaiah, and Eliashib, and Pelaiah, and Akkub, and Johanan, and Dalaiah, and Anani, seven.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, October 12th, 2024



Excited chatter filled the school van as it whizzed down a two-lane road in Arizona.

Seven Native American boys talked enthusiastically about the fun day that they had spent skiing on the White Mountains. They were happy, tired, and relaxed as they headed back to Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, where they lived.

The sun was setting in the east, and long shadows were starting to form on the desert ground.

Suddenly, a small, brown fox darted across the road.

In unison, all seven boys gasped sharply.

“Ohhh-ohhhh!”

The van driver, Teacher Allison, didn’t notice. “Oh, look!” she cried out happily.

“There’s a fox!”

Foxes were one of her favorite animals, and this one was beautiful. She was excited!

But the boys were horrified. Their faces turned pale and serious. They stopped talking.

Then Teacher Allison noticed the silence. She was surprised that the boys weren’t excited to see the fox. Didn’t all boys like foxes?

“What’s wrong?” she said.

The boys looked at one another for a long moment. Then one said, quietly, “Well, in our culture, that’s a bad omen.”

“What kind of omen?” Teacher Allison asked. She was not a Native American, and she didn’t understand what he meant.

“We can’t talk about it,” the boy said.

“Well, OK, teach me,” she said.

The boys looked at each other again. Then the boy explained that Native Americans consider it bad luck if a small fox crosses your path at sunset.

“It means something bad is going to happen to someone in our family,” he said.

Teacher Allison was astonished. “What?” she said.

“Well,” the boy said, “someone in our family will probably get sick and die, or die in a car accident. You never know how it’s going to happen, but someone will die in the next month.”

Teacher Allison pulled the school van over to the side of the road. She thanked the boys for bravely sharing their fears. She thanked them for teaching her about Native American culture. She said she wanted to share something as well. “Here is what the fox meant to me,” she said. “This fox is a beautiful creature created by God for our enjoyment. It doesn’t have the power to impact our families just because it crossed the road.”

She said she wanted the boys to know that they didn’t need to be scared when they were with God. “So, I’m just going to pray for the fox and for us,” she said,

Bowing her head, she prayed, “Dear God, please give the fox a safe journey. Please give us a safe journey, too. Keep the boys’ families safe, and help these boys to know You.”

The boys were surprised that their teacher had taken the time to pray. Several didn’t look pleased with the prayer. But Teacher Allison didn’t mind. The boys didn’t need to like the prayer. They had had a good day skiing with her, and she hoped that they would know the power of God.

The boys sat in silence for the rest of the drive back to school. No one wanted to talk. Teacher Allison turned on some Christian music.

A month passed. Then a boy from the van ride came to Teacher Allison. He said that he and the other boys from the van had realized that a month had passed since they had seen the fox and no one in their families had died.

“You know, we were talking about it, and we realized that nothing happened to our families after you prayed,” he said.

Teacher Allison was so happy! Not only had God heard her prayer, but the boys also were beginning to trust God.

Pray for the children at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School to know God as their special Friend. Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings have supported mission work at the school for many years. The two most recent

Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings for the North American Division, collected in 2021 and 2018, are helping to construct a new Student Life Center on the school campus. Thank you for your offering this quarter.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday - October 13th, 2024

1. What is likely to be the response to the prophet's message of judgement?

➤ **Luke 4:24** —

NOTE : 'In the days of Elijah, Israel had departed from the living God. In vain the Lord by His prophets spoke to that backsliding and rebellious people. In vain He reprov'd their sins, and threatened them with His judgments. The message which might have been a savour of life unto life, proved to them a savour of death unto death. They would not heed the warning which called them to a life of humility and faith. Instead of leading them to repentance, the prophet's words offended their pride, and aroused their hatred against the messenger of God. Thus they multiplied their sins, and aggravated the guilt which had already brought the judgments of God upon the land. They sought to find and destroy Elijah, as though by silencing him, they would prevent the fulfilment of his words. But God found among the heathen a hiding-place for his servant.' —*Signs of the Times, June 16, 1887.*

2. What was the reaction of the people to the message of Jesus?

➤ **Luke 4:28-29** —

➤ **Luke 4:23-27** —

NOTE : 'Here Jesus taught an important lesson that should be received by all who profess his name to the end of time. It was this: That even the heathen, who live according to the best light they have, doing right so far as they are able to distinguish right from wrong, are regarded with greater favour by God than those who, having great light, make high pretensions to godliness, but whose daily lives contradict their profession. Thus Jesus stood before the Jews, calmly revealing their secret thoughts, and pressing home upon them the bitter truth of their unrighteousness. Every word cut like a knife as their corrupt lives and wicked unbelief were laid before them. They now scorned the faith and reverence with which Jesus had at first inspired them, and they refused to acknowledge that this man, who had sprung from poverty and lowliness, was other than a common man. They would own no king who came unattended by riches and honour, and who stood not at the head of imposing legions.'—*The Spirit of Prophecy, volume 4, page 113.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, October 13th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 297***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

***--
“Christ's Return”***

October 13th

The Saints Will Not Lose Their Lives

The fear of man brings a snare: but whoso puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation, and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified. And oh, what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty, to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints' going up will witness the care of God for His people, and behold their glorious deliverance.—*Early Writings*, p. 284 (1858).

The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation, and suffer for want of food, they will not be left to perish. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 629 (1911).

If the blood of Christ's faithful witnesses were shed at this time, it would not, like the blood of the martyrs, be as seed sown to yield a harvest for God.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 634 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sunday, October 13th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 4

Descendants of Judah

- 1Ch 4:1 The sons of Judah; Pharez, Hezron, and Carmi, and Hur, and Shobal.
- 1Ch 4:2 And Reaiah the son of Shobal begat Jahath; and Jahath begat Ahumai, and Lahad. These *are* the families of the Zorathites.
- 1Ch 4:3 And these *were of* the father of Etam; Jezreel, and Ishma, and Idbash: and the name of their sister *was* Hazelelponi:
- 1Ch 4:4 And Penuel the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These *are* the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah, the father of Bethlehem.
- 1Ch 4:5 And Ashur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.
- 1Ch 4:6 And Naarah bare him Ahuzam, and Hephher, and Temeni, and Haahashtari. These *were* the sons of Naarah.
- 1Ch 4:7 And the sons of Helah *were*, Zereth, and Jezoar, and Ethnan.
- 1Ch 4:8 And Coz begat Anub, and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.
- 1Ch 4:9 And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.
- 1Ch 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou would bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou would keep *me* from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.
- 1Ch 4:11 And Chelub the brother of Shuah begat Mehir, which *was* the father of Eshton.
- 1Ch 4:12 And Eshton begat Bethrapha, and Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Irnash. These *are* the men of Rechah.
- 1Ch 4:13 And the sons of Kenaz; Othniel, and Seraiah: and the sons of Othniel; Hathath.
- 1Ch 4:14 And Meonothai begat Ophrah: and Seraiah begat Joab, the father of the valley of Charashim; for they were craftsmen.
- 1Ch 4:15 And the sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh; Iru, Elah, and Naam: and the sons of Elah, even Kenaz.
- 1Ch 4:16 And the sons of Jehaleleel; Ziph, and Ziphah, Tiria, and Asareel.
- 1Ch 4:17 And the sons of Ezra *were*, Jether, and Mered, and Ephraim, and Jalon: and she bare Miriam, and Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.
- 1Ch 4:18 And his wife Jehudijah bare Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Socho, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these *are* the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, which Mered took.
- 1Ch 4:19 And the sons of *his* wife Hodiah the sister of Naham, the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maachathite.
- 1Ch 4:20 And the sons of Shimon *were*, Amnon, and Rinnah, Benhanan, and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi *were*, Zoheth, and Benzoheth.
- 1Ch 4:21 The sons of Shelah the son of Judah *were*, Er the father of Lecah, and Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of them that wrought fine linen, of the house of Ashbea,
- 1Ch 4:22 And Jokim, and the men of Chozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who had the dominion in Moab, and Jashubilehem. And *these are* ancient things.
- 1Ch 4:23 These *were* the potters, and those that dwelt among plants and hedges: there they dwelt with the king for his work.

Descendants of Simeon

- 1Ch 4:24 The sons of Simeon *were*, Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, *and* Shaul:
- 1Ch 4:25 Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son.
- 1Ch 4:26 And the sons of Mishma; Hamuel his son, Zacchur his son, Shimei his son.
- 1Ch 4:27 And Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brethren had not many children, neither did all their family multiply, like to the children of Judah.
- 1Ch 4:28 And they dwelt at Beersheba, and Moladah, and Hazarshual,
- 1Ch 4:29 And at Bilhah, and at Ezem, and at Tolad,
- 1Ch 4:30 And at Bethuel, and at Hormah, and at Ziklag,
- 1Ch 4:31 And at Bethmarcaboth, and Hazarsusim, and at Bethbirei, and at Shaaraim. These *were* their cities unto the reign of David.
- 1Ch 4:32 And their villages *were*, Etam, and Ain, Rimmon, and Tochen, and Ashan, five cities:
- 1Ch 4:33 And all their villages that *were* round about the same cities, unto Baal. These *were* their habitations, and their genealogy.
- 1Ch 4:34 And Meshobab, and Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah,
- 1Ch 4:35 And Joel, and Jehu the son of Josibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel,
- 1Ch 4:36 And Elioenai, and Jaakobah, and Jeshohaiah, and Asaiah, and Adiel, and Jesimiel, and Benaiah,
- 1Ch 4:37 And Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah;
- 1Ch 4:38 These mentioned by *their* names *were* princes in their families: and the house of their fathers increased greatly.
- 1Ch 4:39 And they went to the entrance of Gedor, *even* unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.
- 1Ch 4:40 And they found fat pasture and good, and the land *was* wide, and quiet, and peaceable; for *they* of Ham had dwelt there of old.
- 1Ch 4:41 And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the habitations that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their rooms: because *there was* pasture there for their flocks.
- 1Ch 4:42 And *some* of them, *even* of the sons of Simeon, five hundred men, went to mount Seir, having for their captains Pelatiah, and Neariah, and Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.
- 1Ch 4:43 And they smote the rest of the Amalekites that were escaped, and dwelt there unto this day.

Monday – October 14th

1. What was the response to Noah's message of coming judgement?

➤ **1 Peter 3:20** —

NOTE : 'The Lord looked down upon the impenitent world, and decided that He must give transgressors an exhibition of His power. He caused Noah to know His purpose, and instructed him to warn the people while building an ark in which the obedient could find shelter until God's indignation was overpast. For one hundred and twenty years Noah proclaimed the message of warning to the antediluvian world; but only a few repented. Some of the carpenters he employed in building the ark, believed the message, but died before the flood; others of Noah's converts backslid. The righteous on the earth were but few, and only eight lived to enter the ark. These were Noah and his family.' —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 504

2. When judgement came upon Sodom and Gomorrah, how many were saved?

➤ **Genesis 19:12-15** —

➤ **Genesis 18:32** —

➤ **Genesis 19:26** —

➤ **Genesis 19:31-34** —

NOTE : 'In the time of Abraham, mercy ceased to plead with the guilty inhabitants of Sodom, and all but Lot with his wife and two daughters were consumed by the fire sent down from heaven. So in the days of Christ. The Son of God declared to the unbelieving Jews of that generation: “*Your house is left unto you desolate.*” [Matthew 23:38] Looking down to the last days, the same Infinite Power declares, concerning those who “*received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved and For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*” [2 Thessalonians 2:10-12] As they reject the teachings of His word, God withdraws His Spirit and leaves them to the deceptions which they love.’ —*The Great Controversy*, page 431

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, October 14th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 298***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 14th

God Will Provide

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands, and strangers would reap their fields.

Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger, for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.—*Early Writings, p. 56 (1851).*

I saw that a time of trouble was before us, when stern necessity will compel the people of God to live on bread and water. . . . In the time of trouble none will labour with their hands. Their sufferings will be mental, and God will provide food for them.—*Manuscript 2, 1858.*

The time of trouble is just before us, and then stern necessity will require the people of God to deny self and to eat merely enough to sustain life, but God will prepare us for that time. In that fearful hour our necessity will be God's opportunity to impart His strengthening power and to sustain His people.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 206 (1859).*

Bread and water is all that is promised to the remnant in the time of trouble.—*The Story of Redemption, p. 129 (1870).*

In the time of trouble, just before the coming of Christ, the righteous will be preserved through the ministration of heavenly angels.—*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 256 (1890).*

Daily Scripture

Monday, October 14th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 5

Descendants of Reuben

- 1Ch 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he *was* the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.
- 1Ch 5:2 For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him *came* the chief ruler; but the birthright *was* Joseph's:)
- 1Ch 5:3 The sons, *I say*, of Reuben the firstborn of Israel *were*, Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.
- 1Ch 5:4 The sons of Joel; Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,
- 1Ch 5:5 Micah his son, Reaia his son, Baal his son,
- 1Ch 5:6 Beerah his son, whom Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria carried away *captive*: he *was* prince of the Reubenites.
- 1Ch 5:7 And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was reckoned, *were* the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,
- 1Ch 5:8 And Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, even unto Nebo and Baalmeon:
- 1Ch 5:9 And eastward he inhabited unto the entering in of the wilderness from the river Euphrates: because their cattle were multiplied in the land of Gilead.
- 1Ch 5:10 And in the days of Saul they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their hand: and they dwelt in their tents throughout all the east *land* of Gilead.

Descendants of Gad

- 1Ch 5:11 And the children of Gad dwelt over against them, in the land of Bashan unto Salchah:
- 1Ch 5:12 Joel the chief, and Shapham the next, and Jaanai, and Shaphat in Bashan.
- 1Ch 5:13 And their brethren of the house of their fathers *were*, Michael, and Meshullam, and Sheba, and Jorai, and Jachan, and Zia, and Heber, seven.
- 1Ch 5:14 These *are* the children of Abihail the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz;
- 1Ch 5:15 Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, chief of the house of their fathers.
- 1Ch 5:16 And they dwelt in Gilead in Bashan, and in her towns, and in all the suburbs of Sharon, upon their borders.
- 1Ch 5:17 All these were reckoned by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.
- 1Ch 5:18 The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skilful in war, *were* four and forty thousand seven hundred and threescore, that went out to the war.
- 1Ch 5:19 And they made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Nephish, and Nodab.
- 1Ch 5:20 And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that *were* with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

1Ch 5:21 And they took away their cattle; of their camels fifty thousand, and of sheep two hundred and fifty thousand, and of asses two thousand, and of men an hundred thousand.

1Ch 5:22 For there fell down many slain, because the war *was* of God. And they dwelt in their steads until the captivity.

The Half-Tribe of Manasseh

1Ch 5:23 And the children of the half tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land: they increased from Bashan unto Baalhermon and Senir, and unto mount Hermon.

1Ch 5:24 And these *were* the heads of the house of their fathers, even Ephraim, and Ishi, and Eliel, and Azriel, and Jeremiah, and Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty men of valour, famous men, *and* heads of the house of their fathers.

1Ch 5:25 And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them.

1Ch 5:26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.

Tuesday – October 15th

1. What message of warning was Ezekiel commanded to give to his people?

➤ **Ezekiel 2:3 —**

NOTE : 'Amid forgetfulness and apostasy, God had dealt with Israel as a loving father deals with a rebellious son, admonishing, warning, correcting, still saying in the tender anguish of a parent's soul, How can I give thee up?' —*The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 4, page 19*

2. What was Ezekiel told about the response his message would receive?

➤ **Ezekiel 2:6 —**

NOTE : 'Those whom God has chosen for an important work, have ever been received with distrust and suspicion. Anciently, when Elijah was sent with a message from God to the people, they did not heed the warning. They thought Elijah unnecessarily severe. He must, they thought, have lost his senses, that he would denounce them, the favoured people of God, as sinners, and their crimes, so aggravating, that the judgments of God would awaken against them. Satan and his host have ever been arrayed against those who bear the message of warning and reprove sins. The unconsecrated will be united with the adversary of souls, to make the work of God's faithful servants as hard as possible. Elijah, one of God's great and mighty prophets, as he fled for his life from the rage of Jezebel, an infuriated woman, a fugitive, weary and travel worn, desired to die rather than live. His bitter disappointment in regard to Israel's faithfulness crushed his spirits, and he felt that he could no longer put confidence in man.' —*Review & Herald, September 16, 1873*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, October 15th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 299***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 15th

No Intercessor, but Constant Communion With Christ

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psalm 91:11

Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up.

When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 613, 614 (1911).

Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? . . . Though enemies may thrust them into prison, yet dungeon walls cannot cut off the communication between their souls and Christ. One who sees their every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers, and angels will come to them in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace, for the rich in faith dwell there, and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 626, 627 (1911).

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. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. . . . The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 630, 633 (1911).

It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. . .

In the midst of the time of trouble that is coming--a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 16, 17 (1909).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, October 15th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 6

Descendants of Levi

- 1Ch 6:1 The sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- 1Ch 6:2 And the sons of Kohath; Amram, Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel.
- 1Ch 6:3 And the children of Amram; Aaron, and Moses, and Miriam. The sons also of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
- 1Ch 6:4 Eleazar begat Phinehas, Phinehas begat Abishua,
- 1Ch 6:5 And Abishua begat Bukki, and Bukki begat Uzzi,
- 1Ch 6:6 And Uzzi begat Zerahiah, and Zerahiah begat Meraioth,
- 1Ch 6:7 Meraioth begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub,
- 1Ch 6:8 And Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz,
- 1Ch 6:9 And Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan,
- 1Ch 6:10 And Johanan begat Azariah, (he *it is* that executed the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem:)
- 1Ch 6:11 And Azariah begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub,
- 1Ch 6:12 And Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Shallum,
- 1Ch 6:13 And Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah,
- 1Ch 6:14 And Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Jehozadak,
- 1Ch 6:15 And Jehozadak went *into captivity*, when the LORD carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.
- 1Ch 6:16 The sons of Levi; Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.
- 1Ch 6:17 And these *be* the names of the sons of Gershom; Libni, and Shimei.
- 1Ch 6:18 And the sons of Kohath *were*, Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel.
- 1Ch 6:19 The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. And these *are* the families of the Levites according to their fathers.
- 1Ch 6:20 Of Gershom; Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,
- 1Ch 6:21 Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeaterai his son.
- 1Ch 6:22 The sons of Kohath; Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,
- 1Ch 6:23 Elkanah his son, and Ebiasaph his son, and Assir his son,
- 1Ch 6:24 Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son.
- 1Ch 6:25 And the sons of Elkanah; Amasai, and Ahimoth.
- 1Ch 6:26 *As for* Elkanah: the sons of Elkanah; Zophai his son, and Nahath his son,
- 1Ch 6:27 Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son.
- 1Ch 6:28 And the sons of Samuel; the firstborn Vashni, and Abiah.
- 1Ch 6:29 The sons of Merari; Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzza his son,
- 1Ch 6:30 Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.
- 1Ch 6:31 And these *are they* whom David set over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after that the ark had rest.

- 1Ch 6:32 And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem: and *then* they waited on their office according to their order.
- 1Ch 6:33 And these *are* they that waited with their children. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman a singer, the son of Joel, the son of Shemuel,
- 1Ch 6:34 The son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,
- 1Ch 6:35 The son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,
- 1Ch 6:36 The son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,
- 1Ch 6:37 The son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,
- 1Ch 6:38 The son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.
- 1Ch 6:39 And his brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, *even* Asaph the son of Berachiah, the son of Shimea,
- 1Ch 6:40 The son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchiah,
- 1Ch 6:41 The son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,
- 1Ch 6:42 The son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,
- 1Ch 6:43 The son of Jahath, the son of Gershom, the son of Levi.
- 1Ch 6:44 And their brethren the sons of Merari *stood* on the left hand: Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,
- 1Ch 6:45 The son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,
- 1Ch 6:46 The son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shamer,
- 1Ch 6:47 The son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.
- 1Ch 6:48 Their brethren also the Levites *were* appointed unto all manner of service of the tabernacle of the house of God.
- 1Ch 6:49 But Aaron and his sons offered upon the altar of the burnt offering, and on the altar of incense, *and were appointed* for all the work of the *place* most holy, and to make an atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.
- 1Ch 6:50 And these *are* the sons of Aaron; Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,
- 1Ch 6:51 Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,
- 1Ch 6:52 Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,
- 1Ch 6:53 Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son.
- 1Ch 6:54 Now these *are* their dwelling places throughout their castles in their coasts, of the sons of Aaron, of the families of the Kohathites: for theirs was the lot.
- 1Ch 6:55 And they gave them Hebron in the land of Judah, and the suburbs thereof round about it.
- 1Ch 6:56 But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.
- 1Ch 6:57 And to the sons of Aaron they gave the cities of Judah, *namely*, Hebron, *the city* of refuge, and Libnah with her suburbs, and Jattir, and Eshtemoa, with their suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:58 And Hilen with her suburbs, Debir with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:59 And Ashan with her suburbs, and Bethshemesh with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:60 And out of the tribe of Benjamin; Geba with her suburbs, and Alemeth with her suburbs, and Anathoth with her suburbs. All their cities throughout their families *were* thirteen cities.
- 1Ch 6:61 And unto the sons of Kohath, *which were* left of the family of that tribe, *were cities given* out of the half tribe, *namely*, *out of* the half *tribe* of Manasseh, by lot, ten cities.
- 1Ch 6:62 And to the sons of Gershom throughout their families out of the tribe of Issachar, and out of the tribe of Asher, and out of the tribe of Naphtali, and out of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.
- 1Ch 6:63 Unto the sons of Merari *were given* by lot, throughout their families, out of the tribe of Reuben, and out of the tribe of Gad, and out of the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

- 1Ch 6:64 And the children of Israel gave to the Levites *these* cities with their suburbs.
- 1Ch 6:65 And they gave by lot out of the tribe of the children of Judah, and out of the tribe of the children of Simeon, and out of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, these cities, which are called by *their* names.
- 1Ch 6:66 And *the residue* of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their coasts out of the tribe of Ephraim.
- 1Ch 6:67 And they gave unto them, *of* the cities of refuge, Shechem in mount Ephraim with her suburbs; *they gave* also Gezer with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:68 And Jokmeam with her suburbs, and Bethhoron with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:69 And Aijalon with her suburbs, and Gathrimmon with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:70 And out of the half tribe of Manasseh; Aner with her suburbs, and Bileam with her suburbs, for the family of the remnant of the sons of Kohath.
- 1Ch 6:71 Unto the sons of Gershom *were given* out of the family of the half tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan with her suburbs, and Ashtaroth with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:72 And out of the tribe of Issachar; Kedesh with her suburbs, Daberath with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:73 And Ramoth with her suburbs, and Anem with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:74 And out of the tribe of Asher; Mashal with her suburbs, and Abdon with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:75 And Hukok with her suburbs, and Rehob with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:76 And out of the tribe of Naphtali; Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, and Hammon with her suburbs, and Kirjathaim with her suburbs.
- 1Ch 6:77 Unto the rest of the children of Merari *were given* out of the tribe of Zebulun, Rimmon with her suburbs, Tabor with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:78 And on the other side Jordan by Jericho, on the east side of Jordan, *were given them* out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer in the wilderness with her suburbs, and Jahzah with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:79 Kedemoth also with her suburbs, and Mephaath with her suburbs:
- 1Ch 6:80 And out of the tribe of Gad; Ramoth in Gilead with her suburbs, and Mahanaim with her suburbs,
- 1Ch 6:81 And Heshbon with her suburbs, and Jazer with her suburbs.

Wednesday – October 16th

1. Even though his message received a hostile or indifferent reception, what was Ezekiel commanded to do?

➤ **Ezekiel 2:7** —

NOTE : 'What is the duty of the messenger of truth? Shall he conclude that the truth ought not to be presented, since often its only effect is to arouse men to evade or resist its claims? No; he has no more reason for withholding the testimony of God's word, because it excites opposition, than had earlier Reformers. The confession of faith made by saints and martyrs was recorded for the benefit of succeeding generations. Those living examples of holiness and steadfast integrity have come down to inspire courage in those who are now called to stand as witnesses for God. They received grace and truth, not for themselves alone, but that, through them, the knowledge of God might enlighten the earth. Has God given light to His servants in this generation? Then they should let it shine forth to the world. Anciently the Lord declared to one who spoke in His name: “*The house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto Me.*” [Ezekiel 3:7] Nevertheless He said: “*Thou shalt speak My words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.*” [Ezekiel 2:7] To the servant of God at this time is the command addressed: “*Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.*” [Isaiah 58:1]' —*The Great Controversy*, page 459.

2. How did God describe the role of those chosen to give His warning message?

➤ **Ezekiel 3:17** —

NOTE : 'The position of those who have been called of God to labour in word and doctrine for the upbuilding of His church is one of grave responsibility. In Christ's stead they are to beseech men and women to be reconciled to God, and they can fulfil their mission only as they receive wisdom and power from above. Christ's ministers are the spiritual guardians of the people entrusted to their care. Their work has been likened to that of watchmen. In ancient times sentinels were often stationed on the walls of cities, where, from points of vantage, they could overlook important posts to be guarded, and give warning of the approach of an enemy. Upon their faithfulness depended the safety of all within. At stated intervals they were required to call to one another, to make sure that all were awake and that no harm had befallen any. The cry of good cheer or of warning was borne from one to another, each repeating the call till it echoed round the city.' —*Acts of the Apostles*, page 360

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 300***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 16th

God's People Cherish No Sinful Desires

He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:7

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: "*The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.*" [John 14:30] Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 623 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 7

Descendants of Issachar

- 1Ch 7:1 Now the sons of Issachar *were*, Tola, and Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four.
- 1Ch 7:2 And the sons of Tola; Uzzi, and Rephaiah, and Jeriel, and Jahmai, and Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house, *to wit*, of Tola: *they were* valiant men of might in their generations; whose number *was* in the days of David two and twenty thousand and six hundred.
- 1Ch 7:3 And the sons of Uzzi; Izrahiah: and the sons of Izrahiah; Michael, and Obadiah, and Joel, Ishiah, five: all of them chief men.
- 1Ch 7:4 And with them, by their generations, after the house of their fathers, *were* bands of soldiers for war, six and thirty thousand *men*: for they had many wives and sons.
- 1Ch 7:5 And their brethren among all the families of Issachar *were* valiant men of might, reckoned in all by their genealogies fourscore and seven thousand.

Descendants of Benjamin

- 1Ch 7:6 *The sons* of Benjamin; Bela, and Becher, and Jediael, three.
- 1Ch 7:7 And the sons of Bela; Ezbon, and Uzzi, and Uzziel, and Jerimoth, and Iri, five; heads of the house of *their* fathers, mighty men of valour; and were reckoned by their genealogies twenty and two thousand and thirty and four.
- 1Ch 7:8 And the sons of Becher; Zemira, and Joash, and Eliezer, and Elioenai, and Omri, and Jerimoth, and Abiah, and Anathoth, and Alameth. All these *are* the sons of Becher.
- 1Ch 7:9 And the number of them, after their genealogy by their generations, heads of the house of their fathers, mighty men of valour, *was* twenty thousand and two hundred.
- 1Ch 7:10 The sons also of Jediael; Bilhan: and the sons of Bilhan; Jeush, and Benjamin, and Ehud, and Chenaanah, and Zethan, and Tharshish, and Ahishahar.
- 1Ch 7:11 All these the sons of Jediael, by the heads of their fathers, mighty men of valour, *were* seventeen thousand and two hundred *soldiers*, fit to go out for war *and* battle.
- 1Ch 7:12 Shuphim also, and Huphim, the children of Ir, *and* Hushim, the sons of Aher.

Descendants of Naphtali

- 1Ch 7:13 The sons of Naphtali; Jahziel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

Descendants of Manasseh

- 1Ch 7:14 The sons of Manasseh; Ashriel, whom she bare: (*but* his concubine the Aramitess bare Machir the father of Gilead:
- 1Ch 7:15 And Machir took to wife *the sister* of Huphim and Shuphim, whose sister's name *was* Maachah;) and the name of the second *was* Zelophehad: and Zelophehad had daughters.
- 1Ch 7:16 And Maachah the wife of Machir bare a son, and she called his name Peresh; and the name of his brother *was* Sheresh; and his sons *were* Ulam and Rakem.
- 1Ch 7:17 And the sons of Ulam; Bedan. These *were* the sons of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.
- 1Ch 7:18 And his sister Hammoleketh bare Ishod, and Abiezer, and Mahalah.
- 1Ch 7:19 And the sons of Shemida were, Ahian, and Shechem, and Likhi, and Aniam.

Descendants of Ephraim

- 1Ch 7:20 And the sons of Ephraim; Shuthelah, and Bered his son, and Tahath his son, and Eladah his son, and Tahath his son,
- 1Ch 7:21 And Zabad his son, and Shuthelah his son, and Ezer, and Elead, whom the men of Gath *that were* born in *that* land slew, because they came down to take away their cattle.
- 1Ch 7:22 And Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brethren came to comfort him.
- 1Ch 7:23 And when he went in to his wife, she conceived, and bare a son, and he called his name Beriah, because it went evil with his house.
- 1Ch 7:24 (And his daughter *was* Sherah, who built Bethhoron the nether, and the upper, and Uzzensherah.)
- 1Ch 7:25 And Rephah *was* his son, also Resheph, and Telah his son, and Tahan his son,
- 1Ch 7:26 Laadan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,
- 1Ch 7:27 Non his son, Jehoshua his son.
- 1Ch 7:28 And their possessions and habitations *were*, Bethel and the towns thereof, and eastward Naaran, and westward Gezer, with the towns thereof; Shechem also and the towns thereof, unto Gaza and the towns thereof:
- 1Ch 7:29 And by the borders of the children of Manasseh, Bethshean and her towns, Taanach and her towns, Megiddo and her towns, Dor and her towns. In these dwelt the children of Joseph the son of Israel.

Descendants of Asher

- 1Ch 7:30 The sons of Asher; Imnah, and Isuah, and Ishuai, and Beriah, and Serah their sister.
- 1Ch 7:31 And the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel, who *is* the father of Birzavith.
- 1Ch 7:32 And Heber begat Japhlet, and Shomer, and Hotham, and Shua their sister.
- 1Ch 7:33 And the sons of Japhlet; Pasach, and Bimhal, and Ashvath. These *are* the children of Japhlet.
- 1Ch 7:34 And the sons of Shamer; Ahi, and Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.
- 1Ch 7:35 And the sons of his brother Helem; Zophah, and Imna, and Shelesh, and Amal.
- 1Ch 7:36 The sons of Zophah; Suah, and Harnepher, and Shual, and Beri, and Imrah,
- 1Ch 7:37 Bezer, and Hod, and Shamma, and Shilshah, and Ithran, and Beera.
- 1Ch 7:38 And the sons of Jether; Jephunneh, and Pispah, and Ara.
- 1Ch 7:39 And the sons of Ulla; Arah, and Haniel, and Rezia.
- 1Ch 7:40 All these *were* the children of Asher, heads of *their* father's house, choice *and* mighty men of valour, chief of the princes. And the number throughout the genealogy of them that were apt to the war *and* to battle *was* twenty and six thousand men.

Thursday – October 17th

1. What responsibility does God place upon His watchmen?

➤ Ezekiel 3:18-19 —

➤ Ezekiel 33:7-9 —

NOTE : 'The words of the prophet declare the solemn responsibility of those who are appointed as guardians of the church of God, stewards of the mysteries of God. They are to stand as watchmen on the walls of Zion, to sound the note of alarm at the approach of the enemy. Souls are in danger of falling under temptation, and they will perish unless God's ministers are faithful to their trust. If for any reason their spiritual senses become so benumbed that they are unable to discern danger, and through their failure to give warning the people perish, God will require at their hands the blood of those who are lost. It is the privilege of the watchmen on the walls of Zion to live so near to God, and to be susceptible to the impressions of His Spirit, that He can work through them to tell men and women of their peril and point them to the place of safety. Faithfully are they to warn them of the sure result of transgression, and faithfully are they to safeguard the interests of the church. At no time may they relax their vigilance. Theirs is a work requiring the exercise of every faculty of the being. In trumpet tones their voices are to be lifted, and never are they to sound one wavering, uncertain note. Not for wages are they to labour, but because they cannot do otherwise, because they realize that there is a woe upon them if they fail to preach the gospel. Chosen of God, sealed with the blood of consecration, they are to rescue men and women from impending destruction.' —*Acts of the Apostles, page 361*

2. What messages of warning are given to the world in the last days?

➤ Revelation 14:6-12 —

NOTE : 'In the presentation of unpopular truth, which involves a heavy cross, preachers should be careful that every word is as God would have it. Their words should never cut. They should present the truth in humility, with the deepest love for souls, and an earnest desire for their salvation, and let the truth cut. They should not defy ministers of other denominations, and seek to provoke a debate. They should not stand in a position like that of Goliath when he defied the armies of Israel. Israel did not defy Goliath but Goliath made his proud boasts against God and His people. The defying, the boasting, and the railing must come from the opposers of truth, who act the Goliath. But none of this spirit should be seen in those whom God has sent forth to proclaim the last message of warning to a doomed world.' —*Evangelism, page 162*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 301***

***“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”
--
“Christ's Return”***

October 17th

The Battle Against Self Continues

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:24

So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560, 561 (1911).

Constant war against the carnal mind must be maintained; and we must be aided by the refining influence of the grace of God, which will attract the mind upward and habituate it to meditate upon pure and holy things.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 479 (1870).

We may create an unreal world in our own mind or picture an ideal church, where the temptations of Satan no longer prompt to evil; but perfection exists only in our imagination.—*The Review and Herald*, Aug. 8, 1893.

When human beings receive holy flesh, they will not remain on the earth, but will be taken to heaven. While sin is forgiven in this life, its results are not now wholly removed. It is at His coming that Christ is to "*change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.*" [Philippians 3:21]—*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 33 (1901).

Daily Scripture

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 8

A Genealogy of Saul

- 1Ch 8:1 Now Benjamin begat Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, and Aharah the third,
1Ch 8:2 Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.
1Ch 8:3 And the sons of Bela were, Addar, and Gera, and Abihud,
1Ch 8:4 And Abishua, and Naaman, and Ahoah,
1Ch 8:5 And Gera, and Shephuphan, and Huram.
1Ch 8:6 And these *are* the sons of Ehud: these are the heads of the fathers of the inhabitants of Geba, and they removed them to Manahath:
1Ch 8:7 And Naaman, and Ahiah, and Gera, he removed them, and begat Uzza, and Ahihud.
1Ch 8:8 And Shaharaim begat *children* in the country of Moab, after he had sent them away; Hushim and Baara *were* his wives.
1Ch 8:9 And he begat of Hodesh his wife, Jobab, and Zibia, and Mesha, and Malcham,
1Ch 8:10 And Jeuz, and Shachia, and Mirma. These *were* his sons, heads of the fathers.
1Ch 8:11 And of Hushim he begat Abitub, and Elpaal.
1Ch 8:12 The sons of Elpaal; Eber, and Misham, and Shamed, who built Ono, and Lod, with the towns thereof:
1Ch 8:13 Beriah also, and Shema, who *were* heads of the fathers of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who drove away the inhabitants of Gath:
1Ch 8:14 And Ahio, Shashak, and Jeremoth,
1Ch 8:15 And Zebadiah, and Arad, and Ader,
1Ch 8:16 And Michael, and Ispah, and Joha, the sons of Beriah;
1Ch 8:17 And Zebadiah, and Meshullam, and Hezeki, and Heber,
1Ch 8:18 Ishmerai also, and Jezliah, and Jobab, the sons of Elpaal;
1Ch 8:19 And Jakim, and Zichri, and Zabdi,
1Ch 8:20 And Elienai, and Zilthai, and Eliel,
1Ch 8:21 And Adaiah, and Beraiah, and Shimrath, the sons of Shimhi;
1Ch 8:22 And Ishpan, and Heber, and Eliel,
1Ch 8:23 And Abdon, and Zichri, and Hanan,
1Ch 8:24 And Hananiah, and Elam, and Antothijah,
1Ch 8:25 And Iphedeiah, and Penuel, the sons of Shashak;
1Ch 8:26 And Shamsherai, and Shehariah, and Athaliah,
1Ch 8:27 And Jaresiah, and Eliah, and Zichri, the sons of Jeroham.
1Ch 8:28 These *were* heads of the fathers, by their generations, chief *men*. These dwelt in Jerusalem.
1Ch 8:29 And at Gibeon dwelt the father of Gibeon; whose wife's name *was* Maachah:
1Ch 8:30 And his firstborn son Abdon, and Zur, and Kish, and Baal, and Nadab,
1Ch 8:31 And Gedor, and Ahio, and Zacher.
1Ch 8:32 And Mikloth begat Shimeah. And these also dwelt with their brethren in Jerusalem, over against them.

- 1Ch 8:33 And Ner begat Kish, and Kish begat Saul, and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchishua, and Abinadab, and Eshbaal.
- 1Ch 8:34 And the son of Jonathan *was* Meribbaal; and Meribbaal begat Micah.
- 1Ch 8:35 And the sons of Micah *were*, Pithon, and Melech, and Tarea, and Ahaz.
- 1Ch 8:36 And Ahaz begat Jehoadah; and Jehoadah begat Alemeth, and Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begat Moza,
- 1Ch 8:37 And Moza begat Binea: Rapha *was* his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son:
- 1Ch 8:38 And Azel had six sons, whose names *are* these, Azrikam, Bocheru, and Ishmael, and Sheariah, and Obadiah, and Hanan. All these *were* the sons of Azel.
- 1Ch 8:39 And the sons of Eshek his brother *were*, Ulam his firstborn, Jehush the second, and Eliphelet the third.
- 1Ch 8:40 And the sons of Ulam were mighty men of valour, archers, and had many sons, and sons' sons, an hundred and fifty. All these *are* of the sons of Benjamin.

Preparation Day – October 18th

1. Will the whole world heed the messages of warning?

➤ **Luke 18:8, last part —**

NOTE : 'This is a time when the question with all propriety may be asked, “*When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*” [Luke 18:8] Spiritual darkness has covered the earth and gross darkness the people. There are in many churches scepticism and infidelity in the interpretation of the Scriptures. Many, very many, are questioning the verity and truth of the Scriptures. Human reasoning and the imaginings of the human heart are undermining the inspiration of the Word of God, and that which should be received as granted, is surrounded with a cloud of mysticism. Nothing stands out in clear and distinct lines, upon rock bottom. This is one of the marked signs of the last days.' —*Selected Messages, Book 1, page 15*

2. What is the final message of warning to be given in the world?

➤ **Revelation 18:1-4 —**

NOTE : 'The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are “the times of refreshing” to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: “*Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus.*” [Acts 3:19-20]

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [see Revelation 13:13] Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand. The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.'—*The Great Controversy, pages 611-612*

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Preparation Day, October 18th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 302***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 18th

The 144,000

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 14:3

They sing "*a new song before the throne*" [Revelation 14:3], a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song, for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. "*These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.*" [Revelation 14:4] These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as "*the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb*" [Revelation 14:4] [see also Revelation 15:2-3 & 14:1-5] "*These are they which came out of great tribulation*"; [Revelation 7:14] they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 648, 649 (1911).

It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, Who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand? This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 174 (1901).

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, October 18th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 9

A Genealogy of the Returned Exiles

- 1Ch 9:1 So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and, behold, they *were* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, *who* were carried away to Babylon for their transgression.
- 1Ch 9:2 Now the first inhabitants that *dwelt* in their possessions in their cities *were*, the Israelites, the priests, Levites, and the Nethinims.
- 1Ch 9:3 And in Jerusalem dwelt of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh;
- 1Ch 9:4 Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the children of Pharez the son of Judah.
- 1Ch 9:5 And of the Shilonites; Asaiah the firstborn, and his sons.
- 1Ch 9:6 And of the sons of Zerah; Jeuel, and their brethren, six hundred and ninety.
- 1Ch 9:7 And of the sons of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hasenuah,
- 1Ch 9:8 And Ibneiah the son of Jeroham, and Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephathiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah;
- 1Ch 9:9 And their brethren, according to their generations, nine hundred and fifty and six. All these men *were* chief of the fathers in the house of their fathers.
- 1Ch 9:10 And of the priests; Jedaiah, and Jehoiarib, and Jachin,
- 1Ch 9:11 And Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the ruler of the house of God;
- 1Ch 9:12 And Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah, and Maasiai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;
- 1Ch 9:13 And their brethren, heads of the house of their fathers, a thousand and seven hundred and threescore; very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.
- 1Ch 9:14 And of the Levites; Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;
- 1Ch 9:15 And Bakbakkar, Heresh, and Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph;
- 1Ch 9:16 And Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, that dwelt in the villages of the Netophathites.
- 1Ch 9:17 And the porters *were*, Shallum, and Akkub, and Talmon, and Ahiman, and their brethren: Shallum *was* the chief;
- 1Ch 9:18 Who hitherto *waited* in the king's gate eastward: they *were* porters in the companies of the children of Levi.
- 1Ch 9:19 And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, *were* over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle: and their fathers, *being* over the host of the LORD, *were* keepers of the entry.
- 1Ch 9:20 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the ruler over them in time past, *and* the LORD *was* with him.
- 1Ch 9:21 *And* Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah *was* porter of the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

- 1Ch 9:22 All these *which were* chosen to be porters in the gates *were* two hundred and twelve. These were reckoned by their genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer did ordain in their set office.
- 1Ch 9:23 So they and their children *had* the oversight of the gates of the house of the LORD, *namely*, the house of the tabernacle, by wards.
- 1Ch 9:24 In four quarters were the porters, toward the east, west, north, and south.
- 1Ch 9:25 And their brethren, *which were* in their villages, *were* to come after seven days from time to time with them.
- 1Ch 9:26 For these Levites, the four chief porters, were in *their* set office, and were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God.
- 1Ch 9:27 And they lodged round about the house of God, because the charge *was* upon them, and the opening thereof every morning *pertained* to them.
- 1Ch 9:28 And *certain* of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, that they should bring them in and out by tale.
- 1Ch 9:29 *Some* of them also *were* appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices.
- 1Ch 9:30 And *some* of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices.
- 1Ch 9:31 And Mattithiah, *one* of the Levites, who *was* the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans.
- 1Ch 9:32 And *other* of their brethren, of the sons of the Kohathites, *were* over the shewbread, to prepare *it* every sabbath.
- 1Ch 9:33 And these *are* the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, *who remaining* in the chambers *were* free: for they were employed in *that* work day and night.
- 1Ch 9:34 These chief fathers of the Levites *were* chief throughout their generations; these dwelt at Jerusalem.

Saul's Genealogy Repeated

- 1Ch 9:35 And in Gibeon dwelt the father of Gibeon, Jehiel, whose wife's name *was* Maachah:
- 1Ch 9:36 And his firstborn son Abdon, then Zur, and Kish, and Baal, and Ner, and Nadab,
- 1Ch 9:37 And Gedor, and Ahio, and Zechariah, and Mikloth.
- 1Ch 9:38 And Mikloth begat Shimeam. And they also dwelt with their brethren at Jerusalem, over against their brethren.
- 1Ch 9:39 And Ner begat Kish; and Kish begat Saul; and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchishua, and Abinadab, and Eshbaal.
- 1Ch 9:40 And the son of Jonathan *was* Meribbaal: and Meribbaal begat Micah.
- 1Ch 9:41 And the sons of Micah *were*, Pithon, and Melech, and Tahrea, *and Ahaz*.
- 1Ch 9:42 And Ahaz begat Jarah; and Jarah begat Alemeth, and Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begat Moza;
- 1Ch 9:43 And Moza begat Binea; and Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.
- 1Ch 9:44 And Azel had six sons, whose names *are* these, Azrikam, Bocheru, and Ishmael, and Sheariah, and Obadiah, and Hanan: these *were* the sons of Azel.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, October 18th, 2024



Marisa woke up suddenly at 2:30 in the morning. There was no reason for her to wake up. She had been sound asleep in her third-floor apartment in Spokane, Washington. She wondered if she needed to go to the bathroom.

A few minutes later, she was walking back to the bedroom from the bathroom when she noticed an unusual yellow glow outside the window. Looking out the window, she saw hot flames shooting up outside her bedroom wall. Her apartment building was on fire.

Marisa called out to her two dogs, Maggie and Daisey.

“Girls, come!” she commanded.

The dogs were cowering in a corner. They knew something was wrong.

At Marisa’s command, the dogs followed her to the living room. She opened the front door, and black smoke billowed in. She slammed the door shut.

“Girls, come!” she said.

Marisa and the dogs went to the balcony. Looking down from the third floor, Marisa saw people running around. The apartment building was across the street from a park where homeless people slept. Now homeless people were banging frantically on windows and doors, urging people to get out of their beds and apartments. One homeless man seemed to be in charge, and Marisa called down to him.

“Help!” she cried. “I don’t know what to do. I can’t get out my front door.”

The man looked up and grew very serious. “If you want to live, you have to jump,” he said.

“But I have two dogs.”

“You have to throw them down.”

Marisa scooped up one dog and dropped it.

Then the other. After that, she climbed over the railing and fell to the second-floor balcony. From there, she dropped to the ground.

She sustained bruises and a sprained ankle, but she didn’t notice them. Her only worry was for her dogs.

“Maggie!” she cried. “Daisey!”

A neighbor said she had seen the dogs land safely and run toward the park.

That was a huge relief to Marisa, and she headed to the park, calling for them.

There was no sign of the dogs.

Marisa remembered that her cell phone was in the apartment. The only phone number that she had memorized was her brother’s. Marisa borrowed someone’s phone and called him. He answered on the second ring. Marisa was surprised. He slept soundly and was hard to wake up.

Marisa told him what was happening. “I need you to come get me and help look for my dogs,” she said.

Her brother came over, and the two drove around, looking for the dogs.

Fire trucks arrived.

“I’m impressed that we need to go back to the park,” Marisa said.

At the park, she called for the dogs, and Maggie came running up. Marisa was so happy! She fell to the ground, crying and hugging the dog.

It took 17 hours to find Daisey. Strangers combed the street. A social media page for missing pets posted a notice. A local television channel interviewed Marisa about the dog, and the police even put out a bulletin.

That night, Marisa’s brother called to say that Daisey had been found. He had been calling for Daisey on the street, and the dog had recognized his voice and run to him. Bystanders pulled out their cellphones to record Marisa’s joyful reunion with the dog.

For Marisa, it was a night of miracles. She lost everything in the fire. But God saved her life and the lives of her dogs.

But why?

As Marisa prayed for answers, she sensed God reply, “Because I am not finished with you yet.” The words were balm to her soul.

Marisa worked in adolescent and child mental health. She had been employed by the U.S. government as a juvenile correctional officer and by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But when Covid hit, she found herself unemployed. Normally upbeat, she found herself in a dark period that she couldn’t seem to escape.

The fire snapped her out of the deep sadness. Realizing that God wasn’t finished with her yet, she remembered her calling to work with children, and she decided to return to it.

Months later, she moved to Arizona to work as the head girls’ dean at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. In the girls’ dormitory, she oversees several dozen girls with the help of Maggie and Daisey, who the girls love.

She couldn’t be happier.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” she said.


This mission story offers an inside look at a face behind the scenes at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, which received part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2018 and 2021 to construct a Student Life Center. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help spread the gospel in the North American Division.

By Andrew McChesney


LESSON 4

“THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH”

October 19 - October 25

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”
[James 5:17]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Conflict & Courage, page 205

 **SCRIPTURE :** 1 Kings 18

⌘ LESSON AIM : To study the part that faith played in the ministry of Elijah.

🗨 INTRODUCTION : As [Elijah] 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. Faith such as this is needed in the world today, faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears.'
Conflict & Courage, page 211

Sabbath – October 19th

1. What proposal did Elijah make to the prophets of Baal to determine which is the true God?

➤ 1 Kings 18:22-24 —

NOTE : 'While Israel on Carmel doubt and hesitate, the voice of Elijah again breaks the silence: “*I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and call you on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answers by fire, let him be God.*” [1 Kings 18:22-24]'—*Prophets & Kings*, page 148.

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

EGW Study Help

Sabbath, October 19th, 2024

**Conflict and Courage
Chapter 7, p. 205**

July 18th

A Voice in the Wilderness

And Elijah the Tishbite, ... said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 Kings 17:1

Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God’s purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed....

To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven’s message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord’s messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honour of God’s cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king....

It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God’s word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief. He fully believed that God would humble apostate Israel, and that through judgments they would be brought to repentance. The fiat of Heaven had gone forth; God’s word could not fail; and at the peril of his life Elijah fearlessly fulfilled his commission.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, October 19th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 303***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 19th

God's People Delivered

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalm 91:15

Satan's host and wicked men will surround them and exult over them because there will seem to be no way of escape for them. But in the midst of their revelry and triumph there is heard peal upon peal of the loudest thunder. The heavens have gathered blackness, and are only illuminated by the blazing light and terrible glory from heaven, as God utters His voice from His holy habitation.

The foundations of the earth shake, buildings totter and fall with a terrible crash. The sea boils like a pot and the whole earth is in terrible commotion. The captivity of the righteous is turned, and with sweet and solemn whisperings they say to one another: "We are delivered. It is the voice of God." [EGW]—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 353, 354 (1862)*.

When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honour the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

The people of God--some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains--still plead for divine protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. . . . With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. . .

It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. . . . In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, "*It is done.*" [Revelation 16:17] That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. . . .

The proudest cities of the earth are laid low. The lordly palaces, upon which the world's great men have lavished their wealth in order to glorify themselves, are crumbling to ruin before their eyes. Prison walls are rent asunder, and God's people, who have been held in bondage for their faith, are set free.—*The Great Controversy, p. 635-637 (1911)*.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, October 19th, 2024

1st Chronicles

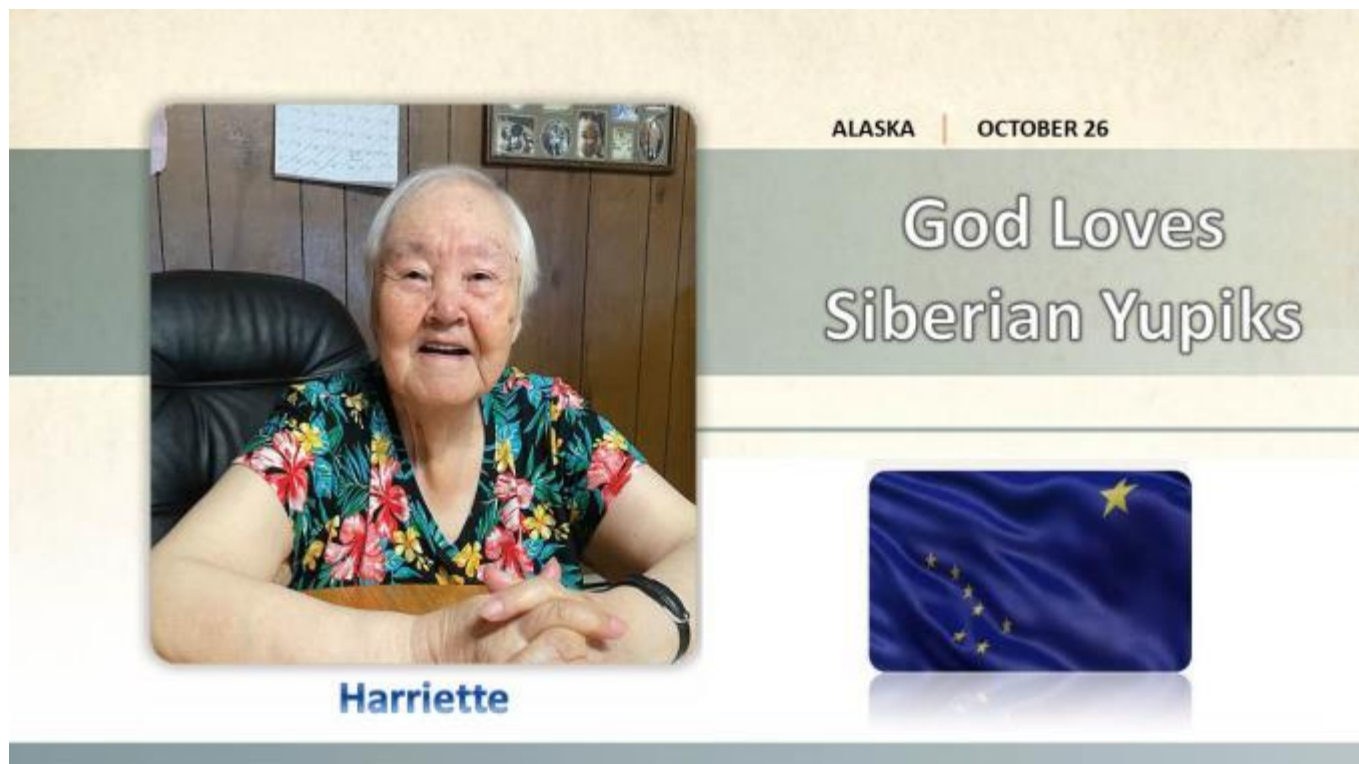
Chapter 10

The Death of Saul and His Sons

- 1Ch 10:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.
- 1Ch 10:2 And the Philistines followed hard after Saul, and after his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul.
- 1Ch 10:3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers.
- 1Ch 10:4 Then said Saul to his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. So Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.
- 1Ch 10:5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died.
- 1Ch 10:6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.
- 1Ch 10:7 And when all the men of Israel that *were* in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled: and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.
- 1Ch 10:8 And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen in mount Gilboa.
- 1Ch 10:9 And when they had stripped him, they took his head, and his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry tidings unto their idols, and to the people.
- 1Ch 10:10 And they put his armour in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.
- 1Ch 10:11 And when all Jabeshgilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,
- 1Ch 10:12 They arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.
- 1Ch 10:13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, *even* against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking *counsel* of *one that had* a familiar spirit, to enquire *of it*;
- 1Ch 10:14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, October 19th, 2024



Great-Grandmother Harriette has lived her whole life of 92 years on St. Lawrence Island. Can you find St. Lawrence Island on the map? It is way up near the North Pole. It is an island located in the Bering Sea right between the U.S. state of Alaska and Russia. On a clear day, you can see Russia from the western shore.

Great-Grandmother Harriette lives in Savoonga, the largest town on the island. About 830 people live in the town, and she is one of them. Nearly everyone who lives in Savoonga is Siberian Yupik, and she is, too.

Great-Grandmother Harriette lives in a house with her daughters and granddaughters and great-granddaughters. If you visit her house on a summer afternoon, you will see that she is the only person who is awake. More likely than not, you will find Great-Grandmother Harriette sitting in a chair at the kitchen table, sipping a glass of water. She loves water. You will find her daughters and granddaughters and great-granddaughters sleeping on mattresses on the living room floor. During the summer, the Alaskan sun sets at 2:30 in the morning, so it is difficult for people to fall asleep at night. As a result, many people go to bed really late, and they get up really late. Great-Grandmother Harriette’s daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters go to bed really late and get up really late.

But Great-Grandmother Harriette is used to the late-setting sun. She likes to go to bed early and to get up early. She also likes to take naps. It doesn’t bother her that her family is walking around the house while she is sleeping. Her family doesn’t mind if she walks around the house while they are sleeping. In fact, visitors can walk through the living room in the middle of the day, and no one wakes up.

Great-Grandmother Harriette learned about God from her own parents when she was a little girl. There was only one church in town at the time, and she went to it every Sunday. She loved going to church. She loved worshipping God because she knew that He takes care of the Siberian Yupik people.

As Great-Grandmother Harriette grew older, the church also grew older. It began to fall apart, and water dripped down the walls when the snow melted. Finally, the church was closed.

Meanwhile, a Seventh-day Adventist church opened in town.

Great-Grandmother Harriette went to the Adventist church a few times before her church closed. The people at the Adventist church welcomed her warmly, and she decided to keep going there when her church closed. She loved going to church — now on Sabbath instead of Sunday. She loved worshipping God because she knew that He takes care of the Siberian Yupik people.

But then the Adventist pastor left, and the Adventist church closed. There was no church in Savoonga where Great-Grandmother Harriette could worship. She missed going to church. But she had faith that the church would reopen because she knew God takes care of the Siberian Yupik people.

A few years passed. Then an Adventist husband and wife moved to Savoonga and reopened the church. The husband and wife were retired nurses who came from far, far away in North Carolina. They volunteered to live in Savoonga to make sure that the church was open every Sabbath.

Great-Grandmother Harriette was so happy! She could go to church again. She loved going to church. She loved worshipping God because she knew that He takes care of the Siberian Yupik people.

Then the husband died, and Great-Grandmother Harriette wondered if the church would close. But the man’s wife, Elouise, decided to stay and keep the church open.

Several more years passed, and Elouise had some health problems. She had to fly back to North Carolina to get treated by a doctor. The church closed. The town was left without any churches.

Great-Grandmother Harriette is praying for the Adventist church to reopen. She is praying that God will send Elouise or someone else to Savoonga so she can worship God at the church again. She knows God has heard her prayers. She knows that God always takes care of the Siberian Yupik people. “God is so powerful,” she said. “I always call on Him.”

Pray for Savoonga. Pray for Alaska. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help share God’s love in Alaska.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – October 20th

1. What opportunity did Elijah offer to Jezebel's prophets to prove that Baal was the true God?

➤ **1 Kings 18:25** —

NOTE : 'The proposal of Elijah is so reasonable that the people cannot well evade it, so they find courage to answer, “*It is well spoken.*” [1 Kings 18:24] The prophets of Baal dare not lift their voices in dissent; and, addressing them, Elijah directs, “*Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for you are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.*” [1 Kings 18:25]' —*Prophets & Kings, page 149*

2. What was the result of the prayers of the prophets of Baal?

➤ **1 Kings 18:26** —

NOTE : 'Outwardly bold and defiant, but with terror in their guilty hearts, the false priests prepare their altar, laying on the wood and the victim; and then they begin their incantations. Their shrill cries echo and re-echo through the forests and the surrounding heights, as they call on the name of their god, saying, “*O Baal, hear us.*” [1 Kings 18:26] The priests gather about their altar, and with leaping and writhing and screaming, with tearing of hair and cutting of flesh, they beseech their god to help them. The morning passes, noon comes, and yet there is no evidence that Baal hears the cries of his deluded followers. There is no voice, no reply to their frantic prayers. The sacrifice remains unconsumed. As they continue their frenzied devotions, the crafty priests are continually trying to devise some means by which they may kindle a fire upon the altar and lead the people to believe that the fire has come direct from Baal. But Elijah watches every movement; and the priests, hoping against hope for some opportunity to deceive, continue to carry on their senseless ceremonies.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 149*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, October 20th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 304***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 20th

The Seventh Plague and the Special Resurrection

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

Revelation 1:7

There is a mighty earthquake, "*such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.*" [Revelation 16:17, 18] The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. . . . The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. Mountain chains are sinking. Inhabited islands disappear. The seaports that have become like Sodom for wickedness are swallowed up by the angry waters. . . . Great hailstones, everyone "*about the weight of a talent,*" [Revelation 16:21] are doing their work of destruction

Graves are opened, and "*many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, 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.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 636, 637 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sunday, October 20th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 11

David Anointed King

- 1Ch 11:1 Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh.
- 1Ch 11:2 And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou *wast* he that led out and brought in Israel: and the LORD thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel.
- 1Ch 11:3 Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

David Takes Jerusalem

- 1Ch 11:4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which *is* Jebus; where the Jebusites *were*, the inhabitants of the land.
- 1Ch 11:5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which *is* the city of David.
- 1Ch 11:6 And David said, Whosoever smites the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief.
- 1Ch 11:7 And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David.
- 1Ch 11:8 And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about: and Joab repaired the rest of the city.
- 1Ch 11:9 So David waxed greater and greater: for the LORD of hosts *was* with him.

David's Mighty Men

- 1Ch 11:10 These also *are* the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, *and* with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.
- 1Ch 11:11 And this *is* the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, an Hachmonite, the chief of the captains: he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain *by him* at one time.
- 1Ch 11:12 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who *was one* of the three mighties.
- 1Ch 11:13 He was with David at Pasdammim, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle, where was a parcel of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Philistines.
- 1Ch 11:14 And they set themselves in the midst of *that* parcel, and delivered it, and slew the Philistines; and the LORD saved *them* by a great deliverance.
- 1Ch 11:15 Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim.
- 1Ch 11:16 And David *was* then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison *was* then at Bethlehem.
- 1Ch 11:17 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that *is* at the gate!
- 1Ch 11:18 And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that *was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it* to David: but David would not drink *of* it, but poured it out to the LORD,
- 1Ch 11:19 And said, My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing: shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? for with *the jeopardy of* their lives they brought it. Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest.
- 1Ch 11:20 And Abishai the brother of Joab, he was chief of the three: for lifting up his spear against three hundred, he slew *them*, and had a name among the three.

- 1Ch 11:21 Of the three, he was more honourable than the two; for he was their captain: howbeit he attained not to the *first* three.
- 1Ch 11:22 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lion-like men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day.
- 1Ch 11:23 And he slew an Egyptian, a man of *great* stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand *was* a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.
- 1Ch 11:24 These *things* did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among the three mighties.
- 1Ch 11:25 Behold, he was honourable among the thirty, but attained not to the *first* three: and David set him over his guard.
- 1Ch 11:26 Also the valiant men of the armies *were*, Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,
- 1Ch 11:27 Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,
- 1Ch 11:28 Ira the son of Ikesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Antothite,
- 1Ch 11:29 Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,
- 1Ch 11:30 Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,
- 1Ch 11:31 Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, *that pertained* to the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,
- 1Ch 11:32 Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,
- 1Ch 11:33 Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,
- 1Ch 11:34 The sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shage the Hararite,
- 1Ch 11:35 Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphaz the son of Ur,
- 1Ch 11:36 Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,
- 1Ch 11:37 Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,
- 1Ch 11:38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Haggeri,
- 1Ch 11:39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armourbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,
- 1Ch 11:40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,
- 1Ch 11:41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai,
- 1Ch 11:42 Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a captain of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,
- 1Ch 11:43 Hanan the son of Maachah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite,
- 1Ch 11:44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jehiel the sons of Hothan the Aroerite,
- 1Ch 11:45 Jediahel the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite,
- 1Ch 11:46 Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite,
- 1Ch 11:47 Eliel, and Obed, and Jasiel the Mesobaite.

Monday – October 21st

1. What mocking encouragement did Elijah offer and what was the result?

➤ **1 Kings 18:27-29** —

NOTE : 'Gladly would Satan have come to the help of those whom he had deceived, and who were devoted to his service. Gladly would he have sent the lightning to kindle their sacrifice. But Jehovah has set Satan's bounds, restrained his power, and not all the enemy's devices can convey one spark to Baal's altar. At last, their voices hoarse with shouting, their garments stained with blood from self-inflicted wounds, the priests become desperate. With unabated frenzy they now mingle with their pleading terrible cursings of their sun-god, and Elijah continues to watch intently; for he knows that if by any device the priests should succeed in kindling their altar fire, he would instantly be torn in pieces. Evening draws on. The prophets of Baal are weary, faint, confused. One suggests one thing, and another something else, until finally they cease their efforts. Their shrieks and curses no longer resound over Carmel. In despair they retire from the contest. All day long the people have witnessed the demonstrations of the baffled priests. They have beheld their wild leaping round the altar, as if they would grasp the burning rays of the sun to serve their purpose. They have looked with horror on the frightful, self-inflicted mutilations of the priests, and have had opportunity to reflect on the follies of idol worship. Many in the throng are weary of the exhibitions of demonism, and they now await with deepest interest the movements of Elijah.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 150.*

2. What preparations did Elijah make to ensure that there was no suspicion of trickery?

➤ **1 Kings 18:30-35** —

NOTE : 'After the victim is laid upon the altar, he commands the people to flood the sacrifice and the altar with water, and to fill the trench round about the altar. He then reverentially bows before the unseen God, raises his hands toward heaven, and offers a calm and simple prayer, unattended with violent gestures or contortions of the body.' —*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, page 284.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, October 21st, 2024

*Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 305*

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 21st

God Announces the Time of Christ's Coming

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:27

Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back. Then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God.—*Early Writings, p. 41 (1851).*

Soon we heard the voice of God [THE VOICE OF GOD IS HEARD REPEATEDLY DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CHRIST'S RETURN. SEE THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, PP. 632, 633, 636, 638, 640, 641.] like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. —*Early Writings, p. 15 (1851).*

As God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming, and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Hallelujah!" Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God, and they shone with glory as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look upon them for the glory. And when the never-ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honoured God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image. —*Early Writings, p. 285, 286 (1858).*

I have not the slightest knowledge as to the time spoken by the voice of God. I heard the hour proclaimed, but had no remembrance of that hour after I came out of vision. Scenes of such thrilling, solemn interest passed before me as no language is adequate to describe. It was all a living reality to me, for close upon this scene appeared the great white cloud, upon which was seated the Son of man.—*Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 76 (1888).*

Daily Scripture

Monday, October 21st, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 12

The Mighty Men Join David

- 1Ch 12:1 Now these *are* they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they *were* among the mighty men, helpers of the war.
- 1Ch 12:2 *They were* armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in *hurling* stones and *shooting* arrows out of a bow, *even* of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.
- 1Ch 12:3 The chief *was* Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite,
- 1Ch 12:4 And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,
- 1Ch 12:5 Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,
- 1Ch 12:6 Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites,
- 1Ch 12:7 And Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.
- 1Ch 12:8 And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, *and* men of war *fit* for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces *were like* the faces of lions, and *were* as swift as the roes upon the mountains;
- 1Ch 12:9 Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,
- 1Ch 12:10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,
- 1Ch 12:11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,
- 1Ch 12:12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,
- 1Ch 12:13 Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh.
- 1Ch 12:14 These *were* of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least *was* over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand.
- 1Ch 12:15 These *are* they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all *them* of the valleys, *both* toward the east, and toward the west.
- 1Ch 12:16 And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David.
- 1Ch 12:17 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye become peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if *ye be come* to betray me to mine enemies, seeing *there is* no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look *thereon*, and rebuke *it*.
- 1Ch 12:18 Then the spirit came upon Amasai, *who was* chief of the captains, *and he said*, Thine *are we*, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace *be* unto thee, and peace *be* to thine helpers; for thy God help thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.
- 1Ch 12:19 And there fell *some* of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to *the jeopardy of* our heads.
- 1Ch 12:20 As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediah, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that *were* of Manasseh.
- 1Ch 12:21 And they helped David against the band *of the rovers*: for they *were* all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host.
- 1Ch 12:22 For at *that* time day by day there came to David to help him, until *it was* a great host, like the host of God.
- 1Ch 12:23 And these *are* the numbers of the bands *that were* ready armed to the war, *and* came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.
- 1Ch 12:24 The children of Judah that bare shield and spear *were* six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.

- 1Ch 12:25 Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.
- 1Ch 12:26 Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred.
- 1Ch 12:27 And Jehoiada *was* the leader of the Aaronites, and with him *were* three thousand and seven hundred;
- 1Ch 12:28 And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.
- 1Ch 12:29 And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.
- 1Ch 12:30 And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers.
- 1Ch 12:31 And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king.
- 1Ch 12:32 And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them *were* two hundred; and all their brethren *were* at their commandment.
- 1Ch 12:33 Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: *they were* not of double heart.
- 1Ch 12:34 And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.
- 1Ch 12:35 And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.
- 1Ch 12:36 And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand.
- 1Ch 12:37 And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand.
- 1Ch 12:38 All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel *were* of one heart to make David king.
- 1Ch 12:39 And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them.
- 1Ch 12:40 Moreover they that were nigh them, *even* unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, *and* meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for *there was* joy in Israel.

Tuesday – October 22nd

1. What prayer of faith did Elijah make and how was it answered?

➤ **1 Kings 18:36-39** —

NOTE : 'No sooner is the prayer of Elijah ended than flames of fire, like brilliant flashes of lightning, descend from heaven upon the upreared altar, consuming the sacrifice, licking up the water in the trench, and consuming even the stones of the altar. The brilliancy of the blaze illumines the mountain and dazzles the eyes of the multitude. In the valleys below, where many are watching in anxious suspense the movements of those above, the descent of fire is clearly seen, and all are amazed at the sight. It resembles the pillar of fire which at the Red Sea separated the children of Israel from the Egyptian host.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 152.*

2. What prophecy did Elijah make in faith to Ahab?

➤ **1 Kings 18:41** —

NOTE : 'Elijah had set before the people their apostasy; he had called upon them to humble their hearts and turn to the Lord. The judgments of Heaven had been executed; the people had confessed their sins, and had acknowledged the God of their fathers as the living God; and now the curse of Heaven was to be withdrawn, and the temporal blessings of life renewed. The land was to be refreshed with rain. “*Get thee up, eat and drink,*” [1 Kings 18:41] Elijah said to Ahab; “*for there is a sound of abundance of rain.*” [1 Kings 18:41] Then the prophet went to the top of the mount to pray. It was not because of any outward evidence that the showers were about to fall, that Elijah could so confidently bid Ahab prepare for rain. The prophet saw no clouds in the heavens; he heard no thunder. He simply spoke the word that the Spirit of the Lord had moved him to speak in response to his own strong faith.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 155.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 306***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 22nd

The Terror of the Lost

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

James 5:3

When the earth is reeling to and fro like a drunkard, when the heavens are shaking and the great day of the Lord has come, who shall be able to stand? One object they behold in trembling agony from which they will try in vain to escape. *"Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him"* [Revelation 1:7] The unsaved utter wild imprecations to dumb nature--their god: *"Mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne."* [Revelation 6:16]—*That I May Know Him*, p. 356 (1896).

When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life. . . . The gain of a lifetime is swept away in a moment. The rich bemoan the destruction of their grand houses, the scattering of their gold and silver. . . . The wicked are filled with regret, not because of their sinful neglect of God and their fellow men, but because God has conquered. They lament that the result is what it is, but they do not repent of their wickedness.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 654 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 13

The Ark Brought from Kiriath-Jearim

- 1Ch 13:1 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, *and* with every leader.
- 1Ch 13:2 And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If *it seem* good unto you, and *that it be* of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren everywhere, *that are* left in all the land of Israel, and with them *also* to the priests and Levites *which are* in their cities *and* suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us:
- 1Ch 13:3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.
- 1Ch 13:4 And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

Uzzah and the Ark

- 1Ch 13:5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hemath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjathjearim.
- 1Ch 13:6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, *that is*, to Kirjathjearim, which *belonged* to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth *between* the cherubims, whose name is called *on it*.
- 1Ch 13:7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.
- 1Ch 13:8 And David and all Israel played before God with all *their* might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.
- 1Ch 13:9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.
- 1Ch 13:10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.
- 1Ch 13:11 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perezuzza to this day.
- 1Ch 13:12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God *home* to me?
- 1Ch 13:13 So David brought not the ark *home* to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.
- 1Ch 13:14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obedom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obedom, and all that he had.

Wednesday – October 23rd

1. Having given this prophecy to Ahab, what did Elijah then do?

➤ **1 Kings 18:42** —

➤ **James 5:18** —

NOTE : 'Throughout the day he had unflinchingly performed the will of God and had revealed his implicit confidence in the prophecies of God's word; and now, having done all that was in his power to do, he knew that Heaven would freely bestow the blessings foretold. The same God who had sent the drought had promised an abundance of rain as the reward of right doing; and now Elijah waited for the promised outpouring. In an attitude of humility, “*his face between his knees*,” [1 Kings 18:42] he interceded with God in behalf of penitent Israel.' —*Prophets & Kings*, page 156.

2. As he prayed, what instruction did Elijah give to his servant?

➤ **1 Kings 18:43** —

NOTE : 'Important lessons are presented to us in the experience of Elijah. When upon Mt. Carmel he offered the prayer for rain, his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. Had he given up in discouragement at the sixth time, his prayer would not have been answered, but he persevered till the answer came. We have a God whose ear is not closed to our petitions; and if we prove His word, He will honour our faith. He wants us to have all our interests interwoven with His interests, and then He can safely bless us; for we shall not then take glory to self when the blessing is ours, but shall render all the praise to God. God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favours He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to realise our dependence upon Him, and our need of His help.' —*Conflict & Courage*, page 212.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 307***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

***--
“Christ's Return”***

October 23rd

Jesus Descends in Power and Glory

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

1 Kings 18:44

Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour, and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. . .

With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms--"*ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.*" [Revelation 5:11] No human pen can portray the scene, no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendour. . .

The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 640-642 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 14

David's Wives and Children

- 1Ch 14:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and timber of cedars, with masons and carpenters, to build him an house.
- 1Ch 14:2 And David perceived that the LORD had confirmed him king over Israel, for his kingdom was lifted up on high, because of his people Israel.
- 1Ch 14:3 And David took more wives at Jerusalem: and David begat more sons and daughters.
- 1Ch 14:4 Now these *are* the names of *his* children which he had in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon,
- 1Ch 14:5 And Ibhar, and Elishua, and Elpalet,
- 1Ch 14:6 And Nogah, and Nepheg, and Japhia,
- 1Ch 14:7 And Elishama, and Beeliada, and Eliphalet.

Philistines Defeated

- 1Ch 14:8 And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard *of it*, and went out against them.
- 1Ch 14:9 And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.
- 1Ch 14:10 And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand.
- 1Ch 14:11 So they came up to Baalperazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: therefore they called the name of that place Baalperazim.
- 1Ch 14:12 And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.
- 1Ch 14:13 And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley.
- 1Ch 14:14 Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.
- 1Ch 14:15 And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, *that* then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines.
- 1Ch 14:16 David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer.
- 1Ch 14:17 And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

Thursday – October 24th

1. After going seven times to look towards the sea, what did Elijah's servant report?

➤ **1 Kings 18:44, first part.** —

NOTE : 'Again and again Elijah sent his servant to a point overlooking the Mediterranean, to learn whether there were any visible token that God had heard his prayer. Each time the servant returned with the word, “*There is nothing.*” [1 Kings 18:43] The prophet did not become impatient or lose faith, but continued his earnest pleading. Six times the servant returned with the word that there was no sign of rain in the brassy heavens. Undaunted, Elijah sent him forth once more; and this time the servant returned with the word, “*Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand.*” [1 Kings 18:44]' —*Prophets & Kings, page 156.*

2. What was Elijah's instant response to his servant's report?

➤ **1 Kings 18:44, last part.** —

NOTE : 'The servant watched while Elijah prayed. Six times he returned from the watch, saying, There is nothing, no cloud, no sign of rain. But the prophet did not give up in discouragement. As he searched his heart, he seemed to be less and less, both in his own estimation and in the sight of God. And when he reached the point of renouncing self, while he clung to the Saviour as his only strength and righteousness, the answer came. The servant appeared, and said, “*Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.*” [1 Kings 18:44] Elijah did not wait for the heavens to gather blackness. In that small cloud, he beheld by faith an abundance of rain; and he acted in harmony with his faith. Faith such as this is needed in the world today, faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word, and refuse to let go until Heaven hears.' —*God's Amazing Grace, page 88.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, October 24th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 308***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 24th

The Reaction of Those Who Pierced Him

And said 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:

Revelation 6:16

Those who have acted the most prominent part in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ come forth to see Him as He is, and those who have rejected Christ come up and see the saints glorified, and it is at that time that the saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. The very ones who placed upon Him the purple robe and put the crown of thorns upon His brow, and those who put the nails through His hands and feet, look upon Him and bewail.—*Manuscript Releases, Vol. 9, p. 252 (1886).*

They remember how His love was slighted and His compassion abused. They think of how Barabbas, a murderer and a robber, was chosen in His stead, how Jesus was crowned with thorns and scourged and crucified, how in the hours of His agony on the cross the priests and rulers taunted Him, saying, "*Let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He saved others, Himself He cannot save.*" [Matthew 27:42] All the insult and despite offered to Christ, all the suffering caused to His disciples, will be as fresh in their recollection as when the satanic deeds were done.

The voice which they heard so often in entreaty and persuasion will again sound in their ears. Every tone of gracious solicitation will vibrate as distinctly in their ears as when the Saviour spoke in the synagogues and on the street. Then those who pierced Him will call on the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.—*Letter 131, 1900.*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, October 24th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 15

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

- 1Ch 15:1 And *David* made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.
- 1Ch 15:2 Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.
- 1Ch 15:3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.
- 1Ch 15:4 And David assembled the children of Aaron, and the Levites:
- 1Ch 15:5 Of the sons of Kohath; Uriel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twenty:
- 1Ch 15:6 Of the sons of Merari; Asaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred and twenty:
- 1Ch 15:7 Of the sons of Gershon; Joel the chief, and his brethren an hundred and thirty:
- 1Ch 15:8 Of the sons of Elizaphan; Shemaiah the chief, and his brethren two hundred:
- 1Ch 15:9 Of the sons of Hebron; Eliel the chief, and his brethren fourscore:
- 1Ch 15:10 Of the sons of Uzziel; Amminadab the chief, and his brethren an hundred and twelve.
- 1Ch 15:11 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,
- 1Ch 15:12 And said unto them, Ye *are* the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, *both* ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto *the place that I have* prepared for it.
- 1Ch 15:13 For because ye *did it* not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.
- 1Ch 15:14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.
- 1Ch 15:15 And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.
- 1Ch 15:16 And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren *to be* the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.
- 1Ch 15:17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari their brethren, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;
- 1Ch 15:18 And with them their brethren of the second *degree*, Zechariah, Ben, and Jaaziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, Eliab, and Benaiah, and Maaseiah, and Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, the porters.
- 1Ch 15:19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, *were appointed* to sound with cymbals of brass;
- 1Ch 15:20 And Zechariah, and Aziel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Unni, and Eliab, and Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with psalteries on Alamoth;
- 1Ch 15:21 And Mattithiah, and Elipheleh, and Mikneiah, and Obededom, and Jeiel, and Azaziah, with harps on the Sheminith to excel.
- 1Ch 15:22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, *was* for song: he instructed about the song, because he *was* skilful.
- 1Ch 15:23 And Berechiah and Elkanah *were* doorkeepers for the ark.
- 1Ch 15:24 And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obededom and Jehiah *were* doorkeepers for the ark.
- 1Ch 15:25 So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obededom with joy.

- 1Ch 15:26 And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.
- 1Ch 15:27 And David *was* clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also *had* upon him an ephod of linen.
- 1Ch 15:28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.
- 1Ch 15:29 And it came to pass, *as* the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

Preparation Day – October 25th

1. How was Elijah's prophecy fulfilled?

➤ **1 Kings 18:45-46** —

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; for of the prophet from the mountains of Gilead it is written: *“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.”* [James 5:17] Faith such as this is needed in the world today, faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears. Faith such as this connects us closely with Heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. Through faith God's children have *“subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”* [Hebrews 11:33-34] And through faith we today are to reach the heights of God's purpose for us. *“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”* [Mark 9:23] Faith is an essential element of prevailing prayer.' — *Prophets & Kings, page 156-157.*

3. Heaven's Hotline —

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, October 25th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 309***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 25th

"Awake, Ye That Sleep, and Arise!"

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:28

The clouds begin to roll back like a scroll and there is the bright, clear sign of the Son of man. The children of God know what that cloud means. The sound of music is heard, and as it nears, the graves are opened and the dead are raised.—*Manuscript Releases, Vo. 9, p. 251, 252 (1886).*

"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." [John 5:28, 29] This voice is soon to resound through all the nations of the dead, and every saint who sleeps in Jesus shall awake and leave his prison house.—*Manuscript 137, 1897.*

The precious dead, from Adam down to the last saint who dies, will hear the voice of the Son of God and will come forth from the grave to immortal life.—*The Desire of Ages, p. 606 (1898).*

Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: "Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!" [EGW] Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: "*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*" [1 Corinthians 15:55] And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.—*The Great Controversy, p. 644 (1911).*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, October 25th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 16

The Ark Placed in a Tent

- 1Ch 16:1 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.
- 1Ch 16:2 And when David had made an end of offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.
- 1Ch 16:3 And he dealt to every one of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon *of wine*.
- 1Ch 16:4 And he appointed *certain* of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:
- 1Ch 16:5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obedom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals;
- 1Ch 16:6 Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.
- 1Ch 16:7 Then on that day David delivered first *this psalm* to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.

David's Song of Thanks

- 1Ch 16:8 Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.
- 1Ch 16:9 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.
- 1Ch 16:10 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.
- 1Ch 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.
- 1Ch 16:12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;
- 1Ch 16:13 O ye seed of Israel his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- 1Ch 16:14 He *is* the LORD our God; his judgments *are* in all the earth.
- 1Ch 16:15 Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations;
- 1Ch 16:16 *Even of the covenant* which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;
- 1Ch 16:17 And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, *and* to Israel *for* an everlasting covenant,
- 1Ch 16:18 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;
- 1Ch 16:19 When ye were but few, even a few, and strangers in it.
- 1Ch 16:20 And *when* they went from nation to nation, and from *one* kingdom to another people;
- 1Ch 16:21 He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes,
- 1Ch 16:22 *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.
- 1Ch 16:23 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.
- 1Ch 16:24 Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations.
- 1Ch 16:25 For great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also *is* to be feared above all gods.
- 1Ch 16:26 For all the gods of the people *are* idols: but the LORD made the heavens.
- 1Ch 16:27 Glory and honour *are* in his presence; strength and gladness *are* in his place.
- 1Ch 16:28 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.
- 1Ch 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 1Ch 16:30 Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.
- 1Ch 16:31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let *men* say among the nations, The LORD reigns.

- 1Ch 16:32 Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that *is* therein.
- 1Ch 16:33 Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.
- 1Ch 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good; for his mercy *endures* for ever.
- 1Ch 16:35 And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, *and* glory in thy praise.
- 1Ch 16:36 Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD.

Worship Before the Ark

- 1Ch 16:37 So he left there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD Asaph and his brethren, to minister before the ark continually, as every day's work required:
- 1Ch 16:38 And Obededom with their brethren, threescore and eight; Obededom also the son of Jeduthun and Hosah *to be* porters:
- 1Ch 16:39 And Zadok the priest, and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD in the high place that *was* at Gibeon,
- 1Ch 16:40 To offer burnt offerings unto the LORD upon the altar of the burnt offering continually morning and evening, and *to do* according to all that is written in the law of the LORD, which he commanded Israel;
- 1Ch 16:41 And with them Heman and Jeduthun, and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because his mercy *endures* for ever;
- 1Ch 16:42 And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun *were* porters.
- 1Ch 16:43 And all the people departed every man to his house: and David returned to bless his house.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, October 25th, 2024



Ana didn't want to become a Seventh-day Adventist. She loved the church of her childhood in the Philippines, and she didn't want to worship on Saturday instead of Sunday. She cried and cried. But as she studied the Bible, she grew convinced about the seventh day. She became an Adventist.

Then trouble flared up at work.

Ana was teaching math to special needs students at a public high school. It was her first year of teaching, and she was required to take Saturday classes to earn a master's degree in special education. Ana spoke to the superintendent of public schools for the city.

“I can't take those classes because I am a Seventh-day Adventist,” she said.

“If you don't want to take those classes, then you will lose your job,” the superintendent said.

Ana was scared. She was the family breadwinner. For a semester, she attended Saturday classes. But her conscience bothered her, and she finally stopped going.

“I can't do it,” she told the superintendent.

To her surprise, the superintendent replied, “That's your decision.”

Then she learned that she couldn't be fired. When she had first asked not to study on Saturdays, she had been on probation at work. But the probation period had ended, and she couldn't be fired. She promised herself never to break the Sabbath again.

Ana taught at the school for nine years.

While there, she faced a new Sabbath test when she applied through a job recruitment agency for a teaching job in the United States. A California school was interested in hiring her, but it wanted to conduct the job interview on Saturday.

“I can’t do the interview on Saturday,” Ana told the recruiter. “I need to go to church.”

Ana decided that God must not want her to work in the United States. She told the recruiter, “I don’t want a job anymore. Remove my application from your database.”

A month passed, and the job recruitment agency called again. A school in Arizona was interested in hiring her.

“Can I have the interview on a day other than Saturday?” Ana asked.

“You can have the interview on any day of the week,” the recruiter said.

Ana did the interview on a Friday, and the school offered her the job four days later.

Ana was astonished, and she praised God.

The superintendent was surprised when Ana came with her resignation letter. Ana later learned that the superintendent had applied many times to teach in the United States but had never been offered a job.

Ana sensed that God had honored her for honoring His Sabbath.

The Sabbath tests did not end in the United States. Shortly after she arrived in Arizona, the new principal told her and the rest of the teachers that they needed to attend special training sessions on Saturdays. Ana prayed, “Lord, I’m here because I kept the Sabbath, and I know You will help me now.”

She went to the principal. “I cannot do the training,” she said. “I believe that Saturday is holy, and I need to keep it holy.”

The principal refused to compromise. “If you do not go to the training on Saturday, I will fire you for insubordination,” he said.

Ana stood her ground. “In America, we have religious freedom,” she said. “I’m here because I have stood for the Sabbath.”

Then she shared her story and gave the principal a short Bible study on the Sabbath.

The principal was upset. But he offered to excuse her from the training if the superintendent of public schools for their town gave his permission.

Ana spoke with the superintendent, and he signed a letter, granting his permission. “You can worship God on any day,” he said.

Ana gave the letter to the principal.

“You’re excused,” he said. “But find a way to do the Saturday training on your own.”

Ana didn’t know what to study, so she prayed. The next day, at the school, she saw the instructional coach responsible for the training at her school. “I cannot come to the training because I am Seventh-day Adventist and keep the Sabbath holy,” she said.

“Let’s go to the principal,” the instructional coach replied. “I want to tell him something.”

At the principal’s office, instructional coach said, “I will have a training on Sundays just for Ana.”

“OK, problem solved,” the principal said. Turning to Ana, his face softened. “You are blessed because you are faithful,” he said.

After that, something amazing happened. A warm relationship blossomed between the principal and Ana. He became like a father to her. He was sad to see Ana leave a few years later when she sensed God calling her to teach at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, located an hour’s drive away.

Today, Ana is a special-education math teacher at Holbrook. She is happy to be a Seventh-day Adventist, and she loves teaching students about math and the Sabbath. “I stood for the Sabbath, and God has helped me,” she said.

This mission story offers an inside look at a teacher at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, which received part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2018 and 2021. Thank you for your offering this quarter that also will help spread the gospel.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 5

“HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS”

October 26 - November 1

MEMORY VERSE : ‘And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt you between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.’ [1 Kings 18:21]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Conflict & Courage, page 209

SCRIPTURE : 1 Kings 18:17-39

LESSON AIM : To study the heart of Elijah's message.

INTRODUCTION : 'If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.' — *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, page 280.*

Sabbath – October 26th

1. What challenge did Elijah bring to the people on Mount Carmel and what was the people's response?

➤ 1 Kings 18:21 —

NOTE : 'Light and darkness cannot be mingled and harmonise. Many act partly as children of time, and partly as children of eternity, and this course God abhors. “*If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.*” [1 Kings 18:21] If you believe the word of God, submit your ways to its guidance in all things, even though your own inclinations are crossed. Believe the truth heartily... The end is near! We have no time to halt between two opinions.'—*1888 Materials, page 673.*

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Conflict and Courage
Chapter 7, p. 209

July 22nd

God's Heroes

How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.

1 Kings 18:21

Elijah, amid the general apostasy, did not seek to hide the fact that he served the God of heaven. Baal's prophets numbered four hundred and fifty, his priests, four hundred, and his worshipers were thousands; yet Elijah did not try to make it appear that he was on the popular side. He grandly stood alone.... With clear, trumpet-like tones Elijah addressed the vast multitude: “*How long halt ye between two opinions? ...*” [1 Kings 18:21] ... Where are the Elijahs of today?

God would have His honour exalted before men as supreme, and His counsels confirmed in the eyes of the people. The witness of the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel gives the example of one who stood wholly for God and His work in the earth.... “*Let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel,*” [1 Kings 18:36] he prays, “*and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord,*” [1 Kings 18:36] he pleads, “hear me.” ...

His zeal for God's glory and his deep love for the house of Israel present lessons for the instruction of all who stand today as representatives of God's work in the earth.

Nothing is gained by cowardice or by fearing to let it be known that we are God's commandment-keeping people. Hiding our light, as if ashamed of our faith, will result only in disaster. God will leave us to our own weakness. May the Lord forbid that we should refuse to let our light shine forth in any place to which He may call us. If we venture to go forth of ourselves, following our own ideas, our own plans, and leave Jesus behind, we need not expect to gain fortitude, courage, or spiritual strength. God has had moral heroes, and He has them now,—those who are not ashamed of being His peculiar people. Their wills and plans are all subordinate to the law of God. The love of Jesus has led them not to count their lives dear unto themselves. Their work has been to catch the light from the word of God and to let it shine forth in clear, steady rays to the world. “Fidelity to God” is their motto.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, October 26th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 310***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 26th

From Caves and Dens and Dungeons

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

Daniel 12:2

In the fastnesses of the mountains, in the caves and dens of the earth, the Saviour reveals His presence and His glory.

Yet a little while, and He that is to come will come and will not tarry. His eyes as a flame of fire penetrate into the fast-closed dungeons and hunt out the hidden ones, for their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The eyes of the Saviour are above us, around us, noting every difficulty, discerning every danger; and there is no place where His eyes cannot penetrate, no sorrows and sufferings of His people where the sympathy of Christ does not reach. . .

The child of God will be terror-stricken at the first sight of the majesty of Jesus Christ. He feels that he cannot live in His holy presence. But the word comes to him as to John, "*Fear not.*" [Revelation 1:17] Jesus laid His right hand upon John; He raised him up from his prostrate position. So will He do unto His loyal, trusting ones.—*That I May Know Him*, p. 360, 361 (1886).

The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 650 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, October 26th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 17

The Lord's Covenant with David

- 1Ch 17:1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD *remaineth* under curtains.
- 1Ch 17:2 Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that *is* in thine heart; for God *is* with thee.
- 1Ch 17:3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,
- 1Ch 17:4 Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:
- 1Ch 17:5 For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from *one* tabernacle *to another*.
- 1Ch 17:6 Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?
- 1Ch 17:7 Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the shepcote, *even* from following the sheep, that thou should be ruler over my people Israel:
- 1Ch 17:8 And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that *are* in the earth.
- 1Ch 17:9 Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them anymore, as at the beginning,
- 1Ch 17:10 And since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.
- 1Ch 17:11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.
- 1Ch 17:12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.
- 1Ch 17:13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee:
- 1Ch 17:14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.
- 1Ch 17:15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

David's Prayer

- 1Ch 17:16 And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who *am* I, O LORD God, and what *is* mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?
- 1Ch 17:17 And *yet* this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast *also* spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.
- 1Ch 17:18 What can David *speak* more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou know thy servant.
- 1Ch 17:19 O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all *these* great things.
- 1Ch 17:20 O LORD, *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
- 1Ch 17:21 And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem *to be* his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?
- 1Ch 17:22 For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, became their God.

- 1Ch 17:23 Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.
- 1Ch 17:24 Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God of Israel, *even* a God to Israel: and *let* the house of David thy servant *be* established before thee.
- 1Ch 17:25 For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found *in his heart* to pray before thee.
- 1Ch 17:26 And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:
- 1Ch 17:27 Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou bless, O LORD, and *it shall be* blessed for ever.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, October 26th, 2024



Faith was only 3 years old, but she knew what she liked to do more than anything else in the whole world.

She liked to go to “Deep and Wide.”

When she walked with Mother, they sometimes passed “Deep and Wide” on the street in their village of Savoonga in Alaska.

“Look,” Mother would say. “We are passing ‘Deep and Wide.’”

Faith would get so excited and begin to sing, “Deep and wide, deep and wide!” As she sang, she lowered her hands to show how deep was deep. Then stretched out her arms to show how wide was wide. She loved “Deep and Wide.”

On Friday nights, Faith couldn’t wait to go to bed so she could get up in the morning and go to “Deep and Wide.” She knew it was time for bed when Mother said, “Daytime is to be awake, nighttime is for sleeping.”

Then Grandfather would say good night. “See you guys in the morning,” he would say. “Maybe I’ll make some pancakes.” Faith would smile with delight. Grandfather’s pancakes were her favorite breakfast.

She would snuggle in bed at 10 o’clock at night. It was a little difficult to fall sleep because her older sister was still up and wouldn’t go to bed until midnight. Many people go to bed quite late in Savoonga, and they also get up quite late in the morning.

Usually, Faith woke up at 9 o’clock on Sabbath mornings, and she would run to the kitchen to see if Grandfather was making pancakes. He always was!

Faith would put plates on the table for breakfast. Grandfather would say, “Get the maple syrup and butter ready, too.”

Then she would sit down with him and Grandmother to pray. First, they all would pray out loud together, saying, “God is good, God is great.” Then Grandfather would pray for the food. “Let us have health, strength, and self-humility,” he would say.

Faith loved taking the first, big bite of pancake. It was so good! Grandfather made pancakes with love, and they tasted magical.

Faith needed to be at “Deep and Wide” by 2 o’clock in the afternoon. That was when it started. It started in the afternoon because many kids and parents went to bed late at night and got up late in the morning.

As 2 p.m. drew near, Faith would climb onto Mother’s four-wheeler. Everyone walked or drove on four-wheelers in the village. On Sabbaths, Faith and Mother drove to “Deep and Wide.”

When they arrived, Faith was welcomed by a friendly woman who was not an Alaska Native like her and her family. Faith and everyone else called the woman by her first name, Eloise. She had moved to the village from far-away North Carolina to teach at “Deep and Wide” every Sabbath.

“Deep and Wide” began with singing. Eloise would lead Faith and the other children in singing songs about Jesus. But Faith always waited for one song in particular. Then it would happen. Eloise would say, “Next, we’re going to sing ‘Deep and Wide.’”

Faith would clap her hands with joy! Then she would sing with all her heart. She would lower her hands to show how deep was deep. She would stretch out her arms to show how wide was wide. She loved “Deep and Wide.”

After that, Eloise would pray and tell the children a Bible story. After the story, the children would do fun crafts, and Eloise would bring out a snack of apples or oranges. Eloise loved apples and oranges. They were a special treat because the fruit didn’t grow anywhere nearby and had to be flown into the village from far away.

After about an hour, “Deep and Wide” would finish, and it would be time for Faith to go home.

“Did you like Sabbath School?” Mother always asked as she took Faith by the hand.

Faith always nodded her head happily.

“I love ‘Deep and Wide’!” she said.

Today, Faith is 16 years old, and she has never lost her love for Sabbath School. It was in Sabbath School that she learned her favorite song, “Deep and Wide.” It was in Sabbath School that she learned about her Best Friend, Jesus. Not long ago, she gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized in “Deep and Wide,” the Seventh-day Adventist church in Savoonga.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help to share God’s “Deep and Wide” love in Alaska. Part of the offering will go to a project at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Bethel, Alaska.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – October 27th

1. What similar challenge had Joshua brought to the people?

➤ Joshua 24:15 —

NOTE : 'Every heart emptied of self will have the quickening energy of the Holy Spirit. It is now that some are being worked by satanic agencies. Mark the fruit. The whole life is one of ambitious determination to carry out their own plans and purposes, to do a special work to exalt themselves. God puts to them the challenge, “*Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.* [Joshua 24:15] *If it be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him.*” [1 Kings 18:21] But some have been fixing themselves for a long time by a species of deception and misrepresentation and prevarication, because they have not turned from their idols to serve the living and true God. It is not necessary to bow down to a stock or a stone to serve idols. Whatever takes possession of the heart, commanding its service, that is not the dictation of the Holy Spirit, assumes the form of an idol. How many hearts through a wrong course of allowing the mind to become concentrated upon a certain course of action to distinguish self, will come under the head of covetousness, which is idolatry! In order to obtain money, or to be first, some will betray the most precious cause of truth. There is an intense spirit that takes possession of mind and character. A man turns his whole being into accomplishing some great thing; an unquenchable thirst takes possession of the whole man to obtain money and spread himself as did Nebuchadnezzar. He wants glory to himself. He will bind up with worldly men and forsake the fountain of living waters. Nothing but the humbling of his soul to the light of the Word of God, and the Sun of Righteousness penetrating every chamber of his moral being, will break the fog and the dense darkness he has gathered about his soul.' — *Manuscript Releases, volume 18, page 129.*

2. What challenge had Moses brought to the people?

➤ Exodus 32:26 —

NOTE : 'God abhors indifference and disloyalty in a time of crisis in His work. The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. The people of God are nearing the borders of the eternal world; what is of more importance to them than that they be loyal to the God of heaven? All through the ages, God has had moral heroes, and He has them now; those who, like Joseph and Elijah and Daniel, are not ashamed to acknowledge themselves His peculiar people. Such men make their wills and plans subordinate to the law of God. For love of Him, they count not their lives dear unto themselves. Their work is to catch the light from the Word, and let it shine forth to the world in clear, steady rays. Fidelity to God is their motto.' — *Review & Herald, September 18, 1913.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 311***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 27th

From Ocean Depths and Mines and Mountains

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Revelation 20:13

When Christ comes to gather to Himself those who have been faithful, the last trump will sound, and the whole earth, from the summits of the loftiest mountains to the lowest recesses of the deepest mines, will hear. The righteous dead will hear the sound of the last trump, and will come forth from their graves, to be clothed with immortality and to meet their Lord.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 909 (1904).*

I dwell with pleasure upon the resurrection of the just, who shall come forth from all parts of the earth, from rocky caverns, from dungeons, from caves of the earth, from the waters of the deep. Not one is overlooked. Every one shall hear His voice. They will come forth with triumph and victory.—*Letter 113, 1886.*

What a scene will these mountains and hills in Switzerland present when Christ, the Lifegiver, shall call forth the dead! They will come from caverns, from dungeons, from deep wells, where their bodies have been buried.—*Letter 97, 1886.*

Daily Scripture

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 18

David Defeats His Enemies

- 1Ch 18:1 Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines.
- 1Ch 18:2 And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts.
- 1Ch 18:3 And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates.
- 1Ch 18:4 And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: David also houghed all the chariot *horses*, but reserved of them an hundred chariots.
- 1Ch 18:5 And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.
- 1Ch 18:6 Then David put *garrisons* in Syriadamascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, *and* brought gifts. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.
- 1Ch 18:7 And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.
- 1Ch 18:8 Likewise from Tibhath, and from Chun, cities of Hadarezer, brought David very much brass, wherewith Solomon made the brasen sea, and the pillars, and the vessels of brass.
- 1Ch 18:9 Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah;
- 1Ch 18:10 He sent Hadoram his son to king David, to enquire of his welfare, and to congratulate him, because he had fought against Hadarezer, and smitten him; (for Hadarezer had war with Tou;) and *with him* all manner of vessels of gold and silver and brass.
- 1Ch 18:11 Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all *these* nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek.
- 1Ch 18:12 Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand.
- 1Ch 18:13 And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

David's Administration

- 1Ch 18:14 So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people.
- 1Ch 18:15 And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, recorder.
- 1Ch 18:16 And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, *were* the priests; and Shavsha was scribe;
- 1Ch 18:17 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David *were* chief about the king.

Monday – October 28th

1. What distinction does God want to make plain?

➤ **Malachi 3:18** —

NOTE : 'Between the worldly man and the one who is faithfully serving God there is a great gulf fixed. Upon the most momentous subjects, God and truth and eternity, their thoughts and sympathies and feelings are not in harmony. One class is ripening as wheat for the garner of God, the other as tares for the fires of destruction. How can there be unity of purpose or action between them? We are to beware of indulging a spirit of bigotry and intolerance. We are not to stand aside from others in a spirit that seems to say, “*Come not near to me, for I am holier than thou.*” [Isaiah 65:5] We are not to shut ourselves away from our fellow human beings, but are to seek to impart to them the precious truth that has blessed our own hearts. But if we are Christians, having the spirit of Him who died to save men from their sins, we shall love the souls of our fellow men too well to countenance their sinful pleasures by our presence and our influence. Such a course, so far from benefiting them, would only cause them to doubt the reality of our religion. We should be firmly rooted in the conviction that whatever in any sense turns aside from truth and justice in our association and partnership with men, cannot benefit us and greatly dishonours God.' —*In Heavenly Places, page 310.*

2. What warning does Paul give to those Christians who think they can participate in worldly activities?

➤ **2 Corinthians 6:14-16** —

NOTE : 'God's people have so long been led by the inventions and fashions of the world that they are unwilling to move out independent of them. When I study the Scriptures, I am alarmed for the Israel of God in these last days. They are exhorted to flee from idolatry. I fear that they are asleep and so conformed to the world that it would be difficult to discern between him that serves God and him that serves Him not. The distance is widening between Christ and His people, and lessening between them and the world. The marks of distinction between Christ's professed people and the world have almost disappeared. Like ancient Israel, they follow after the abominations of the nations around them.' —*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 276.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, October 28th, 2024

*Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 312*

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 28th

The Wicked Are Slain

Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come: both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose it at the head of the way to the city.

Ezekiel 21:19

In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God's unmingled wrath, fall the wicked inhabitants of the earth—priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. *"And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried."* [Jeremiah 25:33]

At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the city of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 657 (1911).

To sin, wherever found, *"our God is a consuming fire."* [Hebrews 12:29] In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them.—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 107 (1898).

The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire. —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 600 (1898).

Daily Scripture

Monday, October 28th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 19

The Ammonites Disgrace David's Men

- 1Ch 19:1 Now it came to pass after this, that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 19:2 And David said, I will shew kindness unto Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father shewed kindness to me. And David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. So the servants of David came into the land of the children of Ammon to Hanun, to comfort him.
- 1Ch 19:3 But the princes of the children of Ammon said to Hanun, Think thou that David doth honour thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? are not his servants come unto thee for to search, and to overthrow, and to spy out the land?
- 1Ch 19:4 Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved them, and cut off their garments in the midst hard by their buttocks, and sent them away.
- 1Ch 19:5 Then there went *certain*, and told David how the men were served. And he sent to meet them: for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and *then* return.
- 1Ch 19:6 And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah.
- 1Ch 19:7 So they hired thirty and two thousand chariots, and the king of Maachah and his people; who came and pitched before Medeba. And the children of Ammon gathered themselves together from their cities, and came to battle.
- 1Ch 19:8 And when David heard *of it*, he sent Joab, and all the host of the mighty men.
- 1Ch 19:9 And the children of Ammon came out, and put the battle in array before the gate of the city: and the kings that were come *were* by themselves in the field.

Ammonites and Syrians Defeated

- 1Ch 19:10 Now when Joab saw that the battle was set against him before and behind, he chose out of all the choice of Israel, and put *them* in array against the Syrians.
- 1Ch 19:11 And the rest of the people he delivered unto the hand of Abishai his brother, and they set *themselves* in array against the children of Ammon.
- 1Ch 19:12 And he said, If the Syrians be too strong for me, then thou shalt help me: but if the children of Ammon be too strong for thee, then I will help thee.
- 1Ch 19:13 Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do *that which is* good in his sight.
- 1Ch 19:14 So Joab and the people that *were* with him drew nigh before the Syrians unto the battle; and they fled before him.
- 1Ch 19:15 And when the children of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fled, they likewise fled before Abishai his brother, and entered into the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.
- 1Ch 19:16 And when the Syrians saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they sent messengers, and drew forth the Syrians that *were* beyond the river: and Shophach the captain of the host of Hadarezer *went* before them.
- 1Ch 19:17 And it was told David; and he gathered all Israel, and passed over Jordan, and came upon them, and set *the battle* in array against them. So when David had put the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him.

- 1Ch 19:18 But the Syrians fled before Israel; and David slew of the Syrians seven thousand *men which fought in* chariots, and forty thousand footmen, and killed Shophach the captain of the host.
- 1Ch 19:19 And when the servants of Hadarezer saw that they were put to the worse before Israel, they made peace with David, and became his servants: neither would the Syrians help the children of Ammon any more.

Tuesday – October 29th

1. What call does Paul give to God's people?

➤ **2 Corinthians 6:17-18** —

NOTE : 'It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate.' —*Christian service, page 41.*

2. Though we should not try to judge who is on the Lord's side and who is not, does the Lord know His own?

➤ **2 Timothy 2:19** —

NOTE : 'The minds of some are being turned into the channel of unbelief. These persons think they see reason to doubt the word and the work of God, because the course of some professed Christians looks questionable to them. But does this move the foundation? We are not to make the course of others the basis of our faith. We are to imitate Christ, the perfect Pattern. If any allow their hold on Him to be weakened because men err, because defects are seen in the characters of those who profess the truth, they will ever be on sliding sand. Their eyes must be directed to the Author and Finisher of their faith; they must strengthen their souls with the assurance of the great apostle: “*Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are His.*” [2 Timothy 2:19] God cannot be deceived. He reads character correctly. He weighs motives. Nothing escapes His all-seeing eye; the thoughts, the intents and purposes of the hearts, all are discerned by Him.' —*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4, page 583.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 313***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 29th

Destruction of the Wicked an Act of Mercy

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

Isaiah 28:21

Could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no; years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 542, 543 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 20

The Capture of Rabbah

- 1Ch 20:1 And it came to pass, that after the year was expired, at the time that kings go out *to battle*, Joab led forth the power of the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. And Joab smote Rabbah, and destroyed it.
- 1Ch 20:2 And David took the crown of their king from off his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and *there were* precious stones in it; and it was set upon David's head: and he brought also exceeding much spoil out of the city.
- 1Ch 20:3 And he brought out the people that *were* in it, and cut *them* with saws, and with harrows of iron, and with axes. Even so dealt David with all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Philistine Giants Killed

- 1Ch 20:4 And it came to pass after this, that there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines; at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Sippai, *that was* of the children of the giant: and they were subdued.
- 1Ch 20:5 And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff *was* like a weaver's beam.
- 1Ch 20:6 And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of *great* stature, whose fingers and toes *were* four and twenty, six *on each hand*, and six *on each foot*: and he also was the son of the giant.
- 1Ch 20:7 But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him.
- 1Ch 20:8 These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Wednesday – October 30th

1. How does the Lord distinguish those who are His?

➤ **Revelation 14:12** —

NOTE : 'We are rapidly approaching the end of this earth's history; and as we realize that Jesus is indeed coming soon, we shall be aroused to labour as never before. We are to raise the banner on which is inscribed, “*The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*” [Revelation 14:12] Obedience to God's law is the great issue. Let it not be put out of sight.' —*In Heavenly Places*, page 341.

2. How does the Bible picture God's work of identifying His own?

➤ **Revelation 7:2-3** —

NOTE : 'What are you doing in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mould and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth, these are receiving the heavenly mould and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity. Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God, candidates for heaven. Every individual soul, if he would receive the seal of the living God, must hear the Word of the Lord, and do it with exactitude. There must be no such thing as haphazard religion if men would have a place in the family of God. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.' —*The Faith I Live By*, page 288.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 314***

***“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”
--
“Christ's Return”***

October 30th

Homeward Bound!

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:52

The living righteous are changed "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.*" [1 Corinthians 15:52] At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal, and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels "*gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*" [Matthew 24:31] Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the city of God.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 645 (1911).

We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass.—*Early Writings*, p. 16 (1851).

And as the chariot rolled upward, the wheels cried, "*Holy,*" and the wings, as they moved, cried, "*Holy,*" and the retinue of holy angels around the cloud cried, "*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!*" [Revelation 4:8] And the saints in the cloud cried, "*Glory! Alleluia!*" —*Early Writings*, p. 35 (1851).

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!*"—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 253 (1904).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 21

David's Census Brings Pestilence

- 1Ch 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.
- 1Ch 21:2 And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know *it*.
- 1Ch 21:3 And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they *be*: but, my lord the king, *are* they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?
- 1Ch 21:4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.
- 1Ch 21:5 And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all *they of* Israel were a thousand, thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah *was* four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword.
- 1Ch 21:6 But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.
- 1Ch 21:7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel.
- 1Ch 21:8 And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.
- 1Ch 21:9 And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying,
- 1Ch 21:10 Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three *things*: choose thee one of them, that I may do *it* unto thee.
- 1Ch 21:11 So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee
- 1Ch 21:12 Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtake *thee*; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.
- 1Ch 21:13 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great *are* his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man.
- 1Ch 21:14 So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.
- 1Ch 21:15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
- 1Ch 21:16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders *of Israel*, *who were* clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.
- 1Ch 21:17 And David said unto God, *Is it* not I *that* commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but *as for* these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

David Builds an Altar

- 1Ch 21:18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
- 1Ch 21:19 And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD.
- 1Ch 21:20 And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.

- 1Ch 21:21 And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with *his* face to the ground.
- 1Ch 21:22 Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of *this* threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people.
- 1Ch 21:23 And Ornan said unto David, Take *it* to thee, and let my lord the king do *that which is* good in his eyes: lo, I give *thee* the oxen *also* for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all.
- 1Ch 21:24 And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take *that* which *is* thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.
- 1Ch 21:25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.
- 1Ch 21:26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.
- 1Ch 21:27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.
- 1Ch 21:28 At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.
- 1Ch 21:29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, *were* at that season in the high place at Gibeon.
- 1Ch 21:30 But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

Thursday – October 31st

1. In contrast, how will the powers of evil identify their followers?

➤ **Revelation 13:15-17** —

NOTE : 'After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image [see Revelation 14:9-11] the prophecy declares: “*Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*” [Revelation 14:12] Since those who keep God's commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God's law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast. The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments.' —*The Great Controversy, pages 445-446.*

2. What part of His Ten Commandments has the Lord especially chosen to identify those that are His?

➤ **Ezekiel 20:20** —

NOTE : 'The observance of the Sabbath is the sign between God and His people. Let us not be ashamed to bear the sign that distinguishes us from the world. . . The Sabbath is ever the sign that distinguishes the obedient from the disobedient. With masterly power Satan has worked to make null and void the fourth commandment, that the sign of God may be lost sight of. The Christian world have trodden underfoot the Sabbath of the Lord and observe a sabbath instituted by the enemy. But God has a people who are loyal to Him. His work is to be carried forward in right lines. The people who bear His sign are to establish churches and institutions as memorials to Him. These memorials, however humble in appearance, will constantly bear witness against the false sabbath instituted by Satan, and in favour of the Sabbath instituted by the Lord in Eden, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' —*Counsels on Health, page 235.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, October 31st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 10, pp. 315***

“The Seven Last Plagues and the Righteous”

--

“Christ's Return”

October 31st

The Angels Sing, Christ Has Conquered!

Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Isaiah 51:11

In that day the redeemed will shine forth in the glory of the Father and the Son. The angels, touching their golden harps, will welcome the King and His trophies of victory--those who have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. A song of triumph will peal forth, filling all heaven. Christ has conquered. He enters the heavenly courts, accompanied by His redeemed ones, the witnesses that His mission of suffering and sacrifice has not been in vain.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 9, p. 285, 286 (1909).*

With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes His faithful ones to the joy of their Lord. The Saviour's joy is in seeing in the kingdom of glory the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation.—*The Great Controversy, p. 647 (1911).*

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 1:24] 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]—*Education, p. 309 (1903).*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, October 31st, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 22

1Ch 22:1 Then David said, This *is* the house of the LORD God, and this *is* the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.

David Prepares for Temple Building

1Ch 22:2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that *were* in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

1Ch 22:3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joining; and brass in abundance without weight;

1Ch 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

1Ch 22:5 And David said, Solomon my son *is* young and tender, and the house *that is* to be builded for the LORD *must be* exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will *therefore* now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

Solomon Charged to Build the Temple

1Ch 22:6 Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel.

1Ch 22:7 And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God:

1Ch 22:8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

1Ch 22:9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

1Ch 22:10 He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I *will be* his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

1Ch 22:11 Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.

1Ch 22:12 Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou may keep the law of the LORD thy God.

1Ch 22:13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou take heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

1Ch 22:14 Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand, thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou may add thereto.

1Ch 22:15 Moreover *there are* workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work.

1Ch 22:16 Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, *there is* no number. Arise *therefore*, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.

1Ch 22:17 David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, *saying*,

1Ch 22:18 *Is* not the LORD your God with you? and hath he *not* given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.

1Ch 22:19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

Preparation Day – November 1st

1. How was the rebellion against God's law foretold?

➤ **Daniel 7:25** —

➤ **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** —

NOTE : The phrase “*man of sin*” [2 Thessalonians 2:3] literally means 'the man who transgresses God's law.' The Greek word 'anomia' refers to the act of transgression, disobedience to law. The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorise the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: “*He shall think to change the times and the law.*” [Daniel 7:25] The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfils the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God. While the worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandments, since this is the sign of His creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage, the worshipers of the beast will be distinguished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial, to exalt the institution of Rome. It was in behalf of the Sunday that popery first asserted its arrogant claims; and its first resort to the power of the state was to compel the observance of Sunday as “*The Lord's day.*” [Revelation 1:10] But the Bible points to the seventh day, and not to the first, as the Lord's day. Said Christ: “*The Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.*” [Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5; Matthew 12:8] The fourth commandment declares: “*The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord.*” [Exodus 20:10] And by the prophet Isaiah the Lord designates it: “*My holy day.*” [Isaiah 58:13] —*The Great Controversy*, page 446.

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, November 1st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 316***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 1st

The Saints Given Crowns and Harps

Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

I saw a very great number of angels bring from the city glorious crowns--a crown for every saint, with his name written thereon. As Jesus called for the crowns, angels presented them to Him, and with His own right hand, the lovely Jesus placed the crowns on the heads of the saints.—*Early Writings*, p. 288 (1858).

On the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. —*Early Writings*, p. 16, 17 (1851).

The crown of life will be bright or dim, will glitter with many stars, or be lighted by few gems, in accordance with our own course of action.—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1105 (1895).

There will be no one saved in heaven with a starless crown. If you enter, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through your instrumentality.—*Signs of the Times*, June 6, 1892.

Before entering the city of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory, and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up in the form of a hollow square about their King. . . . Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. . . . In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skilful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. . . . Before the ransomed throng is the holy city. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 645, 646 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, November 1st, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 23

David Organizes the Levites

- 1Ch 23:1 So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.
- 1Ch 23:2 And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites.
- 1Ch 23:3 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.
- 1Ch 23:4 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:
- 1Ch 23:5 Moreover four thousand *were* porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, *said David*, to praise *therewith*.
- 1Ch 23:6 And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, *namely*, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- 1Ch 23:7 Of the Gershonites *were*, Laadan, and Shimei.
- 1Ch 23:8 The sons of Laadan; the chief *was* Jehiel, and Zetham, and Joel, three.
- 1Ch 23:9 The sons of Shimei; Shelomith, and Haziël, and Haran, three. These *were* the chief of the fathers of Laadan.
- 1Ch 23:10 And the sons of Shimei *were*, Jahath, Zina, and Jeush, and Beriah. These four *were* the sons of Shimei.
- 1Ch 23:11 And Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second: but Jeush and Beriah had not many sons; therefore they were in one reckoning, according to *their* father's house.
- 1Ch 23:12 The sons of Kohath; Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.
- 1Ch 23:13 The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.
- 1Ch 23:14 Now *concerning* Moses the man of God, his sons were named of the tribe of Levi.
- 1Ch 23:15 The sons of Moses *were*, Gershom, and Eliezer.
- 1Ch 23:16 Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel *was* the chief.
- 1Ch 23:17 And the sons of Eliezer *were*, Rehabiah the chief. And Eliezer had none other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.
- 1Ch 23:18 Of the sons of Izhar; Shelomith the chief.
- 1Ch 23:19 Of the sons of Hebron; Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.
- 1Ch 23:20 Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah the first, and Jesiah the second.
- 1Ch 23:21 The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. The sons of Mahli; Eleazar, and Kish.
- 1Ch 23:22 And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters: and their brethren the sons of Kish took them.
- 1Ch 23:23 The sons of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jeremoth, three.
- 1Ch 23:24 These *were* the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; *even* the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward.
- 1Ch 23:25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever:
- 1Ch 23:26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no *more* carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof.
- 1Ch 23:27 For by the last words of David the Levites *were* numbered from twenty years old and above:

- 1Ch 23:28 Because their office *was* to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God;
- 1Ch 23:29 Both for the shewbread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for *that which is baked in* the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size;
- 1Ch 23:30 And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even;
- 1Ch 23:31 And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the Sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:
- 1Ch 23:32 And that they should keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the holy *place*, and the charge of the sons of Aaron their brethren, in the service of the house of the LORD.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, November 1st, 2024



Seventh-day Adventists wanted to plant a church on the Navajo Reservation in the U.S. state of Arizona. Church members from around the world contributed to the project when the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was collected in 2011. But there was a big problem: where to open the church.

The city of Page, located on the border of the Navajo Reservation, was chosen as the ideal location. However, the church couldn't simply be constructed. City authorities had a rule that all churches had to be located on a certain street. That street was so well-known for its houses of worship that it was nicknamed "Church Row" and "Holy Curve."

But there was no space left on the street to build a new church. So, the only option left was to buy an existing church building if the owners were willing to sell.

There was one church on the street that wasn't being used. The Southern Baptist church had fallen into disrepair after members had grown old and passed away. The elderly deacon responsible for the church decided to put the property up for sale.

An appraiser was summoned to determine the value of the property. He said it was worth U.S.\$850,000.

But the Adventists didn't have \$850,000. The portion of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that had been collected for the new church was less. Even with contributions from the North American Division and other church entities that are usually added to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, there wasn't that much money for the property. Adventist leaders spoke with the deacon and prayed.

The Adventists, however, weren't the only people interested in the property.

The land occupied a prime spot on the main road coming into town. It was also right across the street from a public school. A popular fast-food chain thought the land would be the perfect place to open a restaurant. Contacting the church deacon, the fast-food chain offered \$2 million.

The deacon faced a serious decision. What should he do? The land was worth \$850,000, the Adventists were interested, and the fast-food chain had offered \$2 million.

The deacon prayed earnestly. As he prayed, he sensed that people needed a church more than a fast-food restaurant. He asked church leaders at the South Baptist Convention to sell the property to the Adventists for \$250,000. Then, with the leaders’ blessing, he offered it for that amount to the Adventists. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering and other contributions were enough to buy the property.

“It was unbelievable,” said Nancy Crosby, who oversees Adventist outreach to Native Americans on the Navajo Reservation as well as in Utah and Nevada. “There is no question that God opened the door.”

Normally, when planting a new church, a congregation starts with a handful of people meeting in a home. When the group grows too big, it moves to a bigger meeting place. In Page, the congregation started in a building that was much larger than it needed.

“It seemed like the cart was being placed before the horse,” Nancy said. “But God knew what He was doing.”

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2011 that helped plant the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arizona. Pray for those sharing the gospel with Native Americans, including Nancy and her husband, James, who is the pastor of the church.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 6

“WHAT DOEST THOU HERE?”

November 2 - November 8

MEMORY VERSE : “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” [Hebrews 13:5]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Prophets & Kings, pages 160-175

SCRIPTURE : 1 Kings 19

LESSON AIM : To show how God dealt with Elijah when his faith failed.

INTRODUCTION : ‘It would seem that after showing courage so undaunted, after triumphing so completely over king and priests and people, Elijah could never afterward have given way to despondency nor been awed into timidity. But he who had been blessed with so many evidences of God's loving care was not above the frailties of mankind, and in this dark hour his faith and courage forsook him.’ —*Prophets & Kings, page 159.*

Sabbath – November 2nd

1. What warning did Elijah receive and what was Elijah's response?

➤ 1 Kings 19:1-3 —

NOTE : 'Elijah should not have fled from his post of duty. He should have met the threat of Jezebel with an appeal for protection to the One who had commissioned him to vindicate the honour of Jehovah. He should have told the messenger that the God in whom he trusted would protect him against the hatred of the queen. Only a few hours had passed since he had witnessed a wonderful manifestation of divine power, and this should have given him assurance that he would not now be forsaken. Had he remained where he was, had he made God his refuge and strength, standing steadfast for the truth, he would have been shielded from harm. The Lord would have given him another signal victory by sending His judgments on Jezebel; and the impression made on the king and the people would have wrought a great reformation.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 160.*

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

EGW Study Help

Sabbath, November 2nd, 2024

**Prophets and Kings
Chapter 12-13, p. 160-175**

“From Jezreel to Horeb” and “What Doest Thou Here?”

Elijah should not have fled from his post of duty. He should have met the threat of Jezebel with an appeal for protection to the One who had commissioned him to vindicate the honour of Jehovah. He should have told the messenger that the God in whom he trusted would protect him against the hatred of the queen. Only a few hours had passed since he had witnessed a wonderful manifestation of divine power, and this should have given him assurance that he would not now be forsaken. Had he remained where he was, had he made God his refuge and strength, standing steadfast for the truth, he would have been shielded from harm. The Lord would have given him another signal victory by sending His judgments on Jezebel; and the impression made on the king and the people would have wrought a great reformation.

Elijah had expected much from the miracle wrought on Carmel. He had hoped that after this display of God’s power, Jezebel would no longer have influence over the mind of Ahab, and that there would be a speedy reform throughout Israel. All day on Carmel’s height he had toiled without food. Yet when he guided the chariot of Ahab to the gate of Jezreel, his courage was strong, despite the physical strain under which he had laboured.

But a reaction such as frequently follows high faith and glorious success was pressing upon Elijah. He feared that the reformation begun on Carmel might not be lasting; and depression seized him. He had been exalted to Pisgah’s top; now he was in the valley. While under the inspiration of the Almighty, he had stood the severest trial of faith; but in this time of discouragement, with Jezebel’s threat sounding in his ears, and Satan still apparently prevailing through the plotting of this wicked woman, he lost his hold on God. He had been exalted above measure, and the reaction was tremendous. 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 sitting there, he requested for himself that he might die. “It is enough; now, O Lord,” he said, “take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.” A fugitive, far from the dwelling places of men, his spirits crushed by bitter disappointment, he desired never again to look upon the face of man. At last, utterly exhausted, he fell asleep.

Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God’s providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being.

The faithful Job, in the day of his affliction and darkness, declared:

“Let the day perish wherein I was born.”

“O that my grief were thoroughly weighed,
And my calamity laid in the balances together!”

“O that I might have my request;
And that God would grant me the thing that I long for!
Even that it would please God to destroy me;
That He would let loose His hand, and cut me off!
Then should I yet have comfort.”

“I will not refrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”

“My soul chooses ... death rather than my life.
I loathe it;
I would not live always:
Let me alone;
For my days are vanity.”

[Job 3:3; Job 6:2; Job 8-10; Job 7:11, 15, 16]

But though weary of life, Job was not allowed to die. To him were pointed out the possibilities of the future, and there was given him the message of hope:

“Thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear:
Because thou shalt forget thy misery,
And remember it as waters that pass away:
And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday;
Thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.
And thou shalt be secure,
Because there is hope....
Thou shalt lie down,
And none shall make thee afraid;
Yea, many shall make suit unto thee.
But the eyes of the wicked shall fail,
And they shall not escape,
And their hope shall be as the giving up of the ghost.”

[Job 11:15-20]

From the depths of discouragement and despondency Job rose to the heights of implicit trust in the mercy and the saving power of God. Triumphantly he declared:

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him: ...
He also shall be my salvation.”
“I know that my Redeemer lives,
And that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
And though after my skin worms destroy this body,
Yet in my flesh shall I see God:
Whom I shall see for myself,
And mine eyes shall behold, and not another.”

[Job 13:15, 16; 19:25-27]

“The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind” (Job 38:1), and revealed to His servant the might of His power. When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly and to make his last years the best of his life.

Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the fruit of faith. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable. God is able and willing “more abundantly” (Hebrews 6:17) to bestow upon His servants the strength they need for test and trial. The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be well laid and firmly established, but God can overthrow the strongest of these. And this He does in His own time and way, when He sees that the faith of His servants has been sufficiently tested.

For the disheartened there is a sure remedy—faith, prayer, work. Faith and activity will impart assurance and satisfaction that will increase day by day. Are you tempted to give way to feelings of anxious foreboding or utter despondency? In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He knows your need. He has all power. His infinite love and compassion never weary. Fear not that He will fail of fulfilling His promise. He is eternal truth. Never will He change the covenant He has made with those who love Him. And He will bestow upon His faithful servants the measure of efficiency that their need demands. The apostle Paul has testified: “He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.... Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10.

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.

Chapter 13—“What Doest Thou Here?”

This chapter is based on 1 Kings 19:9-18.

Elijah’s retreat on Mount Horeb, though hidden from man, was known to God; and the weary and discouraged prophet was not left to struggle alone with the powers of darkness that were pressing upon him. At the entrance to the cave wherein Elijah had taken refuge, God met with him, through a mighty angel sent to inquire into his needs and to make plain the divine purpose for Israel.

Not until Elijah had learned to trust wholly in God could he complete his work for those who had been seduced into Baal worship. The signal triumph on the heights of Carmel had opened the way for still greater victories; yet from the wonderful opportunities opening before him, Elijah had been turned away by the threat of Jezebel. The man of God must be made to understand the weakness of his present position as compared with the vantage ground the Lord would have him occupy.

God met His tried servant with the inquiry, What are you doing here, Elijah? I sent you to the brook Cherith and afterward to the widow of Sarepta. I commissioned you to return to Israel and to stand before

the idolatrous priests on Carmel, and I girded you with strength to guide the chariot of the king to the gate of Jezreel. But who sent you on this hasty flight into the wilderness? What errand have you here?

In bitterness of soul Elijah mourned out his complaint: “I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

Calling upon the prophet to leave the cave, the angel bade him stand before the Lord on the mount, and listen to His word. “And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.”

Not in mighty manifestations of divine power, but by “a still small voice,” did God choose to reveal Himself to His servant. He desired to teach Elijah that it is not always the work that makes the greatest demonstration that is most successful in accomplishing His purpose. While Elijah waited for the revelation of the Lord, a tempest rolled, the lightnings flashed, and a devouring fire swept by; but God was not in all this. Then there came a still, small voice, and the prophet covered his head before the presence of the Lord. His petulance was silenced, his spirit softened and subdued. He now knew that a quiet trust, a firm reliance on God, would ever find for him a present help in time of need. {PK 168.4}

It is not always the most learned presentation of God’s truth that convicts and converts the soul. Not by eloquence or logic are men’s hearts reached, but by the sweet influences of the Holy Spirit, which operate quietly yet surely in transforming and developing character. It is the still, small voice of the Spirit of God that has power to change the heart.

“What are you doing here, Elijah?” the voice inquired; and again the prophet answered, “I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

The Lord answered Elijah that the wrongdoers in Israel should not go unpunished. Men were to be especially chosen to fulfill the divine purpose in the punishment of the idolatrous kingdom. There was stern work to be done, that all might be given opportunity to take their position on the side of the true God. Elijah himself was to return to Israel, and share with others the burden of bringing about a reformation.

“Go,” the Lord commanded Elijah, “return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou arrive, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: and Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass, that him that escaped the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escaped from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.”

Elijah had thought that he alone in Israel was a worshiper of the true God. But He who reads the hearts of all revealed to the prophet that there were many others who, through the long years of apostasy, had remained true to Him. “I have left Me,” God said, “seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”

From Elijah’s experience during those days of discouragement and apparent defeat there are many lessons to be drawn, lessons invaluable to the servants of God in this age, marked as it is by general departure from right. The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet’s day

overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect. The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be, and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind.

Yet this apostasy, widespread as it has come to be, is not universal. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will come soon to end the reign of sin and death. And there are many who have been worshiping Baal ignorantly, but with whom the Spirit of God is still striving.

These need the personal help of those who have learned to know God and the power of His word. In such a time as this, every child of God should be actively engaged in helping others. As those who have an understanding of Bible truth try to seek out the men and women who are longing for light, angels of God will attend them. And where angels go, none need fear to move forward. As a result of the faithful efforts of consecrated workers, many will be turned from idolatry to the worship of the living God. Many will cease to pay homage to man-made institutions and will take their stand fearlessly on the side of God and His law.

Much depends on the unceasing activity of those who are true and loyal, and for this reason Satan puts forth every possible effort to thwart the divine purpose to be wrought out through the obedient. He causes some to lose sight of their high and holy mission, and to become satisfied with the pleasures of this life. He leads them to settle down at ease, or, for the sake of greater worldly advantages, to remove from places where they might be a power for good. Others he causes to flee in discouragement from duty, because of opposition or persecution. But all such are regarded by Heaven with tenderest pity. To every child of God whose voice the enemy of souls had succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, “What are you doing here?” I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the day of God. Why are you here? Who sent you?

The joy set before Christ, the joy that sustained Him through sacrifice and suffering, was the joy of seeing sinners saved. This should be the joy of every follower of His, the spur to his ambition. Those who realize, even in a limited degree, what redemption means to them and to their fellow men, will comprehend in some measure the vast needs of humanity. Their hearts will be moved to compassion as they see the moral and spiritual destitution of thousands who are under the shadow of a terrible doom, in comparison with which physical suffering fades into nothingness.

Of families, as of individuals, the question is asked, “What are you doing here?” In many churches there are families well instructed in the truths of God’s word, who might widen the sphere of their influence by moving to places in need of the ministry they are capable of giving. God calls for Christian families to go into the dark places of the earth and work wisely and perseveringly for those who are enshrouded in spiritual gloom. To answer this call requires self-sacrifice. While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying, without hope and without God. For the sake of worldly advantage, for the sake of acquiring scientific knowledge, men are willing to venture into pestilential regions and to endure hardship and privation. Where are those who are willing to do as much for the sake of telling others of the Saviour?

If, under trying circumstances, men of spiritual power, pressed beyond measure, become discouraged and desponding, if at times they see nothing desirable in life, that they should choose it, this is nothing strange or new. Let all such remember that one of the mightiest of the prophets fled for his life before the rage of an infuriated woman. A fugitive, weary and travel-worn, bitter disappointment crushing his spirits, he asked that he might die. But it was when hope was gone and his lifework seemed threatened with defeat, that he learned one of the most precious lessons of his life. In the hour of his greatest weakness he learned the need and the possibility of trusting God under circumstances the most forbidding.

Those who, while spending their life energies in self-sacrificing labour, are tempted to give way to despondency and distrust, may gather courage from the experience of Elijah. God’s watchful care, His love, His power, are especially manifest in behalf of His servants whose zeal is misunderstood or unappreciated, whose counsels and reproofs are slighted, and whose efforts toward reform are repaid with hatred and opposition.

It is at the time of greatest weakness that Satan assails the soul with the fiercest temptations. It was thus that he hoped to prevail over the Son of God; for by this policy he had gained many victories over man. When the will power weakened and faith failed, then those who had stood long and valiantly for the right yielded to temptation. Moses, wearied with forty years of wandering and unbelief, lost for a moment his hold on Infinite Power. He failed just on the borders of the Promised Land. So with Elijah. He who had maintained his trust in Jehovah during the years of drought and famine, he who had stood undaunted before Ahab, he who throughout that trying day on Carmel had stood before the whole nation of Israel the sole witness to the true God, in a moment of weariness allowed the fear of death to overcome his faith in God.

And so it is today. When we are encompassed with doubt, perplexed by circumstances, or afflicted by poverty or distress, Satan seeks to shake our confidence in Jehovah. It is then that he arrays before us our mistakes and tempts us to distrust God, to question His love. He hopes to discourage the soul and break our hold on God.

Those who, standing in the forefront of the conflict, are impelled by the Holy Spirit to do a special work, will frequently feel a reaction when the pressure is removed. Despondency may shake the most heroic faith and weaken the most steadfast will. But God understands, and He still pities and loves. He reads the motives and the purposes of the heart. To wait patiently, to trust when everything looks dark, is the lesson that the leaders in God’s work need to learn. Heaven will not fail them in their day of adversity. Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God.

Not alone for men in positions of large responsibility is the lesson of Elijah’s experience in learning anew how to trust God in the hour of trial. He who was Elijah’s strength is strong to uphold every struggling child of His, no matter how weak. Of everyone He expects loyalty, and to everyone He grants power according to the need. In his own strength man is strengthless; but in the might of God he may be strong to overcome evil and to help others to overcome. Satan can never gain advantage of him who makes God his defense. “Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.” Isaiah 45:24.

Fellow Christian, Satan knows your weakness; therefore cling to Jesus. Abiding in God’s love, you may stand every test. The righteousness of Christ alone can give you power to stem the tide of evil that is sweeping over the world. Bring faith into your experience. Faith lightens every burden, relieves every weariness. Providences that are now mysterious you may solve by continued trust in God. Walk by faith in the path He marks out. Trials will come, but go forward. This will strengthen your faith and fit you for

service. The records of sacred history are written, not merely that we may read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God’s servants of old may work in us. In no less marked manner will the Lord work now, wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power.

To us, as to Peter, the word is spoken, “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.” Luke 22:31, 32. Christ will never abandon those for whom He has died. We may leave Him and be overwhelmed with temptation, but Christ can never turn from one for whom He has paid the ransom of His own life. Could our spiritual vision be quickened, we should see souls bowed under oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath sheaves, and ready to die in discouragement. We should see angels flying quickly to the aid of these tempted ones, forcing back the hosts of evil that encompass them, and placing their feet on the sure foundation. The battles waging between the two armies are as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend.

In the vision of the prophet Ezekiel there was the appearance of a hand beneath the wings of the cherubim. This is to teach God’s servants that it is divine power that gives success. Those whom God employs as His messengers are not to feel that His work is dependent on them. Finite beings are not left to carry this burden of responsibility. He who slumbers not, who is continually at work for the accomplishment of His designs, will carry forward His work. He will thwart the purposes of wicked men and will bring to confusion the counsels of those who plot mischief against His people. He who is the King, the Lord of hosts, sits between the cherubim, and amidst the strife and tumult of nations He guards His children still. When the strongholds of kings shall be overthrown, when the arrows of wrath shall strike through the hearts of His enemies, His people will be safe in His hands.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, November 2nd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 317***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 2nd

A Gift From the Lord

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Christ, only Christ and His righteousness, will obtain for us a passport into heaven.—*Letter 6b, 1890.*

The proud heart strives to earn salvation, but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ.—*The Desire of Ages, p. 300 (1898).*

That we might become members of the heavenly family, He became a member of the earthly family. —*The Desire of Ages, p. 638 (1898).*

Better than a title to the noblest palace on earth is a title to the mansions our Lord has gone to prepare. And better than all the words of earthly praise, will be the Saviour's words to His faithful servants, "*Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*" [Matthew 25:34]—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 374 (1900).*

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, November 2nd, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 24

David Organizes the Priests

- 1Ch 24:1 Now *these are* the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
- 1Ch 24:2 But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office.
- 1Ch 24:3 And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service.
- 1Ch 24:4 And there were more chief men found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar; and *thus* were they divided. Among the sons of Eleazar *there were* sixteen chief men of the house of *their* fathers, and eight among the sons of Ithamar according to the house of their fathers.
- 1Ch 24:5 Thus were they divided by lot, one sort with another; for the governors of the sanctuary, and governors *of the house* of God, were of the sons of Eleazar, and of the sons of Ithamar.
- 1Ch 24:6 And Shemaiah the son of Nethaneel the scribe, *one* of the Levites, wrote them before the king, and the princes, and Zadok the priest, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and *before* the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites: one principal household being taken for Eleazar, and *one* taken for Ithamar.
- 1Ch 24:7 Now the first lot came forth to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,
- 1Ch 24:8 The third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,
- 1Ch 24:9 The fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,
- 1Ch 24:10 The seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,
- 1Ch 24:11 The ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,
- 1Ch 24:12 The eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,
- 1Ch 24:13 The thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,
- 1Ch 24:14 The fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,
- 1Ch 24:15 The seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Aphses,
- 1Ch 24:16 The nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkeel,
- 1Ch 24:17 The one and twentieth to Jachin, the two and twentieth to Gamul,
- 1Ch 24:18 The three and twentieth to Delaiah, the four and twentieth to Maaziah.
- 1Ch 24:19 These *were* the orderings of them in their service to come into the house of the LORD, according to their manner, under Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.
- 1Ch 24:20 And the rest of the sons of Levi *were these*: Of the sons of Amram; Shubael: of the sons of Shubael; Jehdeiah.
- 1Ch 24:21 Concerning Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, the first *was* Isshiah.
- 1Ch 24:22 Of the Izharites; Shelomoth: of the sons of Shelomoth; Jahath.
- 1Ch 24:23 And the sons *of Hebron*; Jeriah *the first*, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.
- 1Ch 24:24 *Of* the sons of Uzziel; Michah: of the sons of Michah; Shamir.
- 1Ch 24:25 The brother of Michah *was* Isshiah: of the sons of Isshiah; Zechariah.
- 1Ch 24:26 The sons of Merari *were* Mahli and Mushi: the sons of Jaaziah; Beno.
- 1Ch 24:27 The sons of Merari by Jaaziah; Beno, and Shoham, and Zaccur, and Ibri.

- 1Ch 24:28 Of Mahli *came* Eleazar, who had no sons.
- 1Ch 24:29 Concerning Kish: the son of Kish *was* Jerahmeel.
- 1Ch 24:30 The sons also of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jerimoth. These *were* the sons of the Levites after the house of their fathers.
- 1Ch 24:31 These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against their younger brethren.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, November 2nd, 2024



Olivya [oh-liv-ya] first went to an Alaskan summer camp when she was 11 years old. She lived far away from Camp Polaris, and she felt so homesick on her first day at the camp. She missed her dog, Callie.

“I want to go home,” she told her father as he dropped her off.

“You’re fine,” he replied with a kind smile.

Then he left, and Olivya faced a whole week without her dear dog.

The afternoon was rainy. It rains often in Alaskan summers. Olivya tried to stay dry.

That evening, the children ate supper and had worship in the main lodge. After that, Olivya followed seven girls and their camp counselor, whose name was Miss Joelle, [jo-EL-ee] to their cabin for the night.

It was then that things got interesting.

Miss Joelle opened her Bible and read a story about patience. The girls listened from their bunk beds or on the floor. Then the counselor asked if the girls had any prayer requests.

Olivya’s hand shot up.

“Please pray for me not to be homesick and for my dog to be OK at home,” she said.

Other girls wanted to pray for their parents and families. Some wanted to pray for themselves. They had friends back at home who took drugs, and they didn’t want to get mixed up in that.

Then Miss Joelle asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to pray. Two girls raised their hands.

“Today was such a good day,” one girl prayed. “Help us to sleep well. Amen.”

The second girl’s prayer also was short. She hadn’t liked the rainy afternoon.

“Please make it sunny,” she prayed.

Miss Joelle also offered a short prayer.

“Thank You for the good day,” she said. “Help us to have a good day tomorrow. Please make the weather good.”

The girls crawled into bed, and Miss Joelle came around to tuck them in.

When she came to Olivya, she said, “Hey, Olivya, can I pray with you?”

“Yes, please,” Olivya said.

Miss Joelle prayed, saying, “Dear Lord, thank You for Olivya, that she is my camper, that we came to camp, and that we had a good day today. Help her to sleep well and have a good day tomorrow. Amen.”

Then she moved to the next girl.

Olivya felt so loved. She had felt sad and lonely so far from her dog and her home. But she could see God’s love shining through the counselor’s caring words and kind deeds.

Finally, all the girls fell asleep.

Except Olivya.

In the dark cabin, she reflected back on her first day at camp. It hadn’t been so bad. She wondered what would happen the next day. Would it be rainy, or would it be sunny? What would she eat for breakfast? She loved breakfast, especially if it included eggs. But she also liked breakfast burritos and pancakes. What games would she and the other children play after breakfast? Would she make new friends and talk to them?

With those thoughts, Olivya drifted off to sleep.

It turned out to be a great week at Camp Polaris. Before she knew it, the week was over, and she was back at home with Father and her dear dog, Callie.

Olivya loved camp so much that she went back the next year, and the next.

Today, she is 17 years old and works as a counselor at Camp Polaris. She goes to the girls’ bunk beds at night and prays for them and loves them, just like her counselor did when she was 11. She wants all the children to know just how much God loves them.

Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to Camp Polaris to help improve it with new cabins and real toilets and showers. Olivya and the children at Camp Polaris are grateful to all the children and adults who gave to that Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can help children in Alaska by giving to this quarter’s Thirteenth

Sabbath Offering, which will go to a special project in Bethel. Thank you for planning a generous offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – November 3rd

1. What was Elijah's state of mind having fled from Jezebel?

➤ **1 Kings 19:4** —

NOTE : 'A reaction such as frequently follows high faith and glorious success was pressing upon Elijah. He feared that the reformation begun on Carmel might not be lasting; and depression seized him. He had been exalted to Pisgah's top; now he was in the valley. While under the inspiration of the Almighty, he had stood the severest trial of faith; but in this time of discouragement, with Jezebel's threat sounding in his ears, and Satan still apparently prevailing through the plotting of this wicked woman, he lost his hold on God. He had been exalted above measure, and the reaction was tremendous. 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 sitting there, he requested for himself that he might die. *“It is enough; now, O Lord,”* he said, *“take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.”* [1 Kings 19:4] A fugitive, far from the dwelling places of men, his spirits crushed by bitter disappointment, he desired never again to look upon the face of man. At last, utterly exhausted, he fell asleep.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 161.*

2. How did the Lord minister to Elijah in his discouragement?

➤ **1 Kings 19:5-8** —

NOTE : 'God's eye was still upon His servant. He loved him no less when he felt broken-hearted and forsaken of God and man than when, in answer to his prayer, fire flashed from heaven illuminating Carmel. Those who have not borne weighty responsibilities, or who have not been accustomed to feel very deeply, cannot understand the feelings of Elijah and are not prepared to give him the tender sympathy he deserves. God knows and can read the heart's sore anguish under temptation and sore conflict. As Elijah sleeps under the juniper tree, a soft touch and pleasant voice arouse him. He starts at once in his terror, as if to flee, as though the enemy who was in pursuit of his life had indeed found him. But in the pitying face of love bending over him he sees, not the face of an enemy, but of a friend. An angel has been sent with food from heaven to sustain the faithful servant of God. His voice says to Elijah: *“Arise and eat.”* [1 Kings 19:5] After Elijah had partaken of the refreshment prepared for him, he again slumbered. A second time the angel of God ministers to the wants of Elijah. He touches the weary, exhausted man, and in pitying tenderness says to him: *“Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.”* [1 Kings 19:7] Elijah was strengthened and pursued his journey to Horeb.' —*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, pages 290-291.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 318***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 3rd

Why We Should Think About the Future World

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Proverbs 16:3

Jesus has brought heaven to view, and presents its glory to our eyes in order that eternity may not be dropped out of our reckoning.—*Signs of the Times, April 4, 1895.*

With eternal realities in view we will habitually cultivate thoughts of the presence of God. This will be a shield against the incoming of the enemy; it will give strength and assurance, and lift the soul above fear. Breathing in the atmosphere of heaven, we will not be breathing the malaria of the world. . . .

Jesus comes to present the advantages and beautiful imagery of the heavenly, that the attractions of heaven shall become familiar to the thoughts, and memory's hall be hung with pictures of celestial and eternal loveliness. . .

The great Teacher gives man a view of the future world. He brings it, with its attractive possessions, within the range of his vision. . . . If He can fasten the mind upon the future life and its blessedness, in comparison with the temporal concerns of this world, the striking contrast is deeply impressed upon the mind, absorbing the heart and soul and the whole being.—*Our High Calling, p. 285, 286 (1890).*

Daily Scripture

Sunday, November 3rd, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 25

David Organizes the Musicians

- 1Ch 25:1 Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:
- 1Ch 25:2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king.
- 1Ch 25:3 Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.
- 1Ch 25:4 Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, *and* Mahazioth:
- 1Ch 25:5 All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.
- 1Ch 25:6 All these *were* under the hands of their father for song *in* the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman.
- 1Ch 25:7 So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, *even* all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight.
- 1Ch 25:8 And they cast lots, ward against *ward*, as well the small as the great, the teacher as the scholar.
- 1Ch 25:9 Now the first lot came forth for Asaph to Joseph: the second to Gedaliah, who with his brethren and sons *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:10 The third to Zaccur, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:11 The fourth to Izri, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:12 The fifth to Nethaniah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:13 The sixth to Bukkiah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:14 The seventh to Jesharelah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:15 The eighth to Jeshaiiah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:16 The ninth to Mattaniah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:17 The tenth to Shimei, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:18 The eleventh to Azareel, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:19 The twelfth to Hashabiah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:20 The thirteenth to Shubael, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:21 The fourteenth to Mattithiah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:22 The fifteenth to Jeremoth, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:23 The sixteenth to Hananiah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:24 The seventeenth to Joshbekashah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:25 The eighteenth to Hanani, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:26 The nineteenth to Mallothi, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:
- 1Ch 25:27 The twentieth to Eliathah, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:

1Ch 25:28 The one and twentieth to Hothir, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:

1Ch 25:29 The two and twentieth to Giddalti, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:

1Ch 25:30 The three and twentieth to Mahazioth, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve:

1Ch 25:31 The four and twentieth to Romamtiezer, *he*, his sons, and his brethren, *were* twelve.

Monday – November 4th

1. How did David recognise the love and care of the Lord for His own?

➤ **Psalm 34** —

NOTE : 'The servant of God may have courage, knowing that he has a pitying Heavenly Father who reads the motives and understands the purposes of the soul. Those who stand in the front of the conflict, who are reined up by the Spirit of God to do a special work for Him, will frequently feel the reaction, when the pressure is removed, and despondency may press them hard, and shake the most heroic faith, and weaken the most steadfast minds. God understands all our weaknesses. He can pity and love when the hearts of men may be as hard as flint. To wait patiently and trust in God when everything looks dark, is the lesson His servants must learn more fully. God will not fail them in integrity.' —*Review & Herald, October 7, 1873.*

2. What question did the Lord put to Elijah?

➤ **1 Kings 19:9** —

NOTE : 'To Elijah, in his place of hiding, The Lord said, “[What are you doing here, Elijah?](#)” [1 Kings 19:9] I sent you to Samaria with a message to Ahab; I sent you to the brook Cherith, and afterward to the widow of Sarepta. I commissioned you to return to Israel and to stand before the idolatrous priests on Carmel; and I girded you with strength to guide the chariot of the king to the gate of Jezreel. But who sent you on this hasty flight into the wilderness? What errand have you here? So, to every child of God not actively engaged in service whose voice the enemy of souls, no matter by what means, has succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, What are you doing here? I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the day of God. Why are you here?' —*Review & Herald, October 30, 1913.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, November 4th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 319***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 4th

The Christian's Motives

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

Motives stronger, and agencies more powerful, could never be brought into operation; the exceeding rewards for right-doing, the enjoyment of heaven, the society of the angels, the communion and love of God and His Son, the elevation and extension of all our powers throughout eternal ages--are these not mighty incentives and encouragements to urge us to give the heart's loving service to our Creator and Redeemer?—*Steps to Christ*, p. 21, 22 (1892).

If we can meet Jesus in peace and be saved, forever saved, we shall be the happiest of beings. Oh, to be at home at last where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest!—*Letter 113*, 1886.

I love to see everything that is beautiful in nature in this world. I think I would be perfectly satisfied with this earth, surrounded with the good things of God, if it were not blighted with the curse of sin. But we shall have new heavens and a new earth. John saw this in holy vision and said, "*I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God.*" [Revelation 21:3]. Oh, blessed hope, glorious prospect!—*Letter 62*, 1886.

Daily Scripture

Monday, November 4th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 26

Divisions of the Gatekeepers

- 1Ch 26:1 Concerning the divisions of the porters: Of the Korhites *was* Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.
- 1Ch 26:2 And the sons of Meshelemiah *were*, Zechariah the firstborn, Jediahel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,
- 1Ch 26:3 Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Elieoenai the seventh.
- 1Ch 26:4 Moreover the sons of Obededom *were*, Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, and Sacar the fourth, and Nethaneel the fifth,
- 1Ch 26:5 Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth: for God blessed him.
- 1Ch 26:6 Also unto Shemaiah his son were sons born, that ruled throughout the house of their father: for they *were* mighty men of valour.
- 1Ch 26:7 The sons of Shemaiah; Othni, and Rephael, and Obed, Elzabad, whose brethren *were* strong men, Elihu, and Semachiah.
- 1Ch 26:8 All these of the sons of Obededom: they and their sons and their brethren, able men for strength for the service, *were* threescore and two of Obededom.
- 1Ch 26:9 And Meshelemiah had sons and brethren, strong men, eighteen.
- 1Ch 26:10 Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons; Simri the chief, (for *though* he was not the firstborn, yet his father made him the chief;)
- 1Ch 26:11 Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brethren of Hosah *were* thirteen.
- 1Ch 26:12 Among these *were* the divisions of the porters, *even* among the chief men, *having* wards one against another, to minister in the house of the LORD.
- 1Ch 26:13 And they cast lots, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate.
- 1Ch 26:14 And the lot eastward fell to Shelemiah. Then for Zechariah his son, a wise counsellor, they cast lots; and his lot came out northward.
- 1Ch 26:15 To Obededom southward; and to his sons the house of Asuppim.
- 1Ch 26:16 To Shuppim and Hosah *the lot came forth* westward, with the gate Shallecheth, by the causeway of the going up, ward against ward.
- 1Ch 26:17 Eastward *were* six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and toward Asuppim two *and* two.
- 1Ch 26:18 At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, *and* two at Parbar.
- 1Ch 26:19 These *are* the divisions of the porters among the sons of Kore, and among the sons of Merari.

Treasurers and Other Officials

- 1Ch 26:20 And of the Levites, Ahijah *was* over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things.
- 1Ch 26:21 *As concerning* the sons of Laadan; the sons of the Gershonite Laadan, chief fathers, *even* of Laadan the Gershonite, *were* Jehieli.

- 1Ch 26:22 The sons of Jehieli; Zetham, and Joel his brother, *which were* over the treasures of the house of the LORD.
- 1Ch 26:23 Of the Amramites, *and* the Izharites, the Hebronites, *and* the Uzzielites:
- 1Ch 26:24 And Shebuel the son of Gershon, the son of Moses, *was* ruler of the treasures.
- 1Ch 26:25 And his brethren by Eliezer; Rehabiah his son, and Jeshaiiah his son, and Joram his son, and Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son.
- 1Ch 26:26 Which Shelomith and his brethren *were* over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the chief fathers, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the host, had dedicated.
- 1Ch 26:27 Out of the spoils won in battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD.
- 1Ch 26:28 And all that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, had dedicated; *and* whosoever had dedicated *anything, it was* under the hand of Shelomith, and of his brethren.
- 1Ch 26:29 Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons *were* for the outward business over Israel, for officers and judges.
- 1Ch 26:30 *And* of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brethren, men of valour, a thousand and seven hundred, *were* officers among them of Israel on this side Jordan westward in all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king.
- 1Ch 26:31 Among the Hebronites *was* Jerijah the chief, *even* among the Hebronites, according to the generations of his fathers. In the fortieth year of the reign of David they were sought for, and there were found among them mighty men of valour at Jazer of Gilead.
- 1Ch 26:32 And his brethren, men of valour, *were* two thousand and seven hundred chief fathers, whom king David made rulers over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, for every matter pertaining to God, and affairs of the king.

Tuesday – November 5th

1. How did Elijah respond to the Lord's question?

➤ 1 Kings 19:10 —

NOTE : 'There are many lessons to be drawn from Elijah's experience during these days of discouragement and apparent defeat, lessons invaluable to the servants of God in this age, marked as it is by general departure from right. The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet's day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the Word. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect. The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be, and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind.' —*Review & Herald, October 23, 1913.*

2. How did the Lord reveal Himself to Elijah?

➤ 1 Kings 19:11-12 —

NOTE : 'Not in mighty manifestations of divine power, but by “*a still small voice*,” [1 Kings 19:12] did God choose to reveal Himself to His servant. He desired to teach Elijah that it is not always the work that makes the greatest demonstration that is most successful in accomplishing His purpose. While Elijah waited for the revelation of the Lord, a tempest rolled, the lightnings flashed, and a devouring fire swept by; but God was not in all this. Then there came a still, small voice, and the prophet covered his head before the presence of the Lord. His petulance was silenced, his spirit softened and subdued. He now knew that a quiet trust, a firm reliance on God, would ever find for him a present help in time of need. It is not always the most learned presentation of God's truth that convicts and converts the soul. Not by eloquence or logic are men's hearts reached, but by the sweet influences of the Holy Spirit, which operate quietly yet surely in transforming and developing character. It is the still, small voice of the Spirit of God that has power to change the heart.' —*Prophets & Kings, pages 168-169.*

3. Heaven's Hotline —

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 320***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 5th

A Real and Tangible Place

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

John 14:1-3

What a source of joy to the disciples to know that they had such a Friend in heaven to plead in their behalf! Through the visible ascension of Christ all their views and contemplation of heaven are changed. Their minds had formerly dwelt upon it as a region of unlimited space, tenanted by spirits without substance. Now heaven was connected with the thought of Jesus, whom they had loved and revered above all others, with whom they had conversed and journeyed, whom they had handled, even in His resurrected body. . . .

Heaven could no longer appear to them as an indefinite, incomprehensible space, filled with intangible spirits. They now looked upon it as their future home, where mansions were being prepared for them by their loving Redeemer.—*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 3, p. 262 (1878).*

A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father's house.—*The Great Controversy, p. 674, 675 (1911).*

In the earth made new, the redeemed will engage in the occupations and pleasures that brought happiness to Adam and Eve in the beginning. The Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field.—*Prophets and Kings, p. 730, 731 (c. 1914).*

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 27

Military Divisions

- 1Ch 27:1 Now the children of Israel after their number, *to wit*, the chief fathers and captains of thousands and hundreds, and their officers that served the king in any matter of the courses, which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, of every course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:2 Over the first course for the first month *was* Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:3 Of the children of Perez *was* the chief of all the captains of the host for the first month.
- 1Ch 27:4 And over the course of the second month *was* Dodai an Ahohite, and of his course *was* Mikloth also the ruler: in his course likewise *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:5 The third captain of the host for the third month *was* Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, a chief priest: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:6 This *is that* Benaiah, *who was* mighty *among* the thirty, and above the thirty: and in his course *was* Ammizabad his son.
- 1Ch 27:7 The fourth *captain* for the fourth month *was* Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:8 The fifth captain for the fifth month *was* Shamhuth the Izrahite: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:9 The sixth *captain* for the sixth month *was* Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:10 The seventh *captain* for the seventh month *was* Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:11 The eighth *captain* for the eighth month *was* Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zarhites: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:12 The ninth *captain* for the ninth month *was* Abiezer the Anetothite, of the Benjamites: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:13 The tenth *captain* for the tenth month *was* Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:14 The eleventh *captain* for the eleventh month *was* Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.
- 1Ch 27:15 The twelfth *captain* for the twelfth month *was* Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.

Leaders of Tribes

- 1Ch 27:16 Furthermore over the tribes of Israel: the ruler of the Reubenites *was* Eliezer the son of Zichri: of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah:
- 1Ch 27:17 Of the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel: of the Aaronites, Zadok:
- 1Ch 27:18 Of Judah, Elihu, *one* of the brethren of David: of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael:
- 1Ch 27:19 Of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah: of Naphtali, Jerimoth the son of Azriel:
- 1Ch 27:20 Of the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah: of the half tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiiah:

- 1Ch 27:21 Of the half *tribe* of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah: of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner:
- 1Ch 27:22 Of Dan, Azareel the son of Jeroham. These *were* the princes of the tribes of Israel.
- 1Ch 27:23 But David took not the number of them from twenty years old and under: because the LORD had said he would increase Israel like to the stars of the heavens.
- 1Ch 27:24 Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.
- 1Ch 27:25 And over the king's treasures *was* Azmaveth the son of Adiel: and over the storehouses in the fields, in the cities, and in the villages, and in the castles, *was* Jehonathan the son of Uzziah:
- 1Ch 27:26 And over them that did the work of the field for tillage of the ground *was* Ezri the son of Chelub:
- 1Ch 27:27 And over the vineyards *was* Shimei the Ramathite: over the increase of the vineyards for the wine cellars *was* Zabdi the Shiphmite:
- 1Ch 27:28 And over the olive trees and the sycomore trees that *were* in the low plains *was* Baalhanan the Gederite: and over the cellars of oil *was* Joash:
- 1Ch 27:29 And over the herds that fed in Sharon *was* Shitrai the Sharonite: and over the herds *that were* in the valleys *was* Shaphat the son of Adlai:
- 1Ch 27:30 Over the camels also *was* Obil the Ishmaelite: and over the asses *was* Jehdeiah the Meronothite:
- 1Ch 27:31 And over the flocks *was* Jaziz the Hagerite. All these *were* the rulers of the substance which *was* king David's.
- 1Ch 27:32 Also Jonathan David's uncle was a counsellor, a wise man, and a scribe: and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni *was* with the king's sons:
- 1Ch 27:33 And Ahithophel *was* the king's counsellor: and Hushai the Archite *was* the king's companion:
- 1Ch 27:34 And after Ahithophel *was* Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar: and the general of the king's army *was* Joab.

Wednesday – November 6th

1. What was Elijah's reaction when he heard the voice of the Lord?

➤ 1 Kings 19:13, first part —

NOTE : 'There should be an intelligent knowledge of how to come to God in reverence and Godly fear with devotional love. There is a growing lack of reverence for our Maker, a growing disregard of His greatness and His majesty. But God is speaking to us in these last days. We hear His voice in the storm, in the rolling thunder. We hear of the calamities He permits in the earthquakes, the breaking forth of waters, and the destructive elements sweeping all before them. We hear of ships going down in the tempestuous ocean. God speaks to families who have refused to recognise Him, sometimes in the whirlwind and storm, sometimes face to face as He talked with Moses. Again He whispers His love to the little trusting child and to the grey-haired sire in his dotage. And earthly wisdom has a wisdom as it beholds the unseen. When the still small voice which succeeds the whirlwind and the tempest that moves the rocks out of position is heard, let all cover their face, for God is very near. Let them hide themselves in Jesus Christ; for He is their hiding place. The cleft in the rock is hidden with His own pierced hand while the humble seeker waits in bowed attitude to hear what saith the Lord unto His servant.' —*Selected Messages, Book 2, pages 315-316.*

2. How did the Lord repeat His question to Elijah?

➤ 1 Kings 19:13, last part —

NOTE : 'Much depends on the unceasing activity of those who are true and loyal, and for this reason Satan puts forth every possible effort to thwart the divine purpose to be wrought out through the obedient. He causes some to lose sight of their high and holy mission, and to become satisfied with the pleasures of this life. He leads them to settle down at ease, or, for the sake of greater worldly advantages, to remove from places where they might be a power for good. Others he causes to flee in discouragement from duty, because of opposition or persecution. But all such are regarded by Heaven with tenderest pity. To every child of God whose voice the enemy of souls had succeeded in silencing, the question is addressed, “*What are you doing here?*” [1 Kings 19:9] I commissioned you to go into all the world and preach the gospel, to prepare a people for the day of God. Why are you here?’ —*Prophets & Kings, page 171.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 321***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 6th

Glory Indescribable

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 21:23

I saw the exceeding loveliness and glory of Jesus. His countenance was brighter than the sun at noonday. His robe was whiter than the whitest white. How can I . . . describe to you the glories of heaven, and the lovely angels singing and playing upon their harps of ten strings!—*Letter 3, 1851.*

The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world.—*Early Writings, p. 19 (1851).*

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!" [EGW] The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour's love. —*Early Writings, p. 289 (1858).*

Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.—*The Great Controversy, p. 675 (1911).*

If we could have but one view of the celestial city, we would never wish to dwell on earth again.—*Signs of the Times, April 8, 1889.*

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 28

David's Charge to Israel

- 1Ch 28:1 And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem.
- 1Ch 28:2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: *As for me, I had* in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:
- 1Ch 28:3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou *hast been* a man of war, and hast shed blood.
- 1Ch 28:4 Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah *to be* the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make *me* king over all Israel:
- 1Ch 28:5 And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.
- 1Ch 28:6 And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him *to be* my son, and I will be his father.
- 1Ch 28:7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.
- 1Ch 28:8 Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave *it* for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.

David's Charge to Solomon

- 1Ch 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.
- 1Ch 28:10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do *it*.
- 1Ch 28:11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,
- 1Ch 28:12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:
- 1Ch 28:13 Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD.
- 1Ch 28:14 *He gave* of gold by weight for *things* of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; *silver also* for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service:

- 1Ch 28:15 Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, *both* for the candlestick, and *also* for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick.
- 1Ch 28:16 And by weight *he gave* gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and *likewise* silver for the tables of silver:
- 1Ch 28:17 Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basons *he gave gold* by weight for every basin; and *likewise silver* by weight for every basin of silver:
- 1Ch 28:18 And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out *their wings*, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.
- 1Ch 28:19 All *this, said David*, the LORD made me understand in writing by *his* hand upon me, *even* all the works of this pattern.
- 1Ch 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.
- 1Ch 28:21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, *even they shall be with thee* for all the service of the house of God: and *there shall be* with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people *will be* wholly at thy commandment.

Thursday – November 7th

1. How did Elijah again reply?

➤ **1 Kings 19:14** —

NOTE : 'What strange work Elijah would have done in numbering Israel in the time when God's judgments were falling upon his backsliding people. He could only count one on the Lord's side. He said in mournful accents, *“I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”* [1 Kings 19:10]' —*Review & Herald, November 12, 1895.*

2. How did the Lord reassure Elijah that He would still use him as His prophet?

➤ **1 Kings 19:15-17** —

NOTE : 'The Lord assured Elijah that the wrong-doers in Israel should not go unpunished. There was stern work to be done, that all might be given opportunity to take their position on the side of the true God. Elijah himself was to return to Israel, and share with others the burden of bringing about a reformation. Some were to be especially chosen to fulfil the divine purpose in the punishment of the idolatrous kingdom.' —*Review & Herald, October 23, 1913.*

3. Heaven's Hotline —

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, November 7th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 322***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 7th

Streams, Hills, and Trees

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

Revelation 21:1

Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with silver.—*Early Writings*, p. 17 (1851).

There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 675 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Thursday, November 7th, 2024

1st Chronicles

Chapter 29

Offerings for the Temple

- 1Ch 29:1 Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, *is yet* young and tender, and the work *is* great: for the palace *is* not for man, but for the LORD God.
- 1Ch 29:2 Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for *things to be made* of gold, and the silver for *things* of silver, and the brass for *things* of brass, the iron for *things* of iron, and wood for *things* of wood; onyx stones, and *stones* to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.
- 1Ch 29:3 Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, *which* I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,
- 1Ch 29:4 *Even* three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses *withal*:
- 1Ch 29:5 The gold for *things* of gold, and the silver for *things* of silver, and for all manner of work *to be made* by the hands of artificers. And who *then* is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?
- 1Ch 29:6 Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly,
- 1Ch 29:7 And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.
- 1Ch 29:8 And they with whom *precious* stones were found gave *them* to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.
- 1Ch 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

David Prays in the Assembly

- 1Ch 29:10 Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed *be* thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.
- 1Ch 29:11 Thine, O LORD, *is* the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all *that is* in the heaven and in the earth *is thine*; *thine is* the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.
- 1Ch 29:12 Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reigns over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all.
- 1Ch 29:13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.
- 1Ch 29:14 But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.
- 1Ch 29:15 For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: our days on the earth *are* as a shadow, and *there is* none abiding.
- 1Ch 29:16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name *cometh* of thine hand, and *is* all thine own.

- 1Ch 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou tries the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.
- 1Ch 29:18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:
- 1Ch 29:19 And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all *these things*, and to build the palace, *for* the which I have made provision.
- 1Ch 29:20 And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.
- 1Ch 29:21 And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, *even* a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, *and* a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel:

Solomon Anointed King

- 1Ch 29:22 And did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed *him* unto the LORD *to be* the chief governor, and Zadok *to be* priest.
- 1Ch 29:23 Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.
- 1Ch 29:24 And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.
- 1Ch 29:25 And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him *such* royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

The Death of David

- 1Ch 29:26 Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.
- 1Ch 29:27 And the time that he reigned over Israel *was* forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three *years* reigned he in Jerusalem.
- 1Ch 29:28 And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.
- 1Ch 29:29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,
- 1Ch 29:30 With all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

Preparation Day – November 8th

1. How did the Lord show Elijah that he was wrong in his belief that he was alone in his loyalty to God?

➤ **1 Kings 19:18** —

NOTE : 'This apostasy, wide-spread as it is, is not universal. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will soon come to end the reign of sin and death. And there are many who are worshiping Baal ignorantly, with whom the Spirit of God is striving. These need the personal help of those who have learned to know God and the power of His word. In such a time as this, every child of God should be actively engaged in helping others. As those who have an understanding of Bible truth try to seek out the men and women who are longing for light, angels of God will attend them. And where angels go, none need fear to move forward. As a result of the faithful efforts of consecrated workers, many will be turned from idolatry to the worship of the living God. Many will cease to pay homage to man-made institutions, and will take their stand fearlessly on the side of God and his law.'
—Review & Herald, October 23, 1913.

2. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, November 8th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 323***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 8th

Flowers, Fruit, and Animals

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:6

I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers, and as I plucked them, I cried out, “*They will never fade.*” [EGW] Next I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union. We passed through the midst of them, and they followed on peaceably after.

Then we entered a wood, not like the dark woods we have here; no, no; but light, and all over glorious; the branches of the trees moved to and fro, and we all cried out, “*We will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.*” [EGW] We passed through the woods, for we were on our way to Mount Zion. . . .

On the mount was a glorious temple. . . . There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate, and the fig tree bowed down with the weight of its timely figs—these made the place all over glorious. . . .

And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit.—*Early Writings, p. 18, 19 (1851).*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, November 8th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 1

Solomon Worships at Gibeon

- 2Ch 1:1 And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God *was* with him, and magnified him exceedingly.
- 2Ch 1:2 Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers.
- 2Ch 1:3 So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that *was* at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.
- 2Ch 1:4 But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to *the place which* David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 1:5 Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.
- 2Ch 1:6 And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which *was* at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

Solomon Prays for Wisdom

- 2Ch 1:7 In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.
- 2Ch 1:8 And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.
- 2Ch 1:9 Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.
- 2Ch 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, *that is so* great?
- 2Ch 1:11 And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou may judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:
- 2Ch 1:12 Wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.
- 2Ch 1:13 Then Solomon came *from his journey* to the high place that *was* at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel.

Solomon Given Wealth

- 2Ch 1:14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 1:15 And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem *as plenteous* as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that *are* in the vale for abundance.
- 2Ch 1:16 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.
- 2Ch 1:17 And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred *shekels* of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out *horses* for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, November 8th, 2024



Katrina was overjoyed when she heard that a Seventh-day Adventist church was opening in Page, Arizona. There were no Adventist churches near her home on the Navajo Reservation, and she had not taken part in communion for 20 years.

On the first Sabbath, the elderly woman sought out the church pastor after the sermon. “I have not had communion for more than 20 years,” she said. “When can we have communion?”

Pastor James raised his hands helplessly. “We don’t have the equipment for it now right,” he said.

In reality, the church didn’t have much of anything. It was a miracle that the church even had a building. If a denomination wants a church in Page, it has to buy an existing church building. All churches stand on the same street in Page, and there is no place to build a new church. The Adventist Church managed to buy the Page church building from another denomination with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. When Pastor James arrived, however, he found that the church needed major repairs and lacked basic equipment, including items for communion.

But Katrina was determined to participate in communion. “I’ll see what I can do about it,” she said. “What do we need?”

The pastor said the church needed basins for foot-washing.

“When I get my next Social Security check, I’ll go to the store and buy basins,” Katrina said.

Sure enough, when she received her next Social Security check, she went to the store and found white plastic basins. There were six on the shelf, and she bought them all. The next Sabbath, she brought them to church and gave them to the pastor’s wife, Nancy.

“Here’s some, and I’ll be getting you some more when I receive my next check,” she said.

Nancy was touched, and she exclaimed, “Thank you!”

Pastor James and Nancy also wanted to celebrate communion at the church. But with a need for urgent repairs and basic equipment, it was challenging for them to know how to prioritize their limited funds.

Every time Katrina received a Social Security check, she bought all the white plastic basins that were on the store shelf. Usually, there were six. Then she brought them to church and gave them to the pastor’s wife. Sometimes she took money from her husband’s pension payments to help buy the basins. He was Navajo and didn’t go to church, but he didn’t mind helping out.

It took three months for Katrina to buy enough basins.

When she brought the last basins to church, she said to the pastor, “I’ve brought enough basins. So can we now have communion?”

Pastor James thanked her for her generosity. “But,” he said, “we don’t have towels.” Towels were needed to dry feet after washing them in the basins.

“I’ll see what we can do about that,” Katrina said.

When her next Social Security check arrived, she bought enough white towels for everyone to participate in communion.

Then she went to the pastor.

“Here are the towels,” she said. “Now can we have communion?”

The pastor again thanked her for her generosity. “But we have to get communion trays,” he said.

Katrina didn’t know how to find those. So, she said, “When can we get some? I can donate more money.”

Shortly afterward, another Adventist church donated a communion set, and the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church had everything needed for communion. The pastor’s wife made communion bread, and Katrina and other church-goers celebrated communion for the first time at the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Katrina was delighted! She thanked the Lord profusely.

“I have always loved communion,” she told Adventist Mission. “When you participate, you let Jesus know how much you love Him and appreciate the help that He has given you.”

Thank you for your 2011 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped plant the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, where this story took place. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter to further the spread of the gospel in the North American Division.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 7

“TO HEARKEN TO THE WORDS OF MY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS”

November 9 - November 15

MEMORY VERSE : “I have sent also unto you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto Me.”
[Jeremiah 35:15]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Prophets & Kings, pages 204-216

SCRIPTURE : 1 Kings 21:1-29; 2 Kings 1:2-17

LESSON AIM : To study the messages of reproof that Elijah was given.

INTRODUCTION : In the closing work of God in the earth, the standard of His law will be again exalted. False religion may prevail, iniquity may abound, the love of many may wax cold, the cross of Calvary may be lost sight of, and darkness, like the pall of death, may spread over the world; the whole force of the popular current may be turned against the truth; plot after plot may be formed to overthrow the people of God; but in the hour of greatest peril, the God of Elijah will raise up human instrumentalities to bear a message that will not be silenced. In the populous cities of the land, and in the places where men have gone to the greatest lengths in speaking against the Most High, the voice of stern rebuke will be heard.—*Christian Service*, page 165.

Sabbath – November 9th

1. What led Ahab into sin over Naboth's vineyard?

➤ 1 Kings 21:1-4 —

NOTE : 'In the Holy Scriptures fearful denunciations are pronounced against the sin of covetousness. “*No covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*” [Ephesians 5:5] The psalmist says, “*The wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses the covetous, whom the Lord abhors.*” [Psalm 10:3] Paul ranks covetous men with idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners, none of whom shall inherit the kingdom of God. These are the fruits of a corrupt tree, and God is dishonoured by them.’—*Signs of the Times*, February 7, 1884.

2. How did Jezebel arrange for Naboth's death?

➤ 1 Kings 21:7-13 —

NOTE : 'Ahab cared not by what means his wife might accomplish the desired object, and Jezebel immediately proceeded to carry out her wicked purpose. She wrote letters in the name of the king, sealed them with his signet, and sent them to the elders and nobles of the city where Naboth dwelt, saying: “*Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: and set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou did blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.*” [I Kings 21:9-10] The command was obeyed. “*And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them..*” [I Kings 21:11] Then Jezebel went to the king and bade him arise and take the vineyard. And Ahab, heedless of the consequences, blindly followed her counsel and went down to take possession of the coveted property.’—*Prophets & Kings, pages 205-206*

3. Heaven’s Hotline



EGW Study Help

Sabbath, November 9th, 2024

Prophets and Kings

Chapter 16, p. 204-216

“The Fall of the House of Ahab”

The evil influence that Jezebel had exercised from the first over Ahab continued during the later years of his life and bore fruit in deeds of shame and violence such as have seldom been equalled in sacred history. "There was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."

Naturally of a covetous disposition, Ahab, strengthened and sustained in wrongdoing by Jezebel, had followed the dictates of his evil heart until he was fully controlled by the spirit of selfishness. He could brook no refusal of his wishes; the things he desired he felt should by right be his.

This dominant trait in Ahab, which influenced so disastrously the fortunes of the kingdom under his successors, is revealed in an incident which took place while Elijah was still a prophet in Israel. Hard by the palace of the king was a vineyard belonging to Naboth, a Jezreelite. Ahab set his heart on possessing this vineyard, and he proposed to buy it or else to give in exchange for it another piece of land. "Give me thy vineyard," he said to Naboth, "that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money."

Naboth valued his vineyard highly because it had belonged to his fathers, and he refused to part with it. "The Lord forbid it me," he said to Ahab, "that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." According to the Levitical code no land could be transferred permanently by sale or exchange; every one of the children of Israel must "keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers." Numbers 36:7.

Naboth's refusal made the selfish monarch ill. "Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him. . . . And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread."

Jezebel soon learned the particulars, and, indignant that anyone should refuse the request of the king, she assured Ahab that he need no longer be sad. "Do thou now govern the kingdom of Israel?" she said. "Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

Ahab cared not by what means his wife might accomplish the desired object, and Jezebel immediately proceeded to carry out her wicked purpose. She wrote letters in the name of the king, sealed them with his signet, and sent them to the elders and nobles of the city where Naboth dwelt, saying: "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: and set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die."

The command was obeyed. "The men of his city, even the elders and the nobles, . . . did as Jezebel had . . . written in the letters which she had sent unto them." Then Jezebel went to the king and bade him arise and take the vineyard. And Ahab, heedless of the consequences, blindly followed her counsel and went down to take possession of the coveted property.

The king was not allowed to enjoy unrebuked that which he had gained by fraud and bloodshed. "The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?" And the Lord further instructed Elijah to pronounce upon Ahab a terrible judgment.

The prophet hastened to carry out the divine command. The guilty ruler, meeting the stern messenger of Jehovah face to face in the vineyard, gave voice to his startled fear in the words, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?"

Without hesitation the messenger of the Lord replied, "I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity." No mercy was to be shown. The house of Ahab was to be utterly destroyed, "like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah," the Lord declared through His servant, "for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked Me to anger, and made Israel to sin."

And of Jezebel the Lord declared, "The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dies of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dies in the field shall the fowls of the air eat."

When the king heard this fearful message, "he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

"And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, See thou how Ahab humbles himself before Me? because he humbles himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house."

It was less than three years later that King Ahab met his death at the hands of the Syrians. Ahaziah, his successor, "did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam." "He served Baal, and worshiped him, and provoked to anger the Lord God of Israel," as his father Ahab had done. 1 Kings 22:52, 53. But judgments followed close upon the sins of the rebellious king. A disastrous war with Moab, and then an accident by which his own life was threatened, attested to God's wrath against him.

Having fallen "through a lattice in his upper chamber," Ahaziah, seriously injured, and fearful of the possible outcome, sent some of his servants to make inquiry of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, whether he should recover or not. The god of Ekron was supposed to give information, through the medium of its priests, concerning future events. Large numbers of people went to inquire of it; but the predictions there uttered, and the information given, proceeded from the prince of darkness.

Ahaziah's servants were met by a man of God, who directed them to return to the king with the message: "Is it because there is no God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith Jehovah, Thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die." Having delivered his message, the prophet departed.

The astonished servants hastened back to the king, and repeated to him the words of the man of God. The king inquired, "What manner of man was he?" They answered, "He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins." "It is Elijah the Tishbite," Ahaziah exclaimed. He knew that if the stranger whom his messengers had met was indeed Elijah, the words of doom pronounced would surely come to pass. Anxious to avert, if possible, the threatened judgment, he determined to send for the prophet.

Twice Ahaziah sent a company of soldiers to intimidate the prophet, and twice the wrath of God fell upon them in judgment. The third company of soldiers humbled themselves before God; and their captain, as he approached the Lord's messenger, "fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight."

"The angel of Jehovah said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. And he said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? therefore thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die."

During the father's reign, Ahaziah had witnessed the wondrous works of the Most High. He had seen the terrible evidences that God had given apostate Israel of the way in which He regards those who set aside the binding claims of His law. Ahaziah had acted as if these awful realities were but idle tales. Instead of humbling his heart before the Lord, he had followed after Baal, and at last he had ventured upon this, his most daring act of impiety. Rebellious, and unwilling to repent, Ahaziah died, "according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken."

The history of King Ahaziah's sin and its punishment has in it a warning which none can disregard with impunity. Men today may not pay homage to heathen gods, yet thousands are worshiping at Satan's shrine as verily as did the king of Israel. The spirit of idolatry is rife in the world today, although, under the influence of science and education, it has assumed forms more refined and attractive than in the days when Ahaziah sought to the god of Ekron. Every day adds its sorrowful evidence that faith in the sure word of prophecy is decreasing, and that in its stead superstition and satanic witchery are captivating the minds of many.

Today the mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret association and séances, the obscurities and wonders, of spiritistic mediums. The disclosures of these mediums are eagerly received by thousands who refuse to accept light from God's word or through His Spirit. Believers in spiritism may speak with scorn of the magicians of old, but the great deceiver laughs in triumph as they yield to his arts under a different form.

There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism. Others are led astray by the teachings of Christian Science, and by the mysticism of Theosophy and other Oriental religions.

The apostles of nearly all forms of spiritism claim to have power to heal. They attribute this power to electricity, magnetism, the so-called "sympathetic remedies," or to latent forces within the mind of man. And there are not a few, even in this Christian age, who go to these healers, instead of trusting in the power of the living God and the skill of well-qualified physicians. The mother, watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims, "I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?" She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hand of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break.

God had cause for displeasure at Ahaziah's impiety. What had He not done to win the hearts of the people of Israel and to inspire them with confidence in Himself? For ages He had been giving His people manifestations of unexampled kindness and love. From the beginning He had shown that His "delights were with the sons of men." Proverbs 8:31. He had been a very present help to all who sought Him in sincerity. Yet now the king of Israel, turning from God to ask help of the worst enemy of his people,

proclaimed to the heathen that he had more confidence in their idols than in the God of heaven. In the same manner do men and women dishonour Him when they turn from the Source of strength and wisdom to ask help or counsel from the powers of darkness. If God's wrath was kindled by Ahaziah's act, how does He regard those who, having still greater light, choose to follow a similar course?

Those who give themselves up to the sorcery of Satan, may boast of great benefit received; but does this prove their course to be wise or safe? What if life should be prolonged? What if temporal gain should be secured? Will it pay in the end to have disregarded the will of God? All such apparent gain will prove at last an irrecoverable loss. We cannot with impunity break down a single barrier which God has erected to guard His people from Satan's power.

As Ahaziah had no son, he was succeeded by Jehoram, his brother, who reigned over the ten tribes for twelve years. Throughout these years his mother, Jezebel, was still living, and she continued to exercise her evil influence over the affairs of the nation. Idolatrous customs were still practiced by many of the people. Jehoram himself "wrought evil in the sight of the Lord; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made. Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jereboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom." 2 Kings 3:2, 3.

It was during Jehoram's reign over Israel that Jehoshaphat died, and Jehoshaphat's son, also named Jehoram, ascended the throne of the kingdom of Judah. By his marriage with the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, Jehoram of Judah was closely connected with the king of Israel; and in his reign he followed after Baal, "like as did the house of Ahab." "Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto." 2 Chronicles 21:6, 11.

The king of Judah was not permitted to continue his terrible apostasy unrepented. The prophet Elijah had not yet been translated, and he could not remain silent while the kingdom of Judah was pursuing the same course that had brought the northern kingdom to the verge of ruin. The prophet sent to Jehoram of Judah a written communication, in which the wicked king read the awful words:

"Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself: behold, with a great plague will the Lord smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: and thou shalt have great sickness."

In fulfillment of this prophecy "the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians: and they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz [Ahaziah, Azariah], the youngest of his sons.

"And after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, . . . he died of sore diseases." "And Ahaziah [Jehoahaz] his son reigned in his stead." Verses 12-19; 2 Kings 8:24.

Jehoram the son of Ahab was still reigning in the kingdom of Israel when his nephew, Ahaziah, came to the throne of Judah. Ahaziah ruled only one year, and during this time, influenced by his mother, Athaliah, "his counsellor to do wickedly," "he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord." 2 Chronicles 22:3, 4; 2 Kings 8:27. Jezebel, his grandmother, was still living, and he allied himself boldly with Jehoram of Israel, his uncle.

Ahaziah of Judah soon met a tragic end. The surviving members of the house of Ahab were indeed "his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction." 2 Chronicles 22:3, 4. While Ahaziah was visiting his uncle at Jezreel, the prophet Elisha was divinely directed to send one of the sons of the prophets to Ramoth-gilead to anoint Jehu king of Israel. The combined forces of Judah and Israel were at that time engaged in a military campaign against the Syrians of Ramoth-gilead. Jehoram had been wounded in battle, and had returned to Jezreel, leaving Jehu in charge of the royal armies.

In anointing Jehu, the messenger of Elisha declared, "I have anointed thee king over the people of the Lord, even over Israel." And then he solemnly charged Jehu with a special commission from heaven. "Thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master," the Lord declared through His messenger, "that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish." 2 Kings 9:6-8.

After he had been proclaimed king by the army, Jehu hastened to Jezreel, where he began his work of execution on those who had deliberately chosen to continue in sin and to lead others into sin. Jehoram of Israel, Ahaziah of Judah, and Jezebel the queen mother, with "all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests," were slain. "All the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests" dwelling at the center of Baal worship near Samaria, were put to the sword. The idolatrous images were broken down and burned, and the temple of Baal was laid in ruins. "Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel." 2 Kings 10:11, 19, 28.

Tidings of this general execution reached Athaliah, Jezebel's daughter, who still occupied a commanding position in the kingdom of Judah. When she saw that her son, the king of Judah, was dead, "she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah." In this massacre all the descendants of David who were eligible to the throne were destroyed, save one, a babe named Joash, whom the wife of Jehoiada the high priest hid within the precincts of the temple. For six years the child remained hidden, while "Athaliah reigned over the land." 2 Chronicles 22:10, 12.

At the end of this time, "the Levites and all Judah" (2 Chronicles 23:8) united with Jehoiada the high priest in crowning and anointing the child Joash and acclaiming him their king. "And they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king." 2 Kings 11:12.

"Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the Lord." 2 Chronicles 23:12. "And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets."

"Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason." 2 Kings 11:14. But Jehoiada commanded the officers to lay hold of Athaliah and all her followers and lead them out of the temple to a place of execution, where they were to be slain.

Thus perished the last member of the house of Ahab. The terrible evil that had been wrought through his alliance with Jezebel, continued till the last of his descendants was destroyed. Even in the land of Judah, where the worship of the true God had never been formally set aside, Athaliah had succeeded in seducing many. Immediately after the execution of the impenitent queen "all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and broke it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars." Verse 18.

A reformation followed. Those who took part in acclaiming Joash king, had solemnly covenanted "that they should be the Lord's people." And now that the evil influence of the daughter of Jezebel had

been removed from the kingdom of Judah, and the priests of Baal had been slain and their temple destroyed, "all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet." 2 Chronicles 23:16, 21.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, November 9th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 324***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 9th

The Vigour of Eternal Youth

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Malachi 4:2

All come forth from their graves the same in stature as when they entered the tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. But all arise with the freshness and vigour of eternal youth. . . . Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, the redeemed will “grow up” [Malachi 4:2] to the full stature of a race in its primeval glory.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 644, 645 (1911).

If Adam, at his creation, had not been endowed with twenty times as much vital force as men now have, the race, with their present habits of living in violation of natural law, would have become extinct.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 138 (1872).

None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close. . . . The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 676, 677 (1911).

Heaven is all health.--3T 172 (1872).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, November 9th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 2

Preparing to Build the Temple

- 2Ch 2:1 And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.
- 2Ch 2:2 And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.
- 2Ch 2:3 And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, *even so deal with me.*
- 2Ch 2:4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate *it* to him, *and* to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This *is an ordinance* for ever to Israel.
- 2Ch 2:5 And the house which I build *is* great: for great *is* our God above all gods.
- 2Ch 2:6 But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who *am* I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?
- 2Ch 2:7 Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that *are* with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide.
- 2Ch 2:8 Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants *shall be* with thy servants,
- 2Ch 2:9 Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build *shall be* wonderful great.
- 2Ch 2:10 And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.
- 2Ch 2:11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.
- 2Ch 2:12 Hiram said moreover, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.
- 2Ch 2:13 And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's,
- 2Ch 2:14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father *was* a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.
- 2Ch 2:15 Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants:
- 2Ch 2:16 And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 2:17 And Solomon numbered all the strangers that *were* in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.
- 2Ch 2:18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of them *to be* bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand *to be* hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.

Children's Mission Story

Sabbath, November 9th, 2024



Going to summer camp was a big adventure for Kingston.

Kingston is an Alaska Native boy who lives in the Alaskan village of Togiak.

When he went to Camp Polaris, he first climbed into an airplane and flew about 30 minutes to the city of Dillingham. Then he sat in a car and rode another 30 minutes to Lake Aleknagik. There, he boarded a motorboat and traveled 15 more minutes to the summer camp located at the base of Jackknife Mountain.

It wasn't lonely traveling to Camp Polaris. About 10 kids from Togiak went to camp at the same time. Kingston and the other children didn't really know much about God. They went because they were invited by a friendly Seventh-day Adventist woman named Josephine who also is from Togiak.

Kingston heard a lot about God at the camp. Every morning, the boys and girls had free time before breakfast to read the Bible and pray. The children took turns thanking God for the food at breakfast, lunch, and supper. Every morning and evening, the children heard stories about God at worship in the camp's main lodge. Then, before bed, the camp counselors spoke about God at another worship in the camp cabins.

Kingston listened to what the grown-ups said about God. He listened to what the other children said about God. He didn't say much. He just took it all in.

Each day at camp, the children divided into groups and took part in fun activities. One day, Kingston was with a group of kids learning about wilderness survival. Alaska is a huge place with lots of wilderness, so it was important to know how to survive.

Kingston listened as a staff member, Mr. Sam, showed how to build an outdoor fire. The children watched and helped, but Kingston was a little bored. He had learned how to build an outdoor fire a long time ago, when he was 6 years old.

Mr. Sam didn't cook any food on his fire. But as the fire crackled and burned, Kingston remembered that his family roasted hamburgers, hotdogs, and wild meat over their fire. At that moment, he saw a brown ground squirrel. Ground squirrels look like other squirrels except they live in holes in the ground rather than in trees. Now, Kingston spotted a ground squirrel running from one hole to another.

Someone else also saw the squirrel and exclaimed, “Oh, look! How cute.”

Kingston looked surprised. Slowly, he shook his head. “No, not cute,” he said very seriously. “Delicious.”

But no one was going to eat ground squirrel for lunch at the camp. If Kingston was disappointed, he didn't show it. He joined the other children in heartily eating baked potatoes, brown beans, macaroni and cheese, and garlic bread.

Afterward, he quickly did his chores and then had a few minutes to relax on the shore. Picking up a flat stone, he skipped it across the water. One, two, three, four, five bounces. Then ... plunk! The stone disappeared into the water. Other kids saw Kingston skipping stones and came over to try as well. One, two ... plunk! No one could get more skips than Kingston.

Kingston managed to throw a few more stones before the children were called to the next camp activity. It was time to swim. “Yay!” some children cheered. Kingston didn't say anything. He just took it all in.

Camp Polaris only lasted a week, and all too soon Kingston went home. He had a lot to think about. Maybe he would give his heart to God.

Pray for all the children who go to Camp Polaris, that they may decide to give their hearts to God. Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped improve Camp Polaris. You can help children in Alaska by giving to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – November 10th

1. What message of rebuke was Elijah commanded to give to Ahab?

➤ **1 Kings 21:17-22** —

NOTE : 'The king was not allowed to enjoy unrebuked that which he had gained by fraud and bloodshed. *“The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?”* [1 Kings 21:17-19] And the Lord further instructed Elijah to pronounce upon Ahab a terrible judgment.'—*Prophets & Kings*, page 206.

2. How did Ahab greet Elijah?

➤ **1 Kings 21:20, first part** —

➤ **Romans 8:7** —

➤ **James 4:4** —

NOTE : 'Every indignity, reproach, and cruelty that Satan could instigate human hearts to devise, has been visited upon the followers of Jesus. And it will be again fulfilled in a marked manner; for the carnal heart is still at enmity with the law of God, and will not be subject to its commands. The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles. The same hatred that prompted the cry, *“Crucify Him! crucify Him!”* [John 19:6; Luke 23:21] the same hatred that led to the persecution of the disciples, still works in the children of disobedience. The same spirit which in the Dark Ages consigned men and women to prison, to exile, and to death, which conceived the exquisite torture of the Inquisition, which planned and executed the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and which kindled the fires of Smithfield, is still at work with malignant energy in unregenerate hearts. 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.'—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 84.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, November 10th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 325***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 10th

Happiness Guaranteed

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

Luke 20:35

Jesus lifted the veil from the future life. "*In the resurrection," He said, "they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven"* [Matthew 22:30].—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 605 (1898).

There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth, but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the "sure word of prophecy." . . .

It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that God has not made known to us in His Word. We need not enter into speculation regarding our future state.—*Selected Messages, Book 1*, p. 172, 173 (1904).

Workers for God should not spend time speculating as to what conditions will prevail in the new earth. It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that the Lord has not revealed. He has made every provision for our happiness in the future life, and we are not to speculate regarding His plans for us. Neither are we to measure the conditions of the future life by the conditions of this life.—*Gospel Workers*, p. 314 (1904).

Daily Scripture

Sunday, November 10th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 3

Solomon Builds the Temple

- 2Ch 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.
- 2Ch 3:2 And he began to build in the second *day* of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.
- 2Ch 3:3 Now these *are the things wherein* Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure *was* threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.
- 2Ch 3:4 And the porch that *was* in the front *of the house*, the length *of it was* according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height *was* an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold.
- 2Ch 3:5 And the greater house he ceiled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains.
- 2Ch 3:6 And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold *was* gold of Parvaim.
- 2Ch 3:7 He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubims on the walls.
- 2Ch 3:8 And he made the most holy house, the length whereof *was* according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, *amounting* to six hundred talents.
- 2Ch 3:9 And the weight of the nails *was* fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.
- 2Ch 3:10 And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold.
- 2Ch 3:11 And the wings of the cherubims *were* twenty cubits long: one wing *of the one cherub was* five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing *was likewise* five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.
- 2Ch 3:12 And *one* wing of the other cherub *was* five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing *was* five cubits *also*, joining to the wing of the other cherub.
- 2Ch 3:13 The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces *were* inward.
- 2Ch 3:14 And he made the vail *of* blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.
- 2Ch 3:15 Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that *was* on the top of each of them *was* five cubits.
- 2Ch 3:16 And he made chains, *as* in the oracle, and put *them* on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put *them* on the chains.
- 2Ch 3:17 And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

Monday – November 11th

1. What was Ahab's response to the message of rebuke that Elijah brought?

➤ **1 Kings 21:27** —

NOTE : The word 'softly' means meekly. It probably literally means 'barefooted.' 'As formerly what he witnessed on Carmel, so now the words of Elijah went straight to Ahab's heart. He no longer disguised the truth from himself, nor sought to divert his mind by thoughts of personal animosity on the part of the prophet. It was against Jehovah that he had sinned, and before Jehovah he humbled himself. As a mourner he rent his clothes; as a penitent he wore sackcloth; as guilty he fasted; and as one staggering under a load of heavy grief, he walked softly. And all this publicly – in the sight of men.'—*Edersheim, The History of Israel & Judah, page 56.*

2. As a result, how did God modify His judgement upon the house of Ahab?

➤ **1 Kings 21:28-29** —

NOTE : 'It was fitting, if we may venture on the expression, and in accordance with God's previous declaration of judgement, that the living God, Who had seen and avenged the crime done in secret, should also acknowledge the repentance shown in public. Accordingly the word of Jehovah came once more to Elijah to declare that the personal repentance of the personal sin had brought remission of the personal punishment, though not of that denounced upon the dynasty. The visible judgement, by which all were to perceive the retribution of God's justice, was delayed to the time of his son, and would have been delayed further, had he shown like repentance.'—*Edersheim, The History of Israel & Judah, page 56.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, November 11th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 326***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 11th

Identity of the Redeemed Preserved

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry, yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved.—*The Desire of Ages* 804 (1898).

The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again, bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 1093* (1900).

There we shall know even as also we are known. There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise.—*Education, p. 306* (1903).

Daily Scripture

Monday, November 11th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 4

The Temple's Furnishings

- 2Ch 4:1 Moreover he made an altar of brass, twenty cubits the length thereof, and twenty cubits the breadth thereof, and ten cubits the height thereof.
- 2Ch 4:2 Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.
- 2Ch 4:3 And under it *was* the similitude of oxen, which did compass it round about: ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about. Two rows of oxen *were* cast, when it was cast.
- 2Ch 4:4 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea *was set* above upon them, and all their hinder parts *were* inward.
- 2Ch 4:5 And the thickness of it *was* an handbreadth, and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies; *and* it received and held three thousand baths.
- 2Ch 4:6 He made also ten lavers, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them: such things as they offered for the burnt offering they washed in them; but the sea *was* for the priests to wash in.
- 2Ch 4:7 And he made ten candlesticks of gold according to their form, and set *them* in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left.
- 2Ch 4:8 He made also ten tables, and placed *them* in the temple, five on the right side, and five on the left. And he made an hundred basons of gold.
- 2Ch 4:9 Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the doors of them with brass.
- 2Ch 4:10 And he set the sea on the right side of the east end, over against the south.
- 2Ch 4:11 And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basons. And Hiram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God;
- 2Ch 4:12 *To wit*, the two pillars, and the pommels, and the chapiters *which were* on the top of the two pillars, and the two wreaths to cover the two pommels of the chapiters *which were* on the top of the pillars;
- 2Ch 4:13 And four hundred pomegranates on the two wreaths; two rows of pomegranates on each wreath, to cover the two pommels of the chapiters *which were* upon the pillars.
- 2Ch 4:14 He made also bases, and lavers made he upon the bases;
- 2Ch 4:15 One sea, and twelve oxen under it.
- 2Ch 4:16 The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Hiram his father make to king Solomon for the house of the LORD of bright brass.
- 2Ch 4:17 In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredathah.
- 2Ch 4:18 Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance: for the weight of the brass could not be found out.
- 2Ch 4:19 And Solomon made all the vessels that *were for* the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon the shewbread *was set*;
- 2Ch 4:20 Moreover the candlesticks with their lamps, that they should burn after the manner before the oracle, of pure gold;
- 2Ch 4:21 And the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, *made he of gold, and* that perfect gold;
- 2Ch 4:22 And the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers, *of pure gold*: and the entry of the house, the inner doors thereof for the most holy *place*, and the doors of the house of the temple, *were of gold*.

Tuesday – November 12th

1. How were the words of Elijah's message concerning Ahab fulfilled?

➤ **1 Kings 22:37-38** —

NOTE : 'Through the darkness sped the chariot that bore the dead body of Ahab, lying on its bloody bed. They reached Samaria and there they buried their king. But the chariot full of his gore they took outside, to wash in the pool by the city. And, horrible to behold, in the pale moonlight the wild masterless dogs, which in the East prowl at night about the city walls, lapped up the water mingled with gore which flowed out of the blood-dyed chariot as they washed it.'—*Edersheim, The History of Israel & Judah, page 71.*

2. What message was Elijah commanded to give to Jezebel?

➤ **1 Kings 21:23** —

NOTE : 'The judgement on Jezebel was to be executed “*by the wall of Jezreel.*” [1 Kings 21:23] The expression means properly: 'on the free space by the wall. And, as we remember that the window from which Jezebel looked down upon Jehu must have been in the city wall, since she addressed him as he entered in the gate, we can understand how literally the prediction was fulfilled.' —*Edersheim, The History of Israel & Judah, page 57.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 327***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 12th

A Ruddy Complexion and a Robe of Light

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45

As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of noble height, and of beautiful symmetry. He was more than twice as tall as men now living upon earth, and was well proportioned. His features were perfect and beautiful. His complexion was neither white, nor sallow, but ruddy, glowing with the rich tint of health. Eve was not quite as tall as Adam. Her head reached a little above his shoulders. She, too, was noble--perfect in symmetry, and very beautiful.—*Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 3, p. 34 (1864).*

The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them.—*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 45 (1890).*

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 5

2Ch 5:1 Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in *all* the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

The Ark Brought to the Temple

2Ch 5:2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

2Ch 5:3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which *was* in the seventh month.

2Ch 5:4 And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

2Ch 5:5 And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, these did the priests *and* the Levites bring up.

2Ch 5:6 Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

2Ch 5:7 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy *place, even* under the wings of the cherubims:

2Ch 5:8 For the cherubims spread forth *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

2Ch 5:9 And they drew out the staves *of the ark*, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

2Ch 5:10 *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put *therein* at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

2Ch 5:11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*: (for all the priests *that were* present were sanctified, *and* did not *then* wait by course:

2Ch 5:12 Also the Levites *which were* the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, *being* arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

2Ch 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endures* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;

2Ch 5:14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

Wednesday – November 13th

1. How were the words of Elijah's message concerning Jezebel fulfilled?

➤ **2 Kings 9:30-37** —

NOTE : 'Tidings of all that was passing had rapidly reached Jezebel. Her course was soon chosen. She knew she must die; and she would die as a princess of her race, and a queen. After the Oriental fashion, she put paint on her eyes, “*and tired her head.*” [2 Kings 9:30] Thus arrayed like a queen, she took her place at the window, awaiting the arrival of Jehu. As he appeared, she called to him from above... Looking up, he exclaimed in his impatient way: “*Who is on my side? Who?*” [2 Kings 9:32] and when some of the eunuchs immediately responded, Jezebel was, at his command, thrown from the window. Her blood bespattered the wall and the horses and the chariot of Jehu, as he passed through the gate, crushed her mangled body.’ —*Edersheim, The History of Israel & Judah, page 203.*

2. What sort of king was Ahaziah, Ahab's son and successor?

➤ **1 Kings 22:51-53** —

NOTE : 'Ahaziah, Ahab's successor, “*did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin: for he served Baal, and worshiped him, and provoked to anger the Lord God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.*” [2 Kings 22:52-53] as his father Ahab had done. But judgments followed close upon the sins of the rebellious king. A war with Moab, and then an accident by which his own life was threatened, attested to God's wrath against him.’ —*Review & Herald, January 15, 1914.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 328***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 13th

The Joy of Seeing Our Family in Heaven

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:34

We see a retinue of angels on either side of the gate, and as we pass in Jesus speaks, "*Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom that is prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*" [Matthew 25:34] Here He tells you to be a partaker of His joy, and what is that? It is the joy of seeing of the travail of your soul, fathers. It is the joy of seeing that your efforts, mothers, are rewarded. Here are your children; the crown of life is upon their heads.—*Child Guidance*, p. 567, 568 (1895).

God's greatest gift is Christ, whose life is ours, given for us. He died for us, and was raised for us, that we might come forth from the tomb to a glorious companionship with heavenly angels, to meet our loved ones and to recognize their faces, for the Christlikeness does not destroy their image, but transforms it into His glorious image. Every saint connected in family relationship here will know each other there.—*Selected Messages, Vol. 3*, p. 316 (1898).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 6

Solomon Blesses the People

- 2Ch 6:1 Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.
- 2Ch 6:2 But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever.
- 2Ch 6:3 And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole congregation of Israel: and all the congregation of Israel stood.
- 2Ch 6:4 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who hath with his hands fulfilled *that* which he spoke with his mouth to my father David, saying,
- 2Ch 6:5 Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel:
- 2Ch 6:6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.
- 2Ch 6:7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 6:8 But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:
- 2Ch 6:9 Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.
- 2Ch 6:10 The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 6:11 And in it have I put the ark, wherein *is* the covenant of the LORD, that he made with the children of Israel.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

- 2Ch 6:12 And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands:
- 2Ch 6:13 For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,
- 2Ch 6:14 And said, O LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keeps covenant, and *shows* mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:
- 2Ch 6:15 Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spoke with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled *it* with thine hand, as *it is* this day.
- 2Ch 6:16 Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.
- 2Ch 6:17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David.
- 2Ch 6:18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!
- 2Ch 6:19 Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prays before thee:
- 2Ch 6:20 That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou would put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prays toward this place.

- 2Ch 6:21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, *even* from heaven; and when thou hears, forgive.
- 2Ch 6:22 If a man sin against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to make him swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house;
- 2Ch 6:23 Then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, by requiting the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own head; and by justifying the righteous, by giving him according to his righteousness.
- 2Ch 6:24 And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee; and shall return and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house;
- 2Ch 6:25 Then hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gave to them and to their fathers.
- 2Ch 6:26 When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; *yet* if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them;
- 2Ch 6:27 Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.
- 2Ch 6:28 If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness *there be*:
- 2Ch 6:29 *Then* what prayer *or* what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when everyone shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house:
- 2Ch 6:30 Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou know; (for thou only know the hearts of the children of men:)
- 2Ch 6:31 That they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, so long as they live in the land which thou gave unto our fathers.
- 2Ch 6:32 Moreover concerning the stranger, which is not of thy people Israel, but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake, and thy mighty hand, and thy stretched out arm; if they come and pray in this house;
- 2Ch 6:33 Then hear thou from the heavens, *even* from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calls to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as *doth* thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.
- 2Ch 6:34 If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name;
- 2Ch 6:35 Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.
- 2Ch 6:36 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man which sins not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before *their* enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;
- 2Ch 6:37 Yet *if* they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;
- 2Ch 6:38 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gave unto their fathers, and *toward* the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:
- 2Ch 6:39 Then hear thou from the heavens, *even* from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee. 2Ch 6:40 Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and *let* thine ears *be* attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.
- 2Ch 6:41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.
- 2Ch 6:42 O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.

Thursday – November 14th

1. When Ahaziah suffered a severe accident, what course of action did he follow?

➤ **2 Kings 1:2** —

NOTE : 'Having fallen “*through a lattice in his upper chamber*,” [2 Kings 1:2] Ahaziah, seriously injured, and fearful of the possible outcome, sent some of his servants to make inquiry of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether he should recover or not. The god of Ekron was supposed to give information, through the medium of its priests, concerning future events. Large numbers of people went to inquire of it; but the predictions there uttered, and the information given, proceeded from the prince of darkness.' — *Prophets & Kings*, page 207.

2. What message of rebuke was Elijah commanded to give Ahaziah's messengers to Baal-zebub?

➤ **2 Kings 1:3-4** —

NOTE : 'During the father's reign, Ahaziah had witnessed the wondrous works of the Most High. He had seen the terrible evidences that God had given apostate Israel of the way in which He regards those who set aside the binding claims of His law. Ahaziah had acted as if these awful realities were but idle tales. Instead of humbling his heart before the Lord, he had followed after Baal, and at last he had ventured upon this, his most daring act of impiety. Rebellious, and unwilling to repent, Ahaziah died, “*according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken*.” [2 Kings 1:17]' — *Prophets & Kings*, page 209.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, November 14th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 329***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 14th

The Salvation of Infants and Imbeciles

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:55

As the little infants come forth immortal from their dusty beds, they immediately wing their way to their mother's arms. They meet again nevermore to part. But many of the little ones have no mother there. We listen in vain for the rapturous song of triumph from the mother. The angels receive the motherless infants and conduct them to the tree of life.—*Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 260 (1858).*

Some questioned whether the little children of even believing parents should be saved, because they have had no test of character and all must be tested and their character determined by trial. The question is asked, "How can little children have this test and trial?" I answer that the faith of the believing parents covers the children, as when God sent His judgments upon the first-born of the Egyptians. . . .

Whether all the children of unbelieving parents will be saved we cannot tell, because God has not made known His purpose in regard to this matter, and we had better leave it where God has left it and dwell upon subjects made plain in His Word. —*Selected Messages, Book 3, p. 313-315 (1885).*

In regard to the case of A, you see him as he now is and deplore his simplicity. He is without the consciousness of sin. The grace of God will remove all this hereditary, transmitted imbecility, and he will have an inheritance among the saints in light. To you the Lord has given reason. A is a child as far as the capacity of reason is concerned, but he has the submission and obedience of a child.—*Manuscript Releases, Vol. 8, p. 210 (1893).*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, November 14th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 7

Fire from Heaven

- 2Ch 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.
- 2Ch 7:2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.
- 2Ch 7:3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endures* for ever.

The Dedication of the Temple

- 2Ch 7:4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.
- 2Ch 7:5 And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.
- 2Ch 7:6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy *endures* for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.
- 2Ch 7:7 Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that *was* before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.
- 2Ch 7:8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.
- 2Ch 7:9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.
- 2Ch 7:10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

If My People Pray

- 2Ch 7:11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.
- 2Ch 7:12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.
- 2Ch 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;
- 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- 2Ch 7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.
- 2Ch 7:16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.
- 2Ch 7:17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;
- 2Ch 7:18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.

- 2Ch 7:19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;
- 2Ch 7:20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it *to be* a proverb and a byword among all nations.
- 2Ch 7:21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?
- 2Ch 7:22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

Preparation Day – November 15th

1. When Elijah turned back Ahaziah's messengers, how did they describe Elijah to the king?

➤ **2 Kings 1: 7-8 —**

NOTE : 'The astonished servants hastened back to the king, and repeated to him the words of the man of God. The king inquired, “*What manner of man was he?*” [2 Kings 1:7] They answered, “*He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite,*” [2 Kings 1:8] Ahaziah exclaimed. He knew that if the stranger whom his messengers had met was indeed Elijah, the words of doom pronounced would surely come to pass. Anxious to avert, if possible, the threatened judgment, he determined to send for the prophet.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 208.*

2. After his repeated efforts to intimidate Elijah, what sentence was pronounced upon Ahaziah?

➤ **2 Kings 1:16-17, first part —**

NOTE : 'Twice Ahaziah sent a company of soldiers to intimidate the prophet, and twice the wrath of God fell upon them in judgment. The third company of soldiers humbled themselves before God; and their captain, as he approached the Lord's messenger, “*fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.*” [2 Kings 1:13] “*The angel of Jehovah said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. And he said unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore thou shalt not come down from the bed whither thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.*” [2 Kings 1:15-16]'—*Prophets & Kings, pages 208-209.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, November 15th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 330***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 15th

Tribute to Faithful Mothers

Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walks in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Psalm 101:6

When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened; when the "*well done*" [Matthew 25:21, 23] of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe and, pointing to their mother, say, "She made me all I am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation." [EGW]—*Messages to Young People*, p. 330 (1881).

The angels of God immortalize the names of the mothers whose efforts have won their children to Jesus Christ.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 568 (1895).

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, November 15th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 8

Solomon's Accomplishments

- 2Ch 8:1 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house,
- 2Ch 8:2 That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.
- 2Ch 8:3 And Solomon went to Hamathzobah, and prevailed against it.
- 2Ch 8:4 And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store cities, which he built in Hamath.
- 2Ch 8:5 Also he built Bethhoron the upper, and Bethhoron the nether, fenced cities, with walls, gates, and bars;
- 2Ch 8:6 And Baalath, and all the store cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities, and the cities of the horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and throughout all the land of his dominion.
- 2Ch 8:7 *As for* all the people *that were* left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which *were* not of Israel,
- 2Ch 8:8 *But* of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day.
- 2Ch 8:9 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they *were* men of war, and chief of his captains, and captains of his chariots and horsemen.
- 2Ch 8:10 And these *were* the chief of king Solomon's officers, *even* two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.
- 2Ch 8:11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because *the places are* holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come.
- 2Ch 8:12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,
- 2Ch 8:13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, *even* in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.
- 2Ch 8:14 And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.
- 2Ch 8:15 And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.
- 2Ch 8:16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. *So* the house of the LORD was perfected.
- 2Ch 8:17 Then went Solomon to Eziongeber, and to Eloth, at the sea side in the land of Edom.
- 2Ch 8:18 And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought *them* to king Solomon.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, November 15th, 2024



Rap! Rap! Rap!

It was Saturday night, and the sharp rapping of knuckles brought Pastor James to the door of his house in Page, a city located beside the Navajo Reservation in Arizona.

A Native American man stood outside.

“I need help for my daughter,” he said. “Her stomach hurts.”

James looked beyond the man and saw the daughter and her mother in the car. “Does she need to go to the hospital?” he asked.

“No, no,” the father said. “Just pray.”

James invited her into the house, but the father shook his head.

“Would you like to bring her into the church?” James said, motioning to the Seventh-day Adventist church next door. He had moved to Page only two months earlier to serve as the church’s pastor.

“Yes, we’ll do that,” the father said.

He drove the car up to the church’s back entrance, and the mother got out first.

“Do you have holy water?” she asked.

She said the family had just come from another church where they had asked the priest to sprinkle holy water on the daughter. The priest had refused and sent them away.

“We don’t use holy water,” James said. “We have the Bible.”

“She’s possessed,” the mother said.

Puzzled, James thought, “What’s going on? The mother says she’s possessed, but the father says she needs prayer for a hurting stomach.”

The father opened the car door and helped his daughter out. She was bent over, clutching her stomach. She appeared to be in her late 20s.

James had never dealt with demon possession, and he thought, “If she is possessed, she won’t want to go into the church.”

He watched as the young woman followed her father into the church. But as she walked through the back door, she started foaming at the mouth. Then she crouched down on the floor and grunted like an animal.

Her father, who was considerably larger than her, said, “I’m not scared of you.”

Turning to James, he said impatiently, “Just say the prayer and get this over with.”

The mother, however, was scared, and she backed away from her daughter. With a quavering voice, she said, “In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.”

James picked up a Bible, and it fell open to Mark 9. It was the story of Jesus casting a spirit out of a boy. Echoing the question that Jesus asked the boy’s father, James asked, “How long has this been happening to her?”

The father was annoyed by the question. He didn’t want to admit that his daughter was possessed. He just wanted James to pray.

The mother, meanwhile, kept repeating, “In the name of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.”

Then the daughter attacked. She caught her father in a stronghold from behind and began strangling him.

The father, who moments before had claimed not to be scared of her, cried out, “Help me! Help me!”

Terrified, the mother ran out of the church.

James went up behind the daughter and lightly touched her shoulder. Immediately, she released her father, and he ran out.

James wasn’t sure what to do, but he wasn’t afraid. He had perfect peace that God would take care of him.

Feeling his touch, the daughter turned around slowly and stared at James. Then she raised a hand. James backed away until he hit a wall. She followed until she was standing right in front of him. Her hand remained raised, as if ready to strike. But she didn’t touch him. James looked into her eyes.

They were empty. It was as if her person was gone. She was not there. James prayed silently for Jesus to deliver her.

A moment later, she collapsed to the floor in a crumpled heap.

Then James prayed for Jesus to restore her.

She got up and sat on a chair. She was a completely different person. Speaking in a normal voice, she asked, “Who helped me?”

It was Jesus.

Her father came back to the room. He looked relieved and said, “Wow, that’s my girl, that’s my girl.”

Then the mother returned, and James led the family in a prayer of thanksgiving. He spoke to them about the power of Jesus.

“It’s very important to turn to the Lord in these kinds of situations,” he said.

As they left, he gave them a copy of Ellen White’s Steps to Christ.

James has never seen the family again. He doesn’t know what happened to them. But from that night he understood that the great controversy between Christ and Satan is very real on the Navajo Reservation.


Pray for the Navajo people. Pray for the work of Pastor James Crosby and his family. Thank you for your 2011 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped plant the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, where this story took place, in Arizona.

By Andrew McChesney


LESSON 8

“BEHOLD, I SEND YOU ELIJAH”


November 16 - November 22

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” [Luke 1:17]

 **STUDY HELP :** ✓ Conflict & Courage, page 272

 **SCRIPTURE :** Luke 1:13-17

 **LESSON AIM :** To study how John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6

 **INTRODUCTION :** “The prophecy that John's mission fulfilled outlines our work, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” Matthew 3:2, 3. As John prepared the way for the first, so we are to prepare the way for the second, advent of the Saviour.” —*Counsels to Writers & Editors*, page 178.

Sabbath – November 16th

1. What prophecy had been given to the prophet Malachi concerning Elijah?

➤ Malachi 4:4-6 —

NOTE : The closing words of Malachi are a prophecy regarding the work that should be done preparatory to the first and the second advent of Christ. This prophecy is introduced with the admonition, “Remember you the law of Moses My servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” [Malachi 4:4-6] This prophecy was fulfilled by John the Baptist; for the Saviour Himself declared to His disciples, “*Elias is here already.*” [Matthew 17:12] Upon hearing this, the disciples “understood that He spoke unto them of John the Baptist.” [Matthew 17:13] —*Southern Watchman*, March 21, 1905.

2. What prophecy was made by the angel of the Lord to Zacharias concerning John the Baptist?

➤ Luke 1:17 —

NOTE : In every stage of this earth's history God has had His agencies to carry forward His work, which must be done in His appointed way. John the Baptist had a special work, for which he was born and to

which he was appointed, the work of preparing the way of the Lord. The mission and the work of John the Baptist were specified by the angel of the Lord, as recorded by Luke: “*And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*” [Luke 1:17] The Holy Ghost was to be upon him.’ —*Southern Watchman*, March 21, 1905.

3. Heaven’s Hotline



EGW Study Help

Sabbath, November 16th, 2024

Conflict and Courage

Chapter 9, p. 272

September 23rd

A Straight Message

Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

Amos 4:12, last part.

John the Baptist in his desert life was taught of God. He studied the revelations of God in nature. Under the guiding of the divine Spirit, he studied the scrolls of the prophets. By day and by night, Christ was his study, his meditation, until mind and heart and soul were filled with the glorious vision. He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was lost sight of. He beheld the majesty of holiness, and knew himself to be inefficient and unworthy. It was God’s message that he was to declare. It was in God’s power and His righteousness that he was to stand. He was ready to go forth as Heaven’s messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine....

With no elaborate arguments or fine-spun theories did John declare his message. Startling and stern, yet full of hope, his voice was heard from the wilderness, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ... Unlearned peasants and fishermen from the surrounding country; the Roman soldiers from the barracks of Herod; chieftains with their swords at their sides, ready to put down anything that might savour of rebellion; the avaricious tax-gatherers from their toll-booths; and from the Sanhedrim the phylactered priests,—all listened as if spellbound; and all ... went away ... cut to the heart with a sense of their sins....

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.... As a people who believe in Christ’s soon coming, we have a message to bear,—“prepare to meet thy God.” Our message must be as direct as was the message of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding that his life was imperilled, he did not hesitate to declare God’s word. And our work in this age must be done as faithfully.

In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him, lose sight of self.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, November 16th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 331***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 16th

The Reward of the Winner of Souls

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fades not away.

1 Peter 5:4

When the redeemed stand before God, precious souls will respond to their names who are there because of the faithful, patient efforts put forth in their behalf, the entreaties and earnest persuasions to flee to the Stronghold. Thus those who in this world have been labourers together with God will receive their reward.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 196, 197 (1904).*

When the gates of that beautiful city on high are swung back on their glittering hinges, and the nations that have kept the truth shall enter in, crowns of glory will be placed on their heads, and they will ascribe honour and glory and majesty to God. And at that time some will come to you, and will say, "If it had not been for the words you spoke to me in kindness, if it had not been for your tears and supplications and earnest efforts, I should never have seen the King in His beauty." [EGW] What a reward is this! How insignificant is the praise of human beings in this earthly, transient life, in comparison with the infinite rewards that await the faithful in the future, immortal life!—*Words of Encouragement to Self-supporting Workers (Ph113) 16 (1909).*

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, November 16th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 9

The Queen of Sheba

- 2Ch 9:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.
- 2Ch 9:2 And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not.
- 2Ch 9:3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built,
- 2Ch 9:4 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.
- 2Ch 9:5 And she said to the king, *It was* a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom:
- 2Ch 9:6 Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: *for* thou exceed the fame that I heard.
- 2Ch 9:7 Happy *are* thy men, and happy *are* these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.
- 2Ch 9:8 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, *to be* king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.
- 2Ch 9:9 And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance, and precious stones: neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon.
- 2Ch 9:10 And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought alnum trees and precious stones.
- 2Ch 9:11 And the king made *of* the alnum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah.
- 2Ch 9:12 And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside *that* which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants.

Solomon's Wealth

- 2Ch 9:13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold;
- 2Ch 9:14 Beside *that which* chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.
- 2Ch 9:15 And king Solomon made two hundred targets *of* beaten gold: six hundred *shekels* of beaten gold went to one target.
- 2Ch 9:16 And three hundred shields *made he of* beaten gold: three hundred *shekels* of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.
- 2Ch 9:17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.
- 2Ch 9:18 And *there were* six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, *which were* fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:
- 2Ch 9:19 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.

- 2Ch 9:20 And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon *were of* gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon *were of* pure gold: none *were of* silver; it was *not* anything accounted of in the days of Solomon.
- 2Ch 9:21 For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.
- 2Ch 9:22 And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.
- 2Ch 9:23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.
- 2Ch 9:24 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.
- 2Ch 9:25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 9:26 And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.
- 2Ch 9:27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that *are* in the low plains in abundance.
- 2Ch 9:28 And they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.

Solomon's Death

- 2Ch 9:29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, *are* they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?
- 2Ch 9:30 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.
- 2Ch 9:31 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, November 16th, 2024



Ten-year-old Kesia loved summer in her Native village of Togiak, Alaska. There was no school, and she could play all day outdoors. How she loved to play outdoors with her friends! They played tag and hide-and-seek and climbed on things.

But then Josephine came over with an invitation. Josephine was a kind young woman whom all the kids — including Kesia — loved dearly. Josephine asked, “Would you like to go to Bible Boot Camp?”

Kesia had never heard of Bible Boot Camp, and she asked what it was. Josephine said it was another name for Vacation Bible School and it was a lot of fun.

Kesia didn’t want to disappoint Josephine, but she didn’t want to go. It was summer, and she wanted to stay outdoors to play tag and hide-and-seek and to climb on things.

So, she didn’t go to Bible Boot Camp when it started. But her older brother and sister went — and they loved it.

Kesia’s sister told her, “I thought it was boring at first, but it really is fun!”

Her brother said, “There are lots of fun games, and the food is yummy.”

As Kesia listened, she thought to herself, “Hmm, I want to have fun!”

She went to Bible Boot Camp with her sister and brother. There, she learned a lot about God. She learned that He rested on the seventh day of Creation and that He asks people also to rest on the Sabbath.

She was glad to know more about God.

After Bible Boot Camp ended, Josephine invited Kesia to go to church on Sabbath.

Kesia didn’t want to disappoint Josephine, but she didn’t want to go. It was still summer, and she wanted to stay outside to play tag and hide-and-seek and to climb on things.

But then Josephine told Kesia’s mother about going to church on Sabbath.

Mother said to Kesia, “I think it’s a good idea. I want you to go to church on Sabbath.”

Then Kesia’s older brother and sister also invited her to go with them to church on Sabbath. They had started going after Bible Boot Camp.

To Kesia, it seemed like everyone wanted her to go to church on Sabbath. So, she went. At church, she learned more about God, and she was happy to know God better.

The next summer, when Kesia was 11, Josephine told her about a summer camp where kids enjoyed yummy food, made new friends, and learned more about God. “Would you like to go?” Josephine asked.

Kesia didn’t have to be asked twice. It was summer and, at the camp, she could play tag and hide-and-seek and climb on things. She also wanted to know more about God.

At first, Kesia didn’t get to know more about God at Camp Polaris. She was too busy enjoying the food and making new friends. She was so happy to see that Josephine was a camp leader. As the camp continued, Kesia got to know more about God as she sang songs and listened to morning and evening worship talks.

Before she knew it, the week was over, and the kids were packing up to go back home. Kesia felt sad to say goodbye to her new friends. But then a friend spoke about coming back to camp the next year.

Kesia thought, “Next year! I didn’t know there is a next year!”

The next summer she returned to camp — and she kept on coming back every year after that. When she was 16, she became more than a camper. She became a counselor-in-training, helping camp leaders work with the kids. Kesia said it was hard to learn to act like a grown-up leader at camp. “I am used to being a kid,” she said. “But I am trying to be a leader.”

Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped improve Camp Polaris with new cabins and real toilets and showers. Kesia and the children at Camp Polaris are grateful to everyone who gave to that Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can help Alaska Native children by giving to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – November 17th

1. How did Jesus confirm that John was a fulfilment of the prophecy of Malachi?

- **Matthew 17:10-13** —
- **Matthew 11:12-14** —
- **Consider the meaning of John 1:21** —

NOTE : 'The work of John was foretold by the prophet Malachi: “*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.*” [Malachi 4:5-6] John the Baptist went forth in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the way of the Lord, and to turn the people to the wisdom of the just. He was a representative of those living in the last days, to whom God has entrusted sacred truths to present before the people, to prepare the way for the second appearing of Christ. And the same principles of temperance which John practiced should be observed by those who in our day are to warn the world of the coming of the Son of man.' —*Temperance, page 91.*

2. What specific aspect concerning John's upbringing did the angel of the Lord impress upon Zacharias?

- **Luke 1:15** —

NOTE : 'God had called the son of Zacharias to a great work, the greatest ever committed to men. In order to accomplish this work, he must have the Lord to work with him. And the Spirit of God would be with him if he heeded the instruction of the angel. John was to go forth as Jehovah's messenger, to bring to men the light of God. He must give a new direction to their thoughts. He must impress them with the holiness of God's requirements, and their need of His perfect righteousness. Such a messenger must be holy. He must be a temple for the indwelling Spirit of God. In order to fulfil his mission, he must have a sound physical constitution, and mental and spiritual strength. Therefore it would be necessary for him to control the appetites and passions. He must be able so to control all his powers that he could stand among men as unmoved by surrounding circumstances as the rocks and mountains of the wilderness.' —*Lift Him Up, page 363.*

3. Heaven's Hotline —



Last Day Events

Sunday, November 17th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 332***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 17th

Our Dispositions Unchanged

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

If you would be a saint in heaven you must first be a saint on earth. The traits of character you cherish in life will not be changed by death or by the resurrection. You will come up from the grave with the same disposition you manifested in your home and in society. Jesus does not change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be done now. Our daily lives are determining our destiny. Defects of character must be repented of and overcome through the grace of Christ, and a symmetrical character must be formed while in this probationary state, that we may be fitted for the mansions above.—*Manuscript Release, Vol. 13, p. 82 (1891).*

Daily Scripture

Sunday, November 17th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 10

The Revolt Against Rehoboam

- 2Ch 10:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king.
- 2Ch 10:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who *was* in Egypt, whither he had fled from the presence of Solomon the king, heard *it*, that Jeroboam returned out of Egypt.
- 2Ch 10:3 And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying,
- 2Ch 10:4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee.
- 2Ch 10:5 And he said unto them, Come again unto me after three days. And the people departed.
- 2Ch 10:6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye *me* to return answer to this people?
- 2Ch 10:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever.
- 2Ch 10:8 But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him.
- 2Ch 10:9 And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?
- 2Ch 10:10 And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* somewhat lighter for us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.
- 2Ch 10:11 For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I *will chastise you* with scorpions.
- 2Ch 10:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come again to me on the third day.
- 2Ch 10:13 And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men,
- 2Ch 10:14 And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I *will chastise you* with scorpions.
- 2Ch 10:15 So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.
- 2Ch 10:16 And when all Israel *saw* that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and *we have* none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: *and* now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents.
- 2Ch 10:17 But *as for* the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.
- 2Ch 10:18 Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that *was* over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to *his* chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 10:19 And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

Monday – November 18th

1. How did God emphasise this same important aspect to the parents of Samson?

➤ Judges 13:3-7 —

NOTE : 'The carefulness with which the mother should guard her habits of life is taught in the Scriptures. When the Lord would raise up Samson as a deliverer for Israel, “*the angel of Jehovah*” [Judges 13:3] appeared to the mother, with special instruction concerning her habits, and also for the treatment of her child. “*Beware,*” he said, “*and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing.*” [Judges 13:13, 7] The effect of prenatal influences is by many parents looked upon as a matter of little moment; but heaven does not so regard it. The message sent by an angel of God, and twice given in the most solemn manner, shows it to be deserving of our most careful thought. If the mother unswervingly adheres to right principles, if she is temperate and self-denying, if she is kind, gentle, and unselfish, she may give her child these same precious traits of character. Very explicit was the command prohibiting the use of wine by the mother. Every drop of strong drink taken by her to gratify appetite endangers the physical, mental, and moral health of her child, and is a direct sin against her Creator.’—*Ministry of Healing*, pages 372-373.

2. What promise did the angel of the Lord make concerning John, even before his birth?

➤ Luke 1:15, last part. —

NOTE : It is a fundamental teaching of the so-called 'Reformed Churches' that all children are sinners at birth, naturally depraved and hopelessly corrupt. Some bibles use **Psalm 51:5** to bolster this idea; thus this verse, which refers to the fact that David was born of sinful parents, is interpreted to mean, I was a sinner from birth. Other popular ways of presenting this idea include: We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners, or We are not sinful because we sin; we sin because we are sinful. This idea stems from Augustine of Hippo who tried to explain his failure to overcome temptation by blending elements of the teachings of Plato with Christianity. Plato taught that all matter is in itself essentially evil. Thus he concluded that the very fact that we inhabit bodies makes us evil. Only when our souls leave our bodies, Plato taught, will we become free from evil. It is impossible to reconcile this kind of teaching with the Bible's statement that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit 'even from his mother's womb.' 'The thoughts and feelings of the mother will have a powerful influence upon the legacy she gives her child. If she allows her mind to dwell upon her own feelings, if she indulges in selfishness, if she is peevish and exacting, the disposition of her child will testify to the fact. Thus many have received as a birthright almost unconquerable tendencies to evil. If the mother unswervingly adheres to right principles, if she is temperate and self-denying, if she is kind, gentle, and unselfish, she may give her child these same precious traits of character. She who expects to become a mother should keep her soul in the love of God. Her mind should be at peace; she should rest in the love of Jesus, practising the words of Christ. She should remember that the mother is a labourer together with God.' —*Mind, Character & Personality, Volume 1*, page 132.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, November 18th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 333***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 18th

Heaven's Peaceful and Loving Atmosphere

Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Luke 19:38

The peace and harmony of the heavenly courts will not be marred by the presence of one who is rough or unkind.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 140 (1904).*

Everything in heaven is noble and elevated. All seek the interest and happiness of others. No one devotes himself to looking out and caring for self. It is the chief joy of all holy beings to witness the joy and happiness of those around them.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 2, p. 239 (1869).*

I seemed to be there where all was peace, where no stormy conflicts of earth could ever come—heaven, a kingdom of righteousness where all the holy and pure and blest are congregated, ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, living and walking in happy, pure intimacy, praising God and the Lamb who sits on the throne.

Their voices were in perfect harmony. They never do each other wrong. Princes of heaven, the potentates of this mighty realm, are rivals only in good, seeking the happiness and joy of each other. The greatest there is least in self-esteem, and the least is greatest in his gratitude and wealth of love.

There are no dark errors to cloud the intellect. Truth and knowledge, clear, strong, and perfect, have chased every doubt away, and no gloom of doubt casts its baleful shadow upon its happy inhabitants. No voices of contention mar the sweet and perfect peace of heaven. Its inhabitants know no sorrow, no grief, no tears. All is in perfect harmony, in perfect order and perfect bliss. . . .

Heaven is a home where sympathy is alive in every heart, expressed in every look. Love reigns there. There are no jarring elements, no discord or contentions or war of words.—*Manuscript Release, Vol. 9, p. 104, 105 (1882).*

Daily Scripture

Monday, November 18th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 11

Rehoboam Secures His Kingdom

- 2Ch 11:1 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he gathered of the house of Judah and Benjamin an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen *men*, which were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam.
- 2Ch 11:2 But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,
- 2Ch 11:3 Speak unto Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,
- 2Ch 11:4 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me. And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam.
- 2Ch 11:5 And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah.
- 2Ch 11:6 He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa,
- 2Ch 11:7 And Bethzur, and Shoco, and Adullam,
- 2Ch 11:8 And Gath, and Mareshah, and Ziph,
- 2Ch 11:9 And Adoraim, and Lachish, and Azekah,
- 2Ch 11:10 And Zorah, and Aijalon, and Hebron, which *are* in Judah and in Benjamin fenced cities.
- 2Ch 11:11 And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine.
- 2Ch 11:12 And in every several city *he put* shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

Priests and Levites Come to Jerusalem

- 2Ch 11:13 And the priests and the Levites that *were* in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts.
- 2Ch 11:14 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD:
- 2Ch 11:15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.
- 2Ch 11:16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 11:17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

Rehoboam's Family

- 2Ch 11:18 And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, *and* Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse;
- 2Ch 11:19 Which bare him children; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham.
- 2Ch 11:20 And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith.
- 2Ch 11:21 And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.)
- 2Ch 11:22 And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, *to be* ruler among his brethren: for *he thought* to make him king.

2Ch 11:23 And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. And he desired many wives.

Tuesday – November 19th

1. What other instances are we given of God choosing His servants in the same way as John?

- **Jeremiah 1:4-5** —
- **Judges 13:5** —
- **Psalms 139:13** —
- **Galatians 1:15** —

NOTE : 'A member of the Levitical priesthood, Jeremiah had been trained from childhood for holy service. In those happy years of preparation he little realised that he had been ordained from birth to be “*a prophet unto the nations*,” [Jeremiah 1:5] and when the divine call came, he was overwhelmed with a sense of his unworthiness. “*Ah, Lord God!*” he exclaimed, “*behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*” [Jeremiah 1:5-6]' —*Prophets & Kings, page 407.*

2. What was to be the heart of John's work?

- **Luke 1:16** —
- **1 Kings 18:37** —

NOTE : 'Elijah had set before the people their apostasy; he had called upon them to humble their hearts and turn to the Lord. The judgments of Heaven had been executed; the people had confessed their sins, and had acknowledged the God of their fathers as the living God; and now the curse of Heaven was to be withdrawn, and the temporal blessings of life renewed. The land was to be refreshed with rain.' —*Prophets & Kings, page 155.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

-

Last Day Events

Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 334***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 19th

No Temptation and No Sin

What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

Nahum 1:9

No tree of knowledge of good and evil will afford opportunity for temptation. No tempter is there, no possibility of wrong.—*Education*, p. 302 (1903).

I heard shouts of triumph from the angels and from the redeemed saints which sounded like ten thousand musical instruments, because they were to be no more annoyed and tempted by Satan and because the inhabitants of other worlds were delivered from his presence and his temptations.—*The Story of Redemption*, p. 416 (1858).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 12

Egypt Plunders Jerusalem

- 2Ch 12:1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.
- 2Ch 12:2 And it came to pass, *that* in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,
- 2Ch 12:3 With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people *were* without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians.
- 2Ch 12:4 And he took the fenced cities which *pertained* to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 12:5 Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and *to* the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.
- 2Ch 12:6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The LORD *is* righteous.
- 2Ch 12:7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; *therefore* I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.
- 2Ch 12:8 Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.
- 2Ch 12:9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.
- 2Ch 12:10 Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed *them* to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.
- 2Ch 12:11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber.
- 2Ch 12:12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy *him* altogether: and also in Judah things went well.
- 2Ch 12:13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam *was* one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name *was* Naamah an Ammonitess.
- 2Ch 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.
- 2Ch 12:15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, *are* they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And *there were* wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.
- 2Ch 12:16 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

Wednesday – November 20th

1. What wonderful promises did God make to those who would turn to Him?

- Deuteronomy 30:9-10 —
- Isaiah 55:7 —
- Hosea 14:1-4 —

NOTE : 'The Lord is infinitely merciful and gracious. He is waiting for us to repent and turn to Him with humble confession, saying, We will take Thy way, O Lord; we will no longer walk in the way of our own counsels. Have mercy on us and save us and those who have erred in following a path not cast up for the ransomed of the Lord. The time has come for the renunciation of all self-confidence. The time has come to follow the Lord's way. He has given instruction for all who will be guided by Him, who have faith in His word, and courage to go forward. God calls upon those who have walked in paths of their own choosing to return to Him.' —*General Conference Daily Bulletin, July 1, 1900*

2. What special promise is made to those who, like Elijah and John, turn the hearts of men back into the path of righteousness?

- Daniel 12:3 —

NOTE : The word translated 'wise' may also be rendered as 'teachers' See marginal reference. The work of Elijah and John was to teach men the way of righteousness. [[Compare Proverbs 11:30](#)]

'We have been commissioned to go forth and preach the gospel to every creature. We are to bring to the lost the tidings that Christ can forgive sin, can renew the nature, can clothe the soul in the garments of His righteousness, bring the sinner to his right mind, and teach him and fit him up to be a labourer together with God.' —*Christian Education, page 96.*

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 335***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 20th

Communion With the Father and the Son

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Revelation 22:4

The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. . . . We shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676, 677 (1911).

We shall ever dwell with and enjoy the light of His precious countenance. My heart leaps with joy at the cheering prospect!—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 352 (1856).

Heaven is where Christ is. Heaven would not be heaven to those who love Christ, if He were not there.—*Manuscript 41*, 1897.

There will be a close and tender relationship between God and the risen saints.—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 606 (1898)

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.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 254 (1904).

If, during this life, they are loyal to God, they will at last "see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads" [Revelation 22:4] And what is the happiness of heaven but to see God? What greater joy could come to the sinner saved by the grace of Christ than to look upon the face of God and know Him as Father?—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 268 (1904).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 13

Abijah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 13:1 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah.
- 2Ch 13:2 He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.
- 2Ch 13:3 And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, *even* four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, *being* mighty men of valour.
- 2Ch 13:4 And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which *is* in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel;
- 2Ch 13:5 Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, *even* to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?
- 2Ch 13:6 Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord.
- 2Ch 13:7 And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tender-hearted, and could not withstand them.
- 2Ch 13:8 And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye *be* a great multitude, and *there are* with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.
- 2Ch 13:9 Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of *other* lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, *the same* may be a priest of *them that are* no gods.
- 2Ch 13:10 But as for us, the LORD *is* our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, *are* the sons of Aaron, and the Levites *wait* upon *their* business:
- 2Ch 13:11 And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also *set they in order* upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.
- 2Ch 13:12 And, behold, God himself *is* with us for *our* captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.
- 2Ch 13:13 But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment *was* behind them.
- 2Ch 13:14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle *was* before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.
- 2Ch 13:15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.
- 2Ch 13:16 And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.
- 2Ch 13:17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.
- 2Ch 13:18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 13:19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

- 2Ch 13:20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the LORD struck him, and he died.
- 2Ch 13:21 But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.
- 2Ch 13:22 And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, *are* written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

Thursday – November 21st

1. What power was to attend the work of John?

➤ Luke 1:17 —

NOTE : 'It was not given to John to call down fire from heaven, or to raise the dead, as Elijah did, nor to wield Moses' rod of power in the name of God. He was sent to herald the Saviour's advent, and to call upon the people to prepare for His return.' —*Conflict & Courage*, page 279.

2. How did Jesus draw attention to John's greatness?

➤ Luke 7:28 —

NOTE : 'In the estimation of Heaven, what is it that constitutes greatness? Not that which the world accounts greatness; not wealth, or rank, or noble descent, or intellectual gifts, in themselves considered. If intellectual greatness, apart from any higher consideration, is worthy of honour, then our homage is due to Satan, whose intellectual power no man has ever equalled. But when perverted to self-serving, the greater the gift, the greater curse it becomes. It is moral worth that God values. Love and purity are the attributes He prizes most. John was great in the sight of the Lord, when, before the messengers from the Sanhedrin, before the people, and before his own disciples, he refrained from seeking honour for himself, but pointed all to Jesus as the Promised One. His unselfish joy in the ministry of Christ presents the highest type of nobility ever revealed in man.' —*The Desire of Ages*, page 219.

'Aside from the joy that John found in his mission, his life had been one of sorrow. His voice had been seldom heard except in the wilderness. His was a lonely lot. And he was not permitted to see the result of his own labours. It was not his privilege to be with Christ and witness the manifestation of divine power attending the greater light. It was not for him to see the blind restored to sight, the sick healed, and the dead raised to life. He did not behold the light that shone through every word of Christ, shedding glory upon the promises of prophecy. The least disciple who saw Christ's mighty works and heard His words was in this sense more highly privileged than John the Baptist, and therefore is said to have been greater than he.' —*The Desire of Ages*, page 220

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, November 21st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 336***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 21st

Fellowship With Angels and the Faithful of All Ages

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment, the angel who watched his steps and covered his head in the day of peril, the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly cooperation in every work for humanity!—*Education*, p. 305 (1903).

From what dangers, seen and unseen, we have been preserved through the interposition of the angels, we shall never know, until in the light of eternity we see the providences of God.—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 240 (1898).

The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together "*the whole family in heaven and earth*" [Ephesians 3:15]--these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 677 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Thursday, November 21st, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 14

Asa Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 14:1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.
- 2Ch 14:2 And Asa did *that which was* good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:
- 2Ch 14:3 For he took away the altars of the strange *gods*, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves:
- 2Ch 14:4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.
- 2Ch 14:5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.
- 2Ch 14:6 And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest.
- 2Ch 14:7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about *them* walls, and towers, gates, and bars, *while* the land *is* yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought *him*, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.
- 2Ch 14:8 And Asa had an army *of men* that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these *were* mighty men of valour.
- 2Ch 14:9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand, thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.
- 2Ch 14:10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.
- 2Ch 14:11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, *it is* nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou *art* our God; let not man prevail against thee.
- 2Ch 14:12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.
- 2Ch 14:13 And Asa and the people that *were* with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.
- 2Ch 14:14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.
- 2Ch 14:15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

Preparation Day – November 22nd

1. What was the ultimate purpose of John's ministry?

➤ **Luke 1:17, last part.** —

NOTE : 'As a prophet, John was “*to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*” [Luke 1:17] In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming. The world is given to self-indulgence. Errors and fables abound. Satan's snares for destroying souls are multiplied. All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lessons of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God's Word. For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming.' —*Lift Him Up, page 363.*

2. How was Isaiah shown the ministry of John?

➤ **Isaiah 40:3** —

➤ **John 1:19-23** —

NOTE : 'The voice of John was lifted up like a trumpet. His commission was, “*Shew My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.*” [Isaiah 58:1] He had obtained no human scholarship. God and nature had been his teachers. But one was needed to prepare the way before Christ who was bold enough to make his voice heard like the prophets of old, summoning the degenerate nation to repentance.' —*Selected Messages, book 2, page 148.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, November 22nd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 337***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 22nd

Bearing Testimony to Unfallen Beings

Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 43:10

"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" [Matthew 20:28]. Christ's work below is His work above, and our reward for working with Him in this world will be the greater power and wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come. *"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God"* [Isaiah 43:12]. This also we shall be in eternity.

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 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?—*Education, p. 308 (1903).*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, November 22nd, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 15

Asa's Religious Reforms

- 2Ch 15:1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:
- 2Ch 15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD *is* with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.
- 2Ch 15:3 Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.
- 2Ch 15:4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.
- 2Ch 15:5 And in those times *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations *were* upon all the inhabitants of the countries.
- 2Ch 15:6 And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.
- 2Ch 15:7 Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.
- 2Ch 15:8 And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.
- 2Ch 15:9 And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him.
- 2Ch 15:10 So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.
- 2Ch 15:11 And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.
- 2Ch 15:12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;
- 2Ch 15:13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.
- 2Ch 15:14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.
- 2Ch 15:15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.
- 2Ch 15:16 And also *concerning* Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from *being* queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped *it*, and burnt *it* at the brook Kidron.
- 2Ch 15:17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.
- 2Ch 15:18 And he brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated, and that he himself had dedicated, silver, and gold, and vessels.
- 2Ch 15:19 And there was no *more* war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, November 22nd, 2024



A strange heaviness settled on the house as Father reproached his pregnant 15-year-old daughter, Lusa.

“You could have hurt the baby,” he said.

Lusa, who had been smoking traditional herbs, reacted defiantly to Father in the living room of their house in Alaska.

Watching the scene in the living room was Adiv, a Michigan native who was working at a children’s home. He had dropped by Lusa’s house for a visit. He and everyone else in the house were Seventh-day Adventist.

Abruptly, Lusa and Father moved to a bedroom, and the girl’s mother joined them there.

They shut the door.

In the living room, Adiv sensed the strange heaviness grow more oppressive. He wasn’t sure what was going on, but he decided that it would be a good time to pray.

As he prayed, loud cursing erupted from behind the bedroom door.

Then Mother came out. “The girl is possessed,” she said. “You need to pray.”

Adiv prayed more earnestly. He asked God for wisdom. Taking his Bible, he knelt outside the closed bedroom door.

“Lord, guide me through this process,” he prayed. “Forgive all my sins. Make sure all my sins are gone.”

Then his prayer turned to the girl and her parents.

Shrieks rang out from behind the door.

Father came out.

“Did you call me?” he said.

“No,” Adiv said. “I never called you.”

“OK, do you want to come in?” Father said.

Adiv didn’t want to go into the bedroom, but he said, “Sure.”

Inside the room, he saw Lusa lying on her back near a wall and screaming.

Father joined Mother in standing near the girl.

Adiv knelt with his Bible near the door. He wanted to be as close as possible to the door if he needed to run out.

Father and Mother opened their mouths and began singing the children’s song, “Jesus Loves Me.”

From the door, Adiv joined them.

As they sang about Jesus’ love for children, Lusa stopped screaming. She began to cry.

“Daddy, I need your help,” she said.

Adiv saw anguish flash in Father’s face.

“I can’t help you,” Father said. “You need to call on Jesus.”

Then Lusa shrieked. “She’s not your daughter anymore,” a low voice said through her mouth.

Adiv looked at the Bible in his hand. He didn’t know what to do next, but he was sure that God’s Word contained power. Opening to the book of Psalms, he began to read out loud.

A moment later, he glanced up. The girl had stopped screaming and was crawling across the floor toward him.

Adiv prayed for faith and kept reading.

When Lusa reached him, she raised a hand and knocked the Bible to the floor.

“I hate this Book,” she snarled. “I hate this Book.”

Adiv picked up the Bible and resumed reading from Psalms.

Lusa knocked the Bible out of his hand two more times.

The struggle between Christ and Satan lasted for another 90 minutes. Adiv and the parents sang, prayed, and read the Bible until the heaviness left the house. The evil spirit had departed.

Adiv found it hard to kneel for 90 minutes, but when he stood up he felt energized and refreshed. In contrast, Lusa was exhausted. She was weak and could hardly speak.

Adiv learned that day that the great controversy between God and Satan is real. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, NKJV)

Lusa’s situation is not unique among Alaska Natives and even some who are Adventists. Adiv, who works in children’s homes and Adventist summer camps, has not met an Alaska Native who has not had an encounter with spirits or knows someone who has.

Adiv prays with all his heart for the everlasting gospel to be proclaimed throughout Alaska.

“I want to stay here as long as possible,” he said. “There is a work that needs to be done. People need to know Christ.”

A huge work remains to proclaim the everlasting gospel in Alaska, where there are more than 200 Native communities but the Seventh-day Adventist Church only has a presence in 11 of them. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help share the love of Jesus in Bethel, Alaska. Thank you for planning a generous offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney


LESSON 9

“PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD”


November 23 - November 29

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” [Matthew 3:8]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Conflict & Courage, page 272

 **SCRIPTURE :** Luke 3:1-14

 **LESSON AIM :** To study how John prepared the way for Christ's first advent.

 **INTRODUCTION :** “In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; “*repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” [Matthew 4:17] As a people who believe in Christ's soon coming, we have a message to bear, “*Prepare to meet thy God.*” [Amos 4:12.]” — *Gospel Workers*, page 55.

Sabbath – November 23rd

1. What was the heart of John's message?

➤ **Matthew 3:1-2** —

NOTE : 'Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.' — *Conflict & Courage*, page 63.

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Conflict and Courage

Chapter 9, p. 272

September 23rd

A Straight Message

Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

Amos 4:12, last part.

John the Baptist in his desert life was taught of God. He studied the revelations of God in nature. Under the guiding of the divine Spirit, he studied the scrolls of the prophets. By day and by night, Christ was his study, his meditation, until mind and heart and soul were filled with the glorious vision. He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was lost sight of. He beheld the majesty of holiness, and knew himself to be inefficient and unworthy. It was God’s message that he was to declare. It was in God’s power and His righteousness that he was to stand. He was ready to go forth as Heaven’s messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine....

With no elaborate arguments or fine-spun theories did John declare his message. Startling and stern, yet full of hope, his voice was heard from the wilderness, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ... Unlearned peasants and fishermen from the surrounding country; the Roman soldiers from the barracks of Herod; chieftains with their swords at their sides, ready to put down anything that might savour of rebellion; the avaricious tax-gatherers from their toll-booths; and from the Sanhedrim the phylactered priests,—all listened as if spellbound; and all ... went away ... cut to the heart with a sense of their sins....

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.... As a people who believe in Christ’s soon coming, we have a message to bear,—“prepare to meet thy God.” Our message must be as direct as was the message of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding that his life was imperilled, he did not hesitate to declare God’s word. And our work in this age must be done as faithfully.

In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him, lose sight of self.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, November 23rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 338***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 23rd

Praising God in Rich, Melodious Music

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 15:4

There will be music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived. . . .

The song which the ransomed ones will sing--the song of their experience--will declare the glory of God: "*Great and marvellous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the ages. Who shall not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy.*" [Revelation 15:3-4, R. V.].—*Education*, p. 307-309 (1903).

There is one angel who always leads, who first touches the harp and strikes the note, then all join in the rich, perfect music of heaven. It cannot be described. It is melody, heavenly, divine.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 146 (1857).

Not as a man of sorrows, but as a glorious and triumphant king He will stand upon Olivet, while Hebrew hallelujahs mingle with Gentile hosannas, and the voices of the redeemed as a mighty host shall swell the acclamation, Crown Him Lord of all!—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 830 (1898).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, November 23rd, 2024

2nd Chronicles

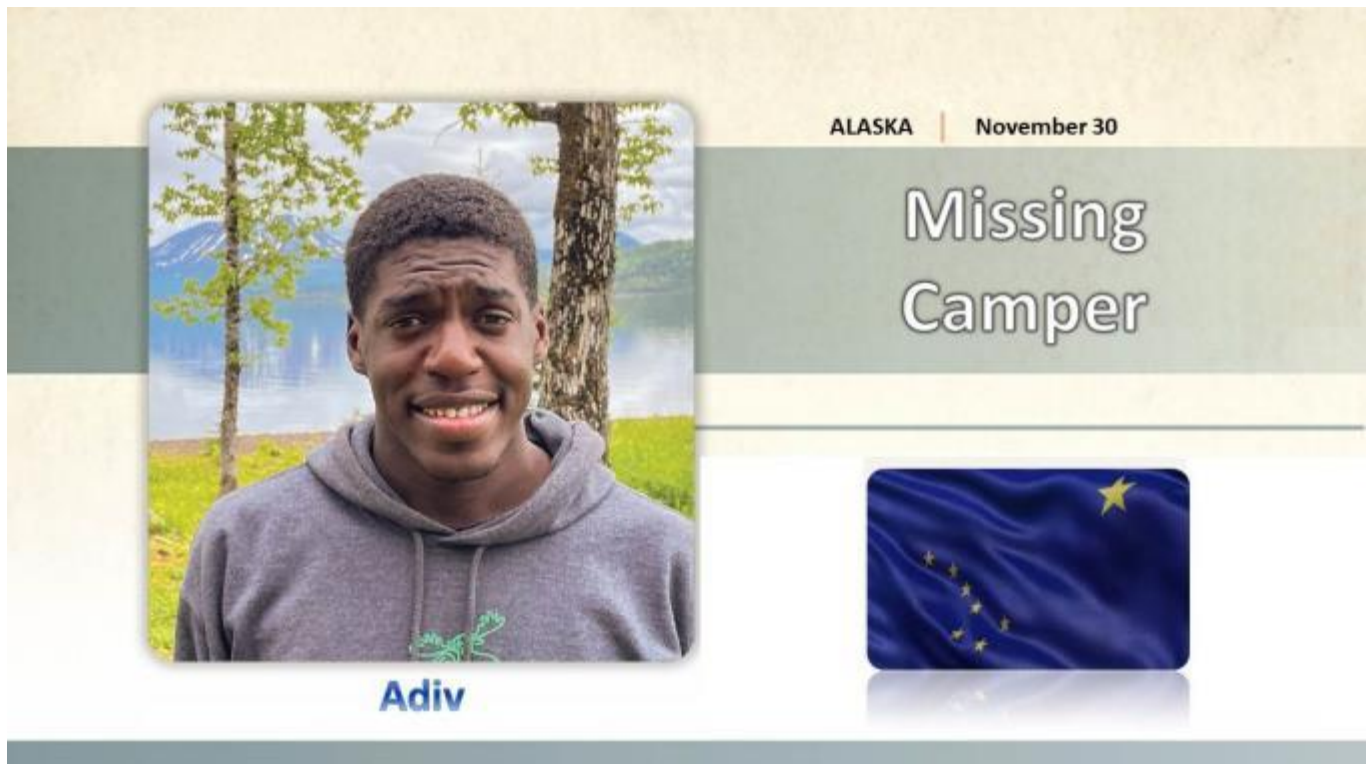
Chapter 16

Asa's Last Years

- 2Ch 16:1 In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.
- 2Ch 16:2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,
- 2Ch 16:3 *There is* a league between me and thee, as *there was* between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.
- 2Ch 16:4 And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.
- 2Ch 16:5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard *it*, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease.
- 2Ch 16:6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.
- 2Ch 16:7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.
- 2Ch 16:8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.
- 2Ch 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.
- 2Ch 16:10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for *he was* in a rage with him because of this *thing*. And Asa oppressed *some* of the people the same time.
- 2Ch 16:11 And, behold, the acts of Asa, first and last, lo, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.
- 2Ch 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.
- 2Ch 16:13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.
- 2Ch 16:14 And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds *of spices* prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, November 23rd, 2024



This is the story of a camp counselor who lost a boy.

Seven-year-old Liam ran all over the place at the Seventh-day Adventist summer camp in Alaska. It was hard to get him to go to bed at night. It was hard to keep track of his whereabouts during the day. Halfway through the week of camp, Liam ran away.

The trouble started when Liam’s camp counselor, Adiv, [ah-DEEV] confronted the boy about going somewhere without first letting him know. “What are you doing here?” Adiv asked when he found him. “You have to make sure your counselor knows where you are at because if we lose you, it’s a problem.”

As he was talking, Liam just ran away.

Adiv and other camp staff members searched and searched for Liam, but they couldn’t find him.

Adiv prayed.

Still no Liam.

Adiv went to the camp director. “I can’t find this kid,” he said. “I don’t know where he’s at.”

About 45 minutes later, Liam reappeared. He came out of some bushes, and he was smiling as big as possible.

Adiv didn’t smile. “You can’t do this,” he told him.

“What’s wrong?” the boy asked.

“You can’t run away,” Adiv said. “That’s not OK.”

Liam stopped smiling. He didn’t like being corrected. As Adiv was talking, he ran away again. But this time Adiv knew where he had gone. He and another camp counselor, Jacob, went into the bushes and saw Liam scamper up a tree.

Standing at the bottom of the tree, Jacob called up, “We would love it if you would come down and we could talk.”

Liam looked down from the upper branches of the tree.

“I hate Adiv,” he said. “I wish he would die.”

The boy’s words stung Adiv. But he was determined to show God’s love to Liam.

“I love you,” he called back.

“I don’t care,” Liam said. “I hate you.”

“That’s OK,” Adiv said. “I love you. I don’t want you to get hurt. Please, come down.”

Jacob also asked the boy to come down.

But Liam refused. “I don’t care if I die or get hurt,” he said.

When Adiv heard those words, he felt terrible. He realized that Liam probably had a tough life at home. He was only 7, but he Adventist Mission North American Division 20already didn’t care about anything. Again, Adiv asked him to come down, but he wouldn’t budge.

Adiv and Jacob waited for what seemed like an eternity. Finally, the boy slowly made his way down the tree.

When Liam reached the bottom, Adiv told him that he would have to spend the rest of the day at his side. He wanted Liam to know that he had lost trust, and he didn’t want him to run away again.

That night, before worship, Adiv had a heart-to-heart talk with Liam.

“It hurt me when you said that you hate me,” he said. “I want you to know that, not because I want you to feel badly but because I want you to know that your words hurt me. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Liam looked down. “I understand,” he said quietly.

“My job is to make sure that you know Christ and are safe and protected,” Adiv said. “You don’t have to like me.”

The rest of the week went well. Liam spent a lot of time at Adiv’s side. When Adiv was eating lunch, the boy was beside him. When he was sitting at the fire to keep warm, the boy was there.

Adiv doesn’t know what will happen next to Liam. Even though he lost the boy at the camp, he hopes that the boy, through the camp, finds Jesus.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates eight summer camps in Alaska every year. One of those camps, Camp Polaris, outside Dillingham, received part of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to build new cabins and real toilets and showers. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help share God’s love in Bethel, Alaska.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – November 24th

1. By what public witness did John's hearers testify to their desire to repent?

➤ **Mark 1:4** —

NOTE : 'Baptism is a most sacred and important ordinance, and there should be a thorough understanding as to its meaning. It means repentance for sin, and the entrance upon a new life in Christ Jesus. There should be no undue haste to receive the ordinance.'—*Evangelism*, page 309.

'Repentance, faith, and baptism are the requisite steps in conversion. As Christians submit to the solemn rite of baptism, He registers the vow that they make to be true to Him. This vow is their oath of allegiance. Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance to His spiritual kingdom. He has made this a positive condition with which all must comply who wish to be acknowledged as under the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before man can find a home in the church, before passing the threshold of God's spiritual kingdom, he is to receive the impress of the divine name, “*The Lord our Righteousness*.” [Jeremiah 23:6] Those who are baptised in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. They have obeyed the command: “*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, ... and touch not the unclean thing*.” [2 Corinthians 6:17] And to them is fulfilled the promise: “*I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters*.” [2 Corinthians 6:18]—*The Faith I Live By*, page 145.

2. What accompanied John's baptism?

➤ **Matthew 3:6** —

NOTE : 'It was the purpose of John to startle and arouse the people, and cause them to tremble because of their great wickedness. In simplicity and plainness he pointed out the errors and crimes of men. A power attended his words, and, reluctant as the people were to hear the denunciation of their unholy lives, yet they could not resist his words. He flattered none; neither would he receive flattery of any. The people, as if with common consent, came to him repenting, and confessing their sins, and were baptized of him in Jordan.'—*Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 2, page 48.

'Who shall condemn this work of repentance, of confession, of baptism? If some conscientiously feel that their first duty is to repent of their sins, confess them, and be baptised, is not this the first works that they must do?'—*Manuscript Releases*, volume 7, page 261.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, November 24th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 339***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 24th

Searching Out the Treasures of the Universe

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

1 Chronicles 16:29

There, when the veil that darkens our vision shall be removed, and our eyes shall behold that world of beauty of which we now catch glimpses through the microscope, when we look on the glories of the heavens, now scanned afar through the telescope, when, the blight of sin removed, the whole earth shall appear "in the beauty of the Lord our God," [EGW] what a field will be open to our study! There the student of science may read the records of creation and discern no reminders of the law of evil. He may listen to the music of nature's voices and detect no note of wailing or undertone of sorrow. . . .

All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's children. With unutterable delight we shall enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. We shall share the treasures gained through ages upon ages spent in contemplation of God's handiwork.—*Education*, p. 303, 307 (1903).

Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar--worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. . . . With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation--suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 677, 678 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sunday, November 24th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 17

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 17:1 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.
- 2Ch 17:2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken.
- 2Ch 17:3 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;
- 2Ch 17:4 But sought to the *LORD* God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.
- 2Ch 17:5 Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.
- 2Ch 17:6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah.
- 2Ch 17:7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, *even* to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.
- 2Ch 17:8 And with them *he sent* Levites, *even* Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.
- 2Ch 17:9 And they taught in Judah, and *had* the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.
- 2Ch 17:10 And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that *were* round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.
- 2Ch 17:11 Also *some* of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.
- 2Ch 17:12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.
- 2Ch 17:13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, *were* in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 17:14 And these *are* the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand.
- 2Ch 17:15 And next to him *was* Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.
- 2Ch 17:16 And next him *was* Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.
- 2Ch 17:17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand.
- 2Ch 17:18 And next him *was* Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.
- 2Ch 17:19 These waited on the king, beside *those* whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.

Monday – November 25th

1. When John was approached by Pharisees and Sadducees asking for baptism, what demand did he make of them?

➤ Matthew 3:7-8 —

NOTE : 'The work of reformation here brought to view by John, the purging of heart and mind and soul, is one that is needed by many who today profess to have the faith of Christ. Wrong practices that have been indulged in need to be put away; the crooked paths need to be made straight, and the rough places smooth. The mountains and hills of self-esteem and pride need to be brought low. There is need of *“bringing forth fruits meet for repentance.”* [Matthew 3:8]

When this work is done in the experience of God's believing people, *“all flesh shall see the salvation of God”* [Luke 3:6] The fact that our names are on the church books will not secure for us an entrance into the kingdom of heaven. God asks, Have you used your opportunities for service and for the development of Christian character? Have you traded faithfully with your Lord's goods? Knowing the will of God concerning you, how have you obeyed that will? Have you sought to benefit and bless those who needed help and encouragement? There is no human being in the world but bears fruit of some kind, either good or evil; and Christ has made it possible for every soul to bear most precious fruit. Obedience to the requirements of God, submission to the will of Christ, will yield in the life the peaceable fruits of righteousness.'—*God's Amazing Grace, page 249.*

2. What warning did John give them?

➤ Matthew 3:9 —

NOTE : 'Salvation is not to be baptised, not to have our names upon the church books, not to preach the truth. But it is a living union with Jesus Christ to be renewed in heart, doing the works of Christ in faith and labour of love, in patience, meekness, and hope. Every soul united to Christ will be a living missionary to all around him.'—*Evangelism, page 319.*

'John knew that they cherished the idea that, because they were of the seed of Abraham, they were securely established in the favour of God, while their course of action was abhorred of Him. Their conduct was, in many respects, even worse than that of the heathen nations to whom they felt so much superior. The prophet faithfully presented to them the ability of God to raise up those who would take their place, and would become more worthy children of Abraham. He told them plainly that God was not dependent upon them to fulfil His purposes; for He could provide ways and means independent of them to carry forward His great work which was to be accomplished in purity and righteousness. John further adds: *“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”* [Matthew 3:10] He impresses upon them that the value of the tree is ascertained by the fruit it produces. Though a tree may bear an exalted name, yet if it produces no fruit, or if its fruit is unworthy of the name, the name will avail nothing in saving the tree from destruction. *“Of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.”* [Luke 6:44]'—*Spirit of Prophecy, volume 2, page 50.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, November 25th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 340***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 25th

Sacred History Reviewed

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Matthew 27:51

The redeemed throng will range from world to world, and much of their time will be employed in searching out the mysteries of redemption.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 7, p. 990 (1886).*

The themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages. They will understand the truths which Christ longed to open to His disciples, but which they did not have faith to grasp. Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages will the faithful householder bring forth from his treasure things new and old.—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 134 (1900).*

Then will be opened before him the course of the great conflict that had its birth before time began, and that ends only when time shall cease. The history of the inception of sin, of fatal falsehood in its crooked working, of truth that, swerving not from its own straight lines, has met and conquered error--all will be made manifest. The veil that interposes between the visible and the invisible world will be drawn aside and wonderful things will be revealed.—*Education, p. 304 (1903).*

Though the griefs and pains and temptations of earth are ended and the cause removed, the people of God will ever have a distinct, intelligent knowledge of what their salvation has cost. . . .

Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought.—*The Great Controversy, p. 651, 674 (1911)*

Daily Scripture

Monday, November 25th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 18

Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab

- 2Ch 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.
- 2Ch 18:2 And after *certain* years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that *he had* with him, and persuaded him to go up *with him* to Ramothgilead.
- 2Ch 18:3 And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I *am* as thou *art*, and my people as thy people; and *we will be* with thee in the war.
- 2Ch 18:4 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.
- 2Ch 18:5 Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver *it* into the king's hand.
- 2Ch 18:6 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?
- 2Ch 18:7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same *is* Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.
- 2Ch 18:8 And the king of Israel called for one *of his* officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.
- 2Ch 18:9 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in *their* robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.
- 2Ch 18:10 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed.
- 2Ch 18:11 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king.
- 2Ch 18:12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets *declare* good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.
- 2Ch 18:13 And Micaiah said, *As* the LORD lives, even what my God saith, that will I speak.
- 2Ch 18:14 And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.
- 2Ch 18:15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?
- 2Ch 18:16 Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return *therefore* every man to his house in peace.
- 2Ch 18:17 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee *that* he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?
- 2Ch 18:18 Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and *on* his left.
- 2Ch 18:19 And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.
- 2Ch 18:20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith?

- 2Ch 18:21 And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And *the LORD* said, Thou shalt entice *him*, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do *even* so.
- 2Ch 18:22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.
- 2Ch 18:23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?
- 2Ch 18:24 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.
- 2Ch 18:25 Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;
- 2Ch 18:26 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this *fellow* in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace.
- 2Ch 18:27 And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, *then* hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people.

The Defeat and Death of Ahab

- 2Ch 18:28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.
- 2Ch 18:29 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.
- 2Ch 18:30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that *were* with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.
- 2Ch 18:31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It *is* the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them *to depart* from him.
- 2Ch 18:32 For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.
- 2Ch 18:33 And a *certain* man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou may carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.
- 2Ch 18:34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed *himself* up in *his* chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

Tuesday – November 26th

1. What warning did John give the people?

➤ **Luke 3:9 —**

NOTE : 'Not by its name, but by its fruit, is the value of a tree determined. If the fruit is worthless, the name cannot save the tree from destruction. John declared to the Jews that their standing before God was to be decided by their character and life. Profession was worthless. If their life and character were not in harmony with God's law, they were not His people.'—*The Desire of Ages, page 107.*

2. What counsel did John give to the various groups asking what was required of them so that they could be baptised?

➤ **Luke 3:10-14 —**

NOTE : 'All who became the subjects of Christ's kingdom, [John] said, would give evidence of faith and repentance. Kindness, honesty, and fidelity would be seen in their lives. They would minister to the needy, and bring their offerings to God. They would shield the defenceless, and give an example of virtue and compassion. So the followers of Christ will give evidence of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. In the daily life, justice, mercy, and the love of God will be seen. Otherwise they are like the chaff that is given to the fire.'—*The Desire of Ages, page 107.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 341***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 26th

Life's Perplexities Explained

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.

Isaiah 26:3

All the perplexities of life's experience will then be made plain. Where to us have appeared only confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand, overruling, victorious purpose, a divine harmony.—*Education*, p. 305 (1903).

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.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 254 (1904).

All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying. As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 286 (1909).

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 19

Jehoshaphat's Reforms

- 2Ch 19:1 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 19:2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Should thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore *is* wrath upon thee from before the LORD.
- 2Ch 19:3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.
- 2Ch 19:4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 19:5 And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,
- 2Ch 19:6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who *is* with you in the judgment.
- 2Ch 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do *it*: for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.
- 2Ch 19:8 Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and *of* the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 19:9 And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.
- 2Ch 19:10 And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and *so* wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.
- 2Ch 19:11 And, behold, Amariah the chief priest *is* over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites *shall be* officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

Wednesday – November 27th

1. What message of rebuke did John give to Herod and how did Herod respond?

➤ **Mark 6:17-18** —

NOTE : 'John the Baptist met sin with open rebuke in men of humble occupation and in men of high degree. He declared the truth to kings and nobles, whether they would hear or reject it. He spoke personally and pointedly. He reproved the Pharisees of the Sanhedrim because their religion consisted in forms and not in righteousness of pure, willing obedience. He spoke to Herod in regard to his marriage with Herodias, saying, It is not lawful for thee to have her. He spoke to him of a future retribution, when God would judge every man according to his works.'—*Selected Messages, book 2, page 149.*

'God's messenger was of no such craven spirit. The multitudes who were gathered about Christ had been witnesses to the work of John. They had heard his fearless rebuke of sin. To the self-righteous Pharisees, the priestly Sadducees, King Herod and his court, princes and soldiers, publicans and peasants, John had spoken with equal plainness. He was no trembling reed, swayed by the winds of human praise or prejudice. In the prison he was the same in his loyalty to God and his zeal for righteousness as when he preached God's message in the wilderness. In his faithfulness to principle he was as firm as a rock.'—*The Desire of Ages, page 218.*

2. How did Herod regard John?

➤ **Mark 6:20** —

NOTE : 'Herod himself had listened to the preaching of the Baptist. The dissolute king had trembled under the call to repentance. “*Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy; . . . and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.*” [Mark 6:20] John dealt with him faithfully, denouncing his iniquitous alliance with Herodias, his brother's wife. For a time Herod feebly sought to break the chain of lust that bound him; but Herodias fastened him the more firmly in her toils, and found revenge upon the Baptist by inducing Herod to cast him into prison.'—*The Desire of Ages, page 214.*

'Herod believed John to be a prophet of God, and he fully intended to set him at liberty. But he delayed his purpose from fear of Herodias.'—*The Desire of Ages, page 220.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

Last Day Events

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 342***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 27th

The Outworking of Every Noble Deed

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Ezekiel 34:26

All who have wrought with unselfish spirit will behold the fruit of their labours. The outworking of every right principle and noble deed will be seen. Something of this we see here. But how little of the result of the world's noblest work is in this life manifest to the doer! How many toil unselfishly and unweariedly for those who pass beyond their reach and knowledge! Parents and teachers lie down in their last sleep, their lifework seeming to have been wrought in vain; they know not that their faithfulness has unsealed springs of blessing that can never cease to flow; only by faith they see the children they have trained become a benediction and an inspiration to their fellow men, and the influence repeat itself a thousandfold.

Many a worker sends out into the world messages of strength and hope and courage, words that carry blessing to hearts in every land, but of the results he, toiling in loneliness and obscurity, knows little. So gifts are bestowed, burdens are borne, labour is done. Men sow the seed from which, above their graves, others reap blessed harvests. They plant trees, that others may eat the fruit. They are content here to know that they have set in motion agencies for good. In the hereafter the action and reaction of all these will be seen.—*Education*, p. 305, 306 (1903).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, November 27th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 20

Jehoshaphat's Prayer

- 2Ch 20:1 It came to pass after this also, *that* the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them *other* beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.
- 2Ch 20:2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they *be* in Hazazontamar, which *is* Engedi.
- 2Ch 20:3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.
- 2Ch 20:4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask *help* of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.
- 2Ch 20:5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,
- 2Ch 20:6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, *art* not thou God in heaven? and rules *not* thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand *is there not* power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?
- 2Ch 20:7 *Art* not thou our God, *who* didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gave it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?
- 2Ch 20:8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,
- 2Ch 20:9 If, *when* evil cometh upon us, *as* the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name *is* in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.
- 2Ch 20:10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou would not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;
- 2Ch 20:11 Behold, *I say, how* they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.
- 2Ch 20:12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee.
- 2Ch 20:13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.
- 2Ch 20:14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;
- 2Ch 20:15 And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.
- 2Ch 20:16 Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.
- 2Ch 20:17 Ye shall not *need* to fight in this *battle*: set yourselves, stand ye *still*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD *will be* with you.
- 2Ch 20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.
- 2Ch 20:19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.
- 2Ch 20:20 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.

- 2Ch 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endures* for ever.
- 2Ch 20:22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.
- 2Ch 20:23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

The Lord Delivers Judah

- 2Ch 20:24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.
- 2Ch 20:25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.
- 2Ch 20:26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.
- 2Ch 20:27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.
- 2Ch 20:28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 20:29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.
- 2Ch 20:30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.
- 2Ch 20:31 And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: *he was* thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.
- 2Ch 20:32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD.
- 2Ch 20:33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 20:34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who *is* mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

The End of Jehoshaphat's Reign

- 2Ch 20:35 And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:
- 2Ch 20:36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.
- 2Ch 20:37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

Thursday – November 28th

1. What was John's testimony regarding Jesus?

- Matthew 3:11-12 —
- John 1:29-34 —
- Mark 1:7-8 —
- John 1:35-36 —

NOTE : 'Was this the Christ? With awe and wonder the people looked upon the One just declared to be the Son of God. They had been deeply moved by the words of John. He had spoken to them in the name of God. They had listened to him day after day as he reproved their sins, and daily the conviction that he was sent of Heaven had strengthened. But who was this One greater than John the Baptist? In His dress and bearing there was nothing that betokened rank. He was apparently a simple personage, clad like themselves in the humble garments of the poor....But as the people looked upon Him, they saw a face where divine compassion was blended with conscious power. Every glance of the eye, every feature of the countenance, was marked with humility, and expressive of unutterable love. He seemed to be surrounded by an atmosphere of spiritual influence. While His manners were gentle and unassuming, He impressed men with a sense of power that was hidden, yet could not be wholly concealed. Was this the One for whom Israel had so long waited?'—*The Desire of Ages*, page 137

2. How did John respond as his hearers began to follow Jesus instead?

- John 3:26-30 —

NOTE : Looking in faith to the Redeemer, John had risen to the height of self-abnegation. He sought not to attract men to himself, but to lift their thoughts higher and still higher, until they should rest upon the Lamb of God. He himself had been only a voice, a cry in the wilderness. Now with joy he accepted silence and obscurity, that the eyes of all might be turned to the Light of life. Those who are true to their calling as messengers for God will not seek honour for themselves. Love for self will be swallowed up in love for Christ. No rivalry will mar the precious cause of the gospel. They will recognise that it is their work to proclaim, as did John the Baptist, “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*” [John 1:29] They will lift up Jesus, and with Him humanity will be lifted up. “*Thus saith the High and Lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*” [Isaiah 57:15]—*The Desire of Ages*, page 179

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Thursday, November 28th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 343***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 28th

Our Joy Will Constantly Increase

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

1 Peter 1:12

There are mysteries in the plan of redemption--the humiliation of the Son of God, that He might be found in fashion as a man, the wonderful love and condescension of the Father in yielding up His Son--that are to the heavenly angels subjects of continual amazement. . . . And these will be the study of the redeemed through eternal ages. As they contemplate the work of God in creation and redemption, new truth will continually unfold to the wondering and delighted mind. As they learn more and more of the wisdom, the love, and the power of God, their minds will be constantly expanding, and their joy will continually increase.—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 702, 703 (1889).*

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.—*The Great Controversy, p. 678 (1911).*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, November 28th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 21

Jehoram Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 21:1 Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ch 21:2 And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these *were* the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.
- 2Ch 21:3 And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he *was* the firstborn.
- 2Ch 21:4 Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and *divers* also of the princes of Israel.
- 2Ch 21:5 Jehoram *was* thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 21:6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD.
- 2Ch 21:7 Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.
- 2Ch 21:8 In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king.
- 2Ch 21:9 Then Jehoram went forth with his princes, and all his chariots with him: and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him in, and the captains of the chariots.
- 2Ch 21:10 So the Edomites revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. The same time *also* did Libnah revolt from under his hand; because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.
- 2Ch 21:11 Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah *thereto*.
- 2Ch 21:12 And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,
- 2Ch 21:13 But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, *which were* better than thyself:
- 2Ch 21:14 Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:
- 2Ch 21:15 And thou *shalt have* great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.
- 2Ch 21:16 Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that *were* near the Ethiopians:
- 2Ch 21:17 And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.
- 2Ch 21:18 And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.
- 2Ch 21:19 And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.
- 2Ch 21:20 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.

Preparation Day – November 29th

1. How did John become discouraged?

➤ **Matthew 11:2-3** —

NOTE : 'John had indistinct ideas of the kingdom Christ came to establish... He became impatient because Christ did not immediately make Himself known, assume kingly authority, and subdue the Romans. He hoped that if Christ established His kingdom, he would be brought out of prison. He decided that if Jesus was really the Son of God, and could do all things, He would exercise His power and set him at liberty. John sent his disciples to inquire of Christ, “*Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?*” [Matthew 11:3] The disciples sought the presence of Christ; but they could not communicate with Him immediately, because of the crowd who were bearing the sick to Jesus. The afflicted, blind, and lame were passing through the throng. The disciples of John saw the miracles of Christ, and that at His word the lifeless clay became animate, and the glow of health took the place of the pallor of death. Jesus said to the disciples of John, “*Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me.*” [Matthew 11:4-6] In these words John is gently reproved for his impatience. The cautious reproof returned to John was not lost upon him. He then better understood the character of Christ's mission. And with submission and faith, he yielded himself into the hands of God, to live, or to die, as should best advance His glory.'—*Spirit of Prophecy, volume 2, page 71*

2. How did Jesus describe the work of John?

➤ **Luke 7:26** —

NOTE : 'Our message is to be as direct as was the message of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding that his life was imperilled, he did not hesitate to declare God's word. And our work in this age must be done as faithfully. In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self.'—*Review & Herald, November 28, 1907*

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Preparation Day, November 29th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 344***

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 29th

Ever an Infinity Beyond

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

Isaiah 57:15

Every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul.—*Education*, p. 307 (1903).

However far we may advance in the knowledge of God's wisdom and His power, there is ever an infinity beyond.—*The Adventist Review and Herald*, September 14, 1886.

All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavour to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 740.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, November 29th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 22

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 22:1 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.
- 2Ch 22:2 Forty and two years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Athaliah the daughter of Omri.
- 2Ch 22:3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.
- 2Ch 22:4 Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.
- 2Ch 22:5 He walked also after their counsel, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramothgilead: and the Syrians smote Joram.
- 2Ch 22:6 And he returned to be healed in Jezreel because of the wounds which were given him at Ramah, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria. And Azariah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab at Jezreel, because he was sick.
- 2Ch 22:7 And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.
- 2Ch 22:8 And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them.
- 2Ch 22:9 And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he *is* the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

Athaliah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 22:10 But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah.
- 2Ch 22:11 But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not.
- 2Ch 22:12 And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, November 29th, 2024



James was a “Why Boy.”

Whenever he was asked to do something at summer camp, he asked, “Why?”

“Why do I have to do this?” he said. “Why do I have to do that?”

James was an orphan. His father and mother had died, and he lived with relatives in a small Native village in Alaska. Those relatives sent him to summer camp. So, James got onto an airplane and flew to the city of Dillingham. Alaska doesn’t have many roads, so people often have to fly in airplanes to travel from one place to another.

After arriving in Dillingham, James rode on a bus for about 30 minutes to a lake. Then he boarded a boat and traveled another 15 minutes to Camp Polaris, a Seventh-day Adventist summer camp for Alaska Native children just like him.

James immediately loved the camp, and he especially enjoyed water sports on the lake. He smiled from ear to ear when he hopped onto an inflatable orange-and-blue raft to be pulled behind a boat for a brisk ride on the lake. He tried not to fall into the water. Even though it was summer, the water was icy cold.

James’ smile turned into a frown at evening worship. When it was time to pray, all the children stood. The seven boys who slept in the same cabin as James stood. Their camp counselor, Adiv, stood. But James remained seated.

Adiv whispered to James, “You need to stand up.” One of the camp rules was that everyone needed to stand during prayer to show respect to God.

James silently rose to his feet. But he was frowning.

The next day, James remained seated during prayer at morning worship. He sat during prayer at evening worship. Then he turned to the boy beside him and began to talk during the prayer. Adiv spoke to him every time, but he refused to listen.

On the third day, when James remained seated, Adiv invited him to step outside the lodge to talk.

Outside, Adiv reminded James about the camp rules. “If this is what you are going to do, there will be consequences,” he said. “Out of respect to God, you need to stand up when we pray and not talk. Why don’t you stand up?”

“Why should I stand up? Why can’t I talk?” James said. “I have never seen God. I don’t even know if there is a God.”

Adiv saw an opportunity to teach James about God. He spoke about the wind that often blew through the camp.

“Even though you don’t see the wind, you know it exists because you can feel it on your skin and see the rustling of the leaves in the trees,” he said. “In the same way, I can’t see God, but I can sense His presence around me.”

He spoke about the stars at night.

“When there are clouds in the night sky, you can’t see the stars, but you know that they are there,” he said. “In the same way, I can’t see God, but I can sense His presence around me.”

Tears formed in James’ eyes.

“How do I know that?” he blurted out. “If God exists, why do bad things happen? Where was God when my mother died? Where was God when my father died?”

Adiv said death was not part of God’s plan. But the first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned against God, and the result is pain and death. So, God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for everyone’s sins. Those who believe in Jesus will live with Him forever in a world without pain and death. “Even though you cannot see Him, God is still there,” Adiv said.

James listened quietly. “Is God really up there?” he mused.

After that, James stood silently during prayers. He never said what he was thinking, but Adiv hoped that he was thinking about God.

Camp Polaris, located on a lake near Dillingham, Alaska, is the only Seventh-day Adventist summer camp that caters to Alaska Native children. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2016 helped to renovate the camp with new cabins and bathrooms. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will go to Bethel, Alaska.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 10

“THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY”

November 30 - December 6

MEMORY VERSE : “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”
[Malachi 4:5-6]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Testimonies, volume 8, pages 331-334

SCRIPTURE : Revelation 14:6-7

LESSON AIM : To study the 'Elijah Message' for today.

INTRODUCTION : Our work of heralding the second coming of Christ is similar to that of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ at His first advent. We are to proclaim to the world the message, “*The great day of the Lord is near.*” [Zephaniah 1:14] “*Prepare to meet thy God.*” [Amos 4:12] We are to do much more than we have yet done.—*Reflecting Christ, page 201*

Sabbath – November 30th

1. What message of warning does God command to be given to the world in the last days of earth's history?

➤ Revelation 14:6-7 —

NOTE : In this time of well-nigh universal apostasy, God calls upon His messengers to proclaim His law in the spirit and power of Elias. As John the Baptist, in preparing a people for Christ's first advent, called their attention to the Ten Commandments, so we are to give, with no uncertain sound, the message: “*Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.*” [Revelation 14:7] With the earnestness that characterised Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist, we are to strive to prepare the way for Christ's second advent.—*SDA Bible Commentary, Volume 4, page 1184.*

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

**Testimonies for The Church
Volume 8, Section 5, p. 331-334**

“The Essential Knowledge”

The Experience of Enoch

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the holy city, the first from among men to enter there.

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; . . . for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5.

"To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch's must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord's second coming.

Experience of John the Baptist

John the Baptist in his desert life was taught of God. He studied the revelations of God in nature. Under the guiding of the Divine Spirit, he studied the scrolls of the prophets. By day and by night, Christ was his study, his meditation, until mind and heart and soul were filled with the glorious vision.

He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was lost sight of. He beheld the majesty of holiness and knew himself to be inefficient and unworthy. It was God's message that he was to declare. It was in God's power and His righteousness that he was to stand. He was ready to go forth as Heaven's messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine. He could stand fearless in the presence of earthly monarchs because with trembling he had bowed before the King of kings.

With no elaborate arguments or finespun theories did John declare his message. Startling and stern, yet full of hope, his voice was heard from the wilderness: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2. With a new, strange power it moved the people. The whole nation was stirred. Multitudes flocked to the wilderness.

Unlearned peasants and fishermen from the surrounding country; the Roman soldiers from the barracks of Herod; chieftains with their swords at their sides, ready to put down anything that might savour of rebellion; the avaricious tax gatherers from their toll booths; and from the Sanhedrin the phylacteried priests--all listened as if spellbound; and all, even the Pharisee, and the Sadducee, the cold, unimpressible scoffer, went away with the sneer silenced and cut to the heart with a sense of their sins. Herod in his palace heard the message, and the proud, sin-hardened ruler trembled at the call to repentance.

In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was: "Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; 'repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' " As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a message to bear--

"Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12. Our message must be as direct as was the message of John. He rebuked kings for their iniquity. Notwithstanding that his life was imperilled, he did not hesitate to declare God's word. And our work in this age must be done as faithfully.

In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self.

John had by nature the faults and weaknesses common to humanity; but the touch of divine love had transformed him. When, after Christ's ministry began, the disciples of John came to him with the complaint that all men were following the new Teacher, John showed how clearly he understood his relation to the Messiah, and how gladly he welcomed the One for whom he had prepared the way.

"A man can receive nothing," he said, "except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:27-30.

Looking in faith to the Redeemer, John had risen to the height of self-abnegation. He sought not to attract men to himself, but to lift their thoughts higher and still higher, until they should rest upon the Lamb of God. He himself had been only a voice, a cry in the wilderness. Now with joy he accepted silence and obscurity, that the eyes of all might be turned to the Light of life.

Those who are true to their calling as messengers for God will not seek honour for themselves. Love for self will be swallowed up in love for Christ. They will recognize that it is their work to proclaim, as did John the Baptist: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. They will lift up Jesus, and with Him humanity will be lifted up. "Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

The soul of the prophet, emptied of self, was filled with the light of the Divine. In words that were almost a counterpart of the words of Christ Himself, he bore witness to the Saviour's glory. "He that cometh from above," he said, "is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth: He that cometh from heaven is above all. . . . For He whom God hath sent speaks the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him." John 3:31-34.

In this glory of Christ all His followers are to share. The Saviour could say: "I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me." John 5:30." And," declared John, "the Father giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him." So with the followers of Christ. We can receive of heaven's light only as we are willing to be emptied of self. We can discern the character of God, and accept Christ by faith, only as we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ. To all who do this, the Holy Spirit is given without measure. In Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him." Colossians 2:9, 10.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, November 30th, 2024

*Last Day Events,
Chapter 11, pp. 345*

“The Inheritance of the Saints”

November 30th

The Whole Universe Declares That God Is Love

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21:8

The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 678 (1911).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, November 30th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 23

Joash Made King

- 2Ch 23:1 And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.
- 2Ch 23:2 And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 23:3 And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David.
- 2Ch 23:4 This *is* the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, *shall be* porters of the doors;
- 2Ch 23:5 And a third part *shall be* at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people *shall be* in the courts of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 23:6 But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they *are* holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD.
- 2Ch 23:7 And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever *else* cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out.
- 2Ch 23:8 So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go *out* on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses.
- 2Ch 23:9 Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that *had been* king David's, which *were* in the house of God.
- 2Ch 23:10 And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about.
- 2Ch 23:11 Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and *gave him* the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.

Athaliah Executed

- 2Ch 23:12 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD:
- 2Ch 23:13 And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of music, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.
- 2Ch 23:14 Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso follows her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 23:15 So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there.

Jehoiada's Reforms

- 2Ch 23:16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.
- 2Ch 23:17 Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and broke it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

- 2Ch 23:18 Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as *it is* written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, *as it was ordained* by David.
- 2Ch 23:19 And he set the porters at the gates of the house of the LORD, that none *which was* unclean in anything should enter in.
- 2Ch 23:20 And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.
- 2Ch 23:21 And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, November 30th, 2024



On a summer night, six people made an emergency trip to the hospital in Dillingham, Alaska. To reach the hospital from Camp Polaris, the sick child and five grown-ups had to travel by boat for 15 minutes and then by car for 30 minutes.

Once the child was safely at the hospital, the five grown-ups returned to the boat on the lake. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning. The sky was pitch black, and the water was calm. It was difficult to see anything.

The boat had special navigation equipment that allowed it to sail in the dark. But on this night, one important piece of equipment didn't work. The sonar, which measures the depth of the water, was broken. This was a serious problem because the lake was shallow in some places. If the boat hit a sandbar or a rock, it might get stuck or, worse, even sink.

But none of the grown-ups wanted to stay on the lake shore all night. Everyone wanted to return to camp and sleep in warm sleeping bags.

“OK, let's go,” said the grown-up who was acting as the boat's captain.

He gunned the motor, and it roared to life.

Chuff-chuff-chuff-rrrOOOAAARRR!

With a prayer for safety, the five grownups set off for the camp.

Roooooooooooooarrrrrrr!

The boat sped smoothly over the open water. At first, it was easy sailing. No islands or other obstacles blocked the way. But it was dark.

The boat riders kept praying as they headed in the direction of the camp.

Finally, two islands appeared on the navigation screen. The islands were located right in front of the shoreline with the camp. The captain steered the boat between the islands and slowed down the engine.

RRRAAAOOOrrr-chug-chug-chug.

The engine ceased its angry roar and settled into a steady chugging sound.

The captain was worried.

“I can’t see anything,” he said. “I don’t want to hit the dock. What am I supposed to do?”

Then everyone was worried. All the camp lights were out because everyone at the camp was asleep. No one on the boat could see the camp in the dark.

Someone had an idea, saying, “Move the boat forward slowly.”

Keeping the motor on low speed, the captain slowly moved the boat forward. Chug-chug-chug.

Suddenly, a bright light appeared in the middle of the camp. The brilliant, white light cast dazzling rays over the camp. The grown-ups on the boat could see the boys’ cabins. They could see the girls’ cabins. They could see the main lodge. They could see the bathrooms. Most important, they could see the dock and the shoreline.

The captain guided the boat past the dock and onto the shore.

Everyone jumped off the boat. It felt good to have solid ground under their feet.

The grown-ups looked to see where the light was coming from. They wanted to thank the person who had switched it on.

But the light went off, and darkness returned to the camp.

The grown-ups decided to go to bed and thank the kind person in the morning.

When the morning sun had risen, they tried to find the person who had turned on the light.

The captain felt certain that it must have been the camp director.

“Thank you for turning that light on,” he said. “We never would have made it without it.”

But the camp director said it wasn’t him.

“What light?” he said. “I didn’t turn any light on. I was sleeping. I didn’t even know you were coming.”

No one at the camp had turned on the light.

The boat riders believe that there is only one answer; an angel showed up with a bright light on that dark night. The light showed them where to go.

Camp Polaris, located outside Dillingham, Alaska, is the only Seventh-day Adventist summer camp that caters especially to Alaska Native children. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2015 helped to improve the camp with new cabins and real toilets and showers. This quarter, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Alaska Native children in Bethel, Alaska, know about the Light of the World, Jesus, who shows the way to true happiness. Thank you for planning a generous offering on December 28

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – December 1st

1. To whom is this message of warning to be given?

➤ **Revelation 14:6** —

➤ **Matthew 24:14** —

NOTE : 'In this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfilment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to “*every nation and kindred and tongue*,” [Revelation 14:6-14] “*to take out of them a people for His name*” [Acts 15:14; Revelation 18:1] And the earth shall be lightened with His glory.’—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 79.

2. What is to be the heart of the last message of warning?

➤ **Revelation 14:6** —

NOTE : 'In every age Christ has been the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He was the Originator and foundation of the Jewish economy. In the pillar of cloud He guided the children of Israel in their wanderings. Everything was adjusted and arranged by the hand of Divinity. And all the knowledge that came direct from God to them, all the power and glory of that ancient economy, had been poured into the treasury of the Christian church. Nothing has been lost. The accumulated light of generations is given to the church of today, not to be hoarded, but to be circulated. Messengers are to be sent to every part of the earth, proclaiming Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The earthly temple is no more. Its mysterious veil has been rent asunder; its sacred vessels have been demolished, and the Jewish people are scattered to every part of the world. But the judgments that fell on that nation are a symbol of those that will fall on all who, like Jerusalem, know not the time of their visitation. Let not man mock the ancient Jewish economy, of which Christ was the Originator, and the One to whom the types and shadows pointed. In these types and shadows is revealed the everlasting Gospel. The idea that the Old Testament no longer possesses vital interest because the New Testament has been written, is an idea fatal to the soul of him who believes it. Both the Old Testament and the New are necessary. The New Testament does not contain another Gospel, a new religion. It is but the unfolding of the Old. The past ages are of peculiar value to us; and those who are ignorant of the Scriptures, and of the power of God as manifest in the history of His people, understand but dimly the manner of His working.’—*Signs of the Times*, January 13, 1898.

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, December 1st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 346***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 1st

Prophecies Fulfilled

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Isaiah 13:9

With joy Moses saw the law of God still honoured and exalted by a faithful few. He saw the last great struggle of earthly powers to destroy those who keep God's law. He looked forward to the time when God shall arise to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and those who have feared His name shall be covered and hid in the day of His anger. These acknowledge the relation existing between the Father and His law. Only by the merits of Jesus Christ is man exalted and enabled to keep God's law acceptably.

Again Moses looked and saw the covenant of peace made with God's commandment-keeping people when He spoke from His holy habitation, shaking the heavens and the earth by His voice. Moses saw that God is the hope of His people, while the despisers of the law, those who had crucified Jesus Christ afresh, bowed . . . at the feet of the saints in fear of God's voice.

He saw the countenances of the saints lighted up with glory and beaming upon those around them, as the faces of himself and those who were with him shone when the law was given on Mount Sinai. The commandment-keepers, those who had honoured the law, were glorified. At the appearing of Christ in splendour and glory they were translated to heaven without seeing death, rising with songs of triumph to enter through the gates into the city, into the land of Eden.

He saw the earth purified by fire and cleansed from every vestige of sin, every mark of the curse, and renovated and given to the saints to possess forever and ever. He saw the kingdoms of the earth given to the saints of the Most High. No impurity, nothing to mar their peace and happiness, was in the earth made new. (Manuscript 69, September 10, 1902)

Daily Scripture

Sunday, December 1st, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 24

Joash Repairs the Temple

- 2Ch 24:1 Joash *was* seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Zibiah of Beersheba.
- 2Ch 24:2 And Joash did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.
- 2Ch 24:3 And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.
- 2Ch 24:4 And it came to pass after this, *that* Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 24:5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened *it* not.
- 2Ch 24:6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, *according to the commandment* of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?
- 2Ch 24:7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.
- 2Ch 24:8 And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 24:9 And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection *that* Moses the servant of God *laid* upon Israel in the wilderness.
- 2Ch 24:10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.
- 2Ch 24:11 Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that *there was* much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.
- 2Ch 24:12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 24:13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.
- 2Ch 24:14 And when they had finished *it*, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, *even* vessels to minister, and to offer *withal*, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.
- 2Ch 24:15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old *was he* when he died.
- 2Ch 24:16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.
- 2Ch 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.
- 2Ch 24:18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.
- 2Ch 24:19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

Joash's Treachery

- 2Ch 24:20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.
- 2Ch 24:21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 24:22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon *it*, and require *it*.

Joash Assassinated

- 2Ch 24:23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, *that* the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus.
- 2Ch 24:24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.
- 2Ch 24:25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.
- 2Ch 24:26 And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess.
- 2Ch 24:27 Now *concerning* his sons, and the greatness of the burdens *laid* upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they *are* written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

Monday – December 2nd

1. What is the Gospel?

➤ Romans 1:16 —

NOTE : 'God is an overflowing fountain of efficiency and strength. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. When this power is utilised, it will be found to be more than sufficient to meet the power of the enemy.'—*Review & Herald, December 24, 1901.*

'The grace of Christ ever has a refining, elevating, ennobling influence on the character. There are men and women of refinement and education who will throw the whole weight of their influence on the Lord's side, will ignore worldly interests, part with friends, and become missionaries for God, going forth to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Their unconquerable fidelity will be registered as approved of God in the books of heaven. They will make it manifest to the world that there is power in Christianity to exalt the character in righteousness and true holiness. The Gospel will be seen to be the power of God unto salvation.'—*Signs of the Times, January 17, 1895.*

'To believe in Christ merely as the Saviour of the world can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour. God gave His only-begotten Son, that I, by believing in Him, “*should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” [John 3:16] When I come to Christ, according to His word, I am to believe that I receive His saving grace. The life that I now live, I am to “*live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*” [Galatians 2:20] Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. A living faith means an increase of vigour, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power.'—*Ministry of Healing, page 62.*

2. What is the first aspect of this message of warning?

➤ Revelation 14:7, first part —

NOTE : 'That men may be prepared to stand in the judgment, the message commands them to “*fear God, and give glory to Him, . . . and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*” [Revelation 14:7] The result of an acceptance of these messages is given in the Word: “*Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*” [Revelation 14:12] In order to be prepared for the judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the judgment. The apostle Paul declares: “*As many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law, . . . in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.*” And he says that “*the doers of the law shall be justified.*” [Romans 2:12-16] Faith is essential in order to the keeping of the law of God; for “*without faith it is impossible to please him.*” [Hebrews 11:6] And “*whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*” [Romans 14:23]'—*Lift Him Up, page 342.*

3. Heaven's Hotline



Last Day Events

Monday, December 2nd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 347***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 2nd

Welcome to the City of God

And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:10

Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying, Your conflict is ended. “*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*” [Matthew 25:34]. . .

Oh, the wonders of redeeming love! the rapture of that hour when the infinite Father, looking upon the ransomed, shall behold his image, sin's discord banished, its blight removed, and the human once more in harmony with the divine!

With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes his faithful ones to the “*joy of their Lord.*” [Matthew 25:21, 23] The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by his agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in this joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labours, and loving sacrifice.

As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet, and praise him through the endless cycles of eternity.

As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the city of God, there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. The Son of God is standing with outstretched arms to receive the father of our race,—the being whom he created, who sinned against his Maker, and for whose sin the marks of the crucifixion are borne upon the Saviour's form. As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he does not fall upon the bosom of his Lord, but in humiliation casts himself at his feet, crying, “*Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!*” [Revelation 5:12]—*The Great Controversy*, p. 646-647

Daily Scripture

Monday, December 2nd, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 25

Amaziah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 25:1 Amaziah *was* twenty and five years old *when* he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 25:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.
- 2Ch 25:3 Now it came to pass, when the kingdom was established to him, that he slew his servants that had killed the king his father.
- 2Ch 25:4 But he slew not their children, but *did as it is* written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

Amaziah's Victories

- 2Ch 25:5 Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together, and made them captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, according to the houses of *their* fathers, throughout all Judah and Benjamin: and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them three hundred thousand choice *men, able* to go forth to war, that could handle spear and shield.
- 2Ch 25:6 He hired also an hundred thousand mighty men of valour out of Israel for an hundred talents of silver.
- 2Ch 25:7 But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD *is* not with Israel, *to wit, with* all the children of Ephraim.
- 2Ch 25:8 But if thou wilt go, do *it*, be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down.
- 2Ch 25:9 And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this.
- 2Ch 25:10 Then Amaziah separated them, *to wit,* the army that was come to him out of Ephraim, to go home again: wherefore their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.
- 2Ch 25:11 And Amaziah strengthened himself, and led forth his people, and went to the valley of salt, and smote of the children of Seir ten thousand.
- 2Ch 25:12 And *other* ten thousand *left* alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.
- 2Ch 25:13 But the soldiers of the army which Amaziah sent back, that they should not go with him to battle, fell upon the cities of Judah, from Samaria even unto Bethhoron, and smote three thousand of them, and took much spoil.

Amaziah's Idolatry

- 2Ch 25:14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up *to be* his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.
- 2Ch 25:15 Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?
- 2Ch 25:16 And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that *the king* said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? forbear; why should thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbear, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

Israel Defeats Amaziah

- 2Ch 25:17 Then Amaziah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face.
- 2Ch 25:18 And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that *was* in Lebanon sent to the cedar that *was* in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that *was* in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle.
- 2Ch 25:19 Thou say, Lo, thou hast smitten the Edomites; and thine heart lifts thee up to boast: abide now at home; why should thou meddle to *thine* hurt, that thou should fall, *even* thou, and Judah with thee?
- 2Ch 25:20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it *came* of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of *their* enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.
- 2Ch 25:21 So Joash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, *both* he and Amaziah king of Judah, at Bethshemesh, which *belongsto* Judah.
- 2Ch 25:22 And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.
- 2Ch 25:23 And Joash the king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Bethshemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.
- 2Ch 25:24 And *he took* all the gold and the silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with Obedom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Samaria.
- 2Ch 25:25 And Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah lived after the death of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel fifteen years.
- 2Ch 25:26 Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, first and last, behold, *are* they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?
- 2Ch 25:27 Now after the time that Amaziah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to Lachish: but they sent to Lachish after him, and slew him there.
- 2Ch 25:28 And they brought him upon horses, and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

Tuesday – December 3rd

1. What is the evidence that a person is God-fearing?

- Psalm 34:11-14 —
- Deuteronomy 5:29 —
- Psalm 111:10 —
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 —

NOTE : 'By the first angel, men are called upon to “*fear God, and give glory to Him*” [Revelation 14:7] and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man: “*Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*” [Ecclesiastes 12:13] Without obedience to His commandments no worship can be pleasing to God. “*This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.*” [1 John 5:3] “*He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.*” [Proverbs 28:9]—*The Great Controversy, page 436.*

2. What further call is made to mankind regarding our relation to God?

- Revelation 14:7 —

NOTE : 'We have suffered loss to our own souls, and have failed to reveal to others, by our words and in our character, what Christ is and will be to everyone who comes to Him believing. He is “*made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*” [1 Corinthians 1:30] To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God.'—*Signs of the Times, October 17, 1892.*

'God imparted to Moses, in the form of a prophecy, a knowledge of His purpose concerning the final triumph of His chosen people. He declared, “*As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.*” [Numbers 14:21] God's glory, His character, His merciful kindness and tender love, all that Moses had pleaded in behalf of Israel was to be revealed to all mankind. And this promise of Jehovah was made doubly sure; it was confirmed by an oath. As surely as God lives and reigns, His glory shall be declared “*among the heathen, His wonders among all people.*” [Psalm 96:3]—*My Life Today, page 288.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

-

Last Day Events

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 348***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 3rd

White Robes and Palm Branches

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 7:9

Christ again appears to the view of his enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is a throne, high and lifted up. Upon this throne sits the Son of God, and around him are the subjects of his kingdom. The power and majesty of Christ no language can describe, no pen portray. The glory of the Eternal Father is enshrouding his Son. The brightness of his presence fills the city of God, and flows out beyond the gates, flooding the whole earth with its radiance.

Nearest the throne are those who were once zealous in the cause of Satan, but who, plucked as brands from the burning, have followed their Saviour with deep, intense devotion. Next are those who perfected Christian characters in the midst of falsehood and infidelity, those who honoured the law of God when the Christian world declared it void, and the millions, of all ages, who were martyred for their faith. And beyond is the “*great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.*” [Revelation 7:9.]

Their warfare is ended, their victory won. They have run the race and reached the prize. The palm branch in their hands is a symbol of their triumph, the white robe an emblem of the spotless righteousness of Christ which now is theirs.

The redeemed raise a song of praise that echoes and re-echoes through the vaults of heaven, “*Salvation to our God which sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*” [Revelation 7:10]—*The Great Controversy*, p. 665

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 26

Uzziah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 26:1 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who *was* sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah.
- 2Ch 26:2 He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.
- 2Ch 26:3 Sixteen years old *was* Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Jecoliah of Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 26:4 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.
- 2Ch 26:5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.
- 2Ch 26:6 And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.
- 2Ch 26:7 And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.
- 2Ch 26:8 And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad *even* to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened *himself* exceedingly.
- 2Ch 26:9 Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning *of the wall*, and fortified them.
- 2Ch 26:10 Also he built towers in the desert, and dug many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen *also*, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.
- 2Ch 26:11 Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, *one* of the king's captains.
- 2Ch 26:12 The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour *were* two thousand and six hundred.
- 2Ch 26:13 And under their hand *was* an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.
- 2Ch 26:14 And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings *to cast* stones.
- 2Ch 26:15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

Uzziah's Pride and Punishment

- 2Ch 26:16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to *his* destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.
- 2Ch 26:17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, *that were* valiant men:
- 2Ch 26:18 And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, *It appertains* not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither *shall it be* for thine honour from the LORD God.

- 2Ch 26:19 Then Uzziah was wrath, and *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.
- 2Ch 26:20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he *was* leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.
- 2Ch 26:21 And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, *being* a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son *was* over the king's house, judging the people of the land.
- 2Ch 26:22 Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, first and last, did Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, write.
- 2Ch 26:23 So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of the burial which *belonged* to the kings; for they said, He *is* a leper: and Jotham his son reigned in his stead.

Wednesday – December 4th

1. What does God mean by His glory?

➤ **Exodus 33:18-19** —

➤ **Exodus 34:6-7** —

NOTE : 'It was the privilege of the Jewish nation to represent the character of God as it had been revealed to Moses. In answer to the prayer of Moses, “*Show me Thy glory,*” the Lord promised, “*I will make all My goodness pass before thee.*” Exodus 33:18-19. “*And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*” [Exodus 34:6-7] This was the fruit that God desired from His people. In the purity of their characters, in the holiness of their lives, in their mercy and loving-kindness and compassion, they were to show that “*the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.*” [Psalm 19:7]’—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 285.

2. Whom is the whole world called upon to worship?

➤ **Revelation 14:7, last part** —

NOTE : 'The true ground of divine worship... of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten.'—*J. N. Andrews, History of the Sabbath, chapter 27, quoted in The Great Controversy, page 437*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 349***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 4th

Even Unwilling Lips Confess Him

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Isaiah 45:23

Christ's second coming will be in marked contrast to His first coming. . . He will be acknowledged by all as the King of glory. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The angels will bow in adoration before Him. His enemies will see the mistake they have made, and every tongue will confess His divinity.—*Signs of the Times*, April 19, 1905

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.

Every eye in that vast multitude is turned to behold the glory of the Son of God. With one voice the wicked hosts exclaim, “*Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!*” [Matthew 21:9; 23:29; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35] It is not love to Jesus that inspires this utterance. The force of truth urges the words from unwilling lips. As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth, with the same enmity to Christ, and the same spirit of rebellion. They are to have no new probation, in which to remedy the defects of their past lives. Nothing would be gained by this. A life-time of transgression has not softened their hearts. A second probation, were it given them, would be occupied as was the first, in evading the requirements of God and exciting rebellion against him.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 665

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 27

Jotham Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 27:1 Jotham *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok.
- 2Ch 27:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly.
- 2Ch 27:3 He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much.
- 2Ch 27:4 Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built castles and towers.
- 2Ch 27:5 He fought also with the king of the Ammonites, and prevailed against them. And the children of Ammon gave him the same year an hundred talents of silver, and ten thousand measures of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. So much did the children of Ammon pay unto him, both the second year, and the third.
- 2Ch 27:6 So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.
- 2Ch 27:7 Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars, and his ways, lo, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.
- 2Ch 27:8 He was five and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 27:9 And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Ahaz his son reigned in his stead.

Thursday – December 5th

1. Why is the creatorship of God so important?

➤ Isaiah 40:25-26 —

NOTE : 'The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. *“All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.”* [Psalm 96:5]

“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things.” [Isaiah 40:25-26] *“Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it: . . . I am the Lord; and there is none else.”* [Isaiah 45:18] Says the psalmist: *“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.”* [Psalm 100:3] *“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”* [Psalm 95:6] And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things.”* [Revelation 4:11]—*Lift Him Up, page 51*

2. What is God's appointed way for mankind to worship Him as their Creator?

➤ Exodus 20:8-11 —

NOTE : 'In Revelation 14, men are called upon to worship the Creator; and the prophecy brings to view a class that, as the result of the threefold message, are keeping the commandments of God. One of these commandments points directly to God as the Creator. The fourth precept declares: *“The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: . . . for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”* [Exodus 20:10-11]

Concerning the Sabbath, the Lord says, further, that it is *“a sign, . . . that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.”* [Ezekiel 20:20] And the reason given is: *“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.”* [Exodus 31:17] So long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as an object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God, *“Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”* [Revelation 14:7] It follows that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment.'—*Lift Him Up, page 51.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 350***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 5th

The Thousand Years Completed

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:5

Then Jesus and all the retinue of holy angels, and all the redeemed saints, left the city. The angels surrounded their Commander and escorted Him on His way, and the train of redeemed saints followed. Then, in terrible, fearful majesty, Jesus called forth the wicked dead; and they came up with the same feeble, sickly bodies that went into the grave.

What a spectacle! what a scene! At the first resurrection all came forth in immortal bloom; but at the second the marks of the curse are visible on all. The kings and noblemen of the earth, the mean and low, the learned and unlearned, come forth together.

All behold the Son of man; and those very men who despised and mocked Him, who put the crown of thorns upon His sacred brow, and smote Him with the reed, behold Him in all His kingly majesty. Those who spit upon Him in the hour of His trial now turn from His piercing gaze and from the glory of His countenance. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet now look upon the marks of His crucifixion. Those who thrust the spear into His side behold the marks of their cruelty on His body. And they know that He is the very one whom they crucified and derided in His expiring agony. And then there arises one long protracted wail of agony, as they flee to hide from the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

All are seeking to hide in the rocks, to shield themselves from the terrible glory of Him whom they once despised. And, overwhelmed and pained with His majesty and exceeding glory, they with one accord raise their voices, and with terrible distinctness exclaim, “*Blessed is He that cometh in the name of The Lord!*” [Matthew 21:9]—*Early Writings*, p. 292

Daily Scripture

Thursday, December 5th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 28

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 28:1 Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:
- 2Ch 28:2 For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim.
- 2Ch 28:3 Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.
- 2Ch 28:4 He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

Judah Defeated

- 2Ch 28:5 Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought *them* to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter.
- 2Ch 28:6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, *which were* all valiant men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 28:7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, slew Maaseiah the king's son, and Azrikam the governor of the house, and Elkanah *that was* next to the king.
- 2Ch 28:8 And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.
- 2Ch 28:9 But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name *was* Oded: and he went out before the host that came to Samaria, and said unto them, Behold, because the LORD God of your fathers was wroth with Judah, he hath delivered them into your hand, and ye have slain them in a rage *that* reacheth up unto heaven.
- 2Ch 28:10 And now ye purpose to keep under the children of Judah and Jerusalem for bondmen and bondwomen unto you: *but are there* not with you, even with you, sins against the LORD your God?
- 2Ch 28:11 Now hear me therefore, and deliver the captives again, which ye have taken captive of your brethren: for the fierce wrath of the LORD *is* upon you.
- 2Ch 28:12 Then certain of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, and Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against them that came from the war,
- 2Ch 28:13 And said unto them, Ye shall not bring in the captives hither: for whereas we have offended against the LORD *already*, ye intend to add *more* to our sins and to our trespass: for our trespass is great, and *there is* fierce wrath against Israel.
- 2Ch 28:14 So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the congregation.
- 2Ch 28:15 And the men which were expressed by name rose up, and took the captives, and with the spoil clothed all that were naked among them, and arrayed them, and shod them, and gave them to eat and to drink, and anointed them, and carried all the feeble of them upon asses, and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, to their brethren: then they returned to Samaria.
- 2Ch 28:16 At that time did king Ahaz send unto the kings of Assyria to help him.
- 2Ch 28:17 For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.
- 2Ch 28:18 The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederot, and Shochu with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.
- 2Ch 28:19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD.
- 2Ch 28:20 And Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not.

2Ch 28:21 For Ahaz took away a portion *out* of the house of the LORD, and *out* of the house of the king, and of the princes, and gave *it* unto the king of Assyria: but he helped him not.

Ahaz's Idolatry

2Ch 28:22 And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this *is that* king Ahaz.

2Ch 28:23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, *therefore* will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.

2Ch 28:24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

2Ch 28:25 And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

2Ch 28:26 Now the rest of his acts and of all his ways, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

2Ch 28:27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, *even* in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Preparation Day – December 6th

1. What gives this final message special urgency?

- **Revelation 14:7, middle part —**

NOTE : 'The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the “*everlasting gospel*,” [Revelation 14:6] and it announces the opening of the judgement. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgement had come. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgement. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal “*to the time of the end*.” [Daniel 12:4] Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the judgement be proclaimed, based on the fulfilment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, “*many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*.” [Daniel 12:4]—*The Great Controversy*, page 355.

2. What does the proclamation that God's judgement has begun mean to each human being?

- **Amos 4:12 —**
- **2 Corinthians 5:10 —**

NOTE : 'The hour of God's judgment has come, and upon the members of His church on earth rests the solemn responsibility of giving warning to those who are standing as it were on the very brink of eternal ruin. All can do something in the work. None will be pronounced guiltless before God unless they have worked earnestly and unselfishly for the salvation of souls. Your duty cannot be shifted upon another. No one but yourself can do your work. If you withhold your light, someone must be left in darkness through your neglect.'—*The Faith I Live By*, page 290.

3. Heaven's Hotline

-

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, December 6th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 351***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 6th

Satan's last Battle

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

Revelation 20:7-8

Then Jesus and the holy angels, accompanied by all the saints, again go to the city, and the bitter lamentations and wailings of the doomed wicked fill the air. Then I saw that Satan again commenced his work. He passed around among his subjects, and made the weak and feeble strong, and told them that he and his angels were powerful.

He pointed to the countless millions who had been raised. There were mighty warriors and kings who were well skilled in battle and who had conquered kingdoms. And there were mighty giants and valiant men who had never lost a battle. There was the proud, ambitious Napoleon, whose approach had caused kingdoms to tremble. There stood men of lofty stature and dignified bearing, who had fallen in battle while thirsting to conquer.

As they come forth from their graves, they resume the current of their thoughts where it ceased in death. They possess the same desire to conquer which ruled when they fell. Satan consults with his angels, and then with those kings and conquerors and mighty men. Then he looks over the vast army, and tells them that the company in the city is small and feeble, and that they can go up and take it, and cast out its inhabitants, and possess its riches and glory themselves. (Early Writings, p. 293)

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, December 6th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 29

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 29:1 Hezekiah began to reign *when he was* five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.
- 2Ch 29:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

Hezekiah Cleanses the Temple

- 2Ch 29:3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them.
- 2Ch 29:4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street,
- 2Ch 29:5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy *place*.
- 2Ch 29:6 For our fathers have trespassed, and done *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned *their* backs.
- 2Ch 29:7 Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy *place* unto the God of Israel.
- 2Ch 29:8 Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.
- 2Ch 29:9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives *are* in captivity for this.
- 2Ch 29:10 Now *it is* in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.
- 2Ch 29:11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.
- 2Ch 29:12 Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:
- 2Ch 29:13 And of the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel: and of the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mattaniah:
- 2Ch 29:14 And of the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and of the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel.
- 2Ch 29:15 And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 29:16 And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD, to cleanse *it*, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took *it*, to carry *it* out abroad into the brook Kidron.
- 2Ch 29:17 Now they began on the first *day* of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.
- 2Ch 29:18 Then they went in to Hezekiah the king, and said, We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, and the altar of burnt offering, with all the vessels thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.
- 2Ch 29:19 Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahaz in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and, behold, they *are* before the altar of the LORD.

Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship

- 2Ch 29:20 Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 29:21 And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer *them* on the altar of the LORD.
- 2Ch 29:22 So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled *it* on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar.
- 2Ch 29:23 And they brought forth the he goats *for* the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them:
- 2Ch 29:24 And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded *that* the burnt offering and the sin offering *should be made* for all Israel.
- 2Ch 29:25 And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for *so was* the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.
- 2Ch 29:26 And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.
- 2Ch 29:27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began *also* with the trumpets, and with the instruments *ordained* by David king of Israel.
- 2Ch 29:28 And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: *and all this continued* until the burnt offering was finished.
- 2Ch 29:29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.
- 2Ch 29:30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.
- 2Ch 29:31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.
- 2Ch 29:32 And the number of the burnt offerings, which the congregation brought, was threescore and ten bullocks, an hundred rams, *and* two hundred lambs: all these *were* for a burnt offering to the LORD.
- 2Ch 29:33 And the consecrated things *were* six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep.
- 2Ch 29:34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the *other* priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites *were* more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.
- 2Ch 29:35 And also the burnt offerings *were* in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and the drink offerings for *every* burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.
- 2Ch 29:36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was *done* suddenly.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, December 6th, 2024



Caleb decided to lead a short worship in his cabin at Camp Polaris in Alaska. It was the second day of camp, and the six boys under his watch as camp counselor were tired after a full day of activities.

Before Caleb could start, one of the boys fell asleep. He was suffering from withdrawal symptoms from chewing tobacco. A number of Alaska Native children at the Seventh-day Adventist summer camp are addicted to chewing tobacco, and they suffer from nicotine withdrawal during the first few days of camp.

As the boy slept, Caleb lit a fire in the cabin's small furnace. Although it was summertime, Alaskan nights got chilly.

Although the other five boys were tired, they didn't want to go to bed yet. "Can we come over by the fire?" one boy asked.

Caleb invited the boys over for worship. He started worship with a question.

"Who is God to you?" he asked.

The boys took turns answering.

"He is the Savior," said one.

"He is in heaven," said another.

"He is fiercely faithful," said a third.

"Fiercely Faithful" was the camp theme for that year.

Then it was Caleb’s turn to tell the boys who God was to him.

“God is loving with all the best characteristics,” he said. “He is generous, very forgiving, merciful, and peaceful.”

One boy exclaimed, “That’s a lot of big words, man!”

Caleb smiled.

“God is like a best friend who is always there for you and even better than that,” he said.

The boys silently pondered the idea of an always-present best friend for a moment. It was unusual for the boys to be quiet.

The boy who had been impressed with the big words spoke again.

“Have you ever seen an angel?” he said.

Without waiting for an answer, he exclaimed, “I have!” Then he told an incredible story about an angel with shiny wings. It sounded like he was making up the story as he told it.

Caleb smiled.

“Angels are pretty neat,” he said.

He was glad to see that the boys wanted to talk about spiritual things. The whole purpose of Camp Polaris was to share Jesus’ love with Alaska Native children.

After worship, the five boys played a lively game of hide-and-seek. The boy who was going to seek stepped out onto the porch. The other boys hid in the cabin. Two slid under bunk beds; another stood behind his coat, which was hanging on the wall; and the last sat in a crack between his bunk bed and the wall and pulled his sleeping bag over his head.

After playing hide-and-seek for about 45 minutes, the boys went to bed. Most fell asleep quickly. But one was terribly homesick.

“I’m homesick,” he told Caleb. “I don’t go to sleep when I’m homesick.”

“You don’t need to go to sleep right now,” Caleb said. “But I need you to lay down.”

He lay down and eventually fell asleep.

Caleb also lay down. As he drifted off to sleep, he remembered how the boys had showed an interest in God and wanted to talk about spiritual things during worship. He smiled. God was at work in the hearts of the boys.


Thank you for a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped Camp Polaris receive new cabins and real toilets and showers. Caleb and the boys in his cabin are grateful to those who contributed to that offering in 2015. You can help spread the gospel in Alaska again with this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will help open a center of influence in Bethel. Thank you for planning a generous offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 11

“BABYLON IS FALLEN”


December 7 - December 13

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”
[Revelation 14:8]

 **STUDY HELP :** ✓ The Faith I Live By, page 285

 **SCRIPTURE :** Jeremiah 51; Revelation 17

 **LESSON AIM :** To study the second part of the end-time Elijah message.

 **INTRODUCTION :** “The term “Babylon” is derived from “Babel,” and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion. In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.”—*The Great Controversy*, page 381.

Sabbath – December 7th

1. What call followed the announcement of the arrival of God's judgement?

➤ **Revelation 14:8** —

NOTE : Today, as in the days of Elijah, the line of demarcation between God's commandment keeping people and the worshipers of false gods is clearly drawn. “*How long halt ye between two opinions?*” Elijah cried; “*if the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.*” [1 Kings 18:21] And the message for today is: “*Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . . . Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*” [Revelation 18:2-5]—*Lift Him Up*, page 164.

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

EGW Study Help

Sabbath, December 7th, 2024

**The Faith I Live By
Chapter 10, p. 285**

“A Purified Church”

October 6th

A Movement Fulfilling Prophecy

Babylon Is Fallen

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 14:8

The second angel’s message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfillment in 1844. The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of their refusal of the light of the Advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time, they have fallen lower and lower. Not yet, however, can it be said that “Babylon is fallen, ... because she made *all nations* drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” She has not yet made all nations do this.... The work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination.

The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work “with *all* power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;” and they that “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” will be left to receive “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete. The change is a progressive one, and the perfect fulfillment of Revelation 14:8 is yet future.

Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exist in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ’s true followers are still to be found in their communion. There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, December 7th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 352***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 7th

Don't Be Outside the City

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

Satan succeeds in deceiving them, and all immediately begin to prepare themselves for battle. There are many skilful men in that vast army, and they construct all kinds of implements of war. Then with Satan at their head, the multitude move on. Kings and warriors follow close after Satan, and the multitude follow after in companies. Each company has its leader, and order is observed as they march over the broken surface of the earth to the Holy City.

Jesus closes the gates of the city, and this vast army surround it, and place themselves in battle array, expecting a fierce conflict. Jesus and all the angelic host and all the saints, with the glittering crowns upon their heads, ascend to the top of the wall of the city. Jesus speaks with majesty, saying, "*Behold, ye sinners, the reward of the just! And behold, My redeemed, the reward of the wicked!*" [EGW]

The vast multitude behold the glorious company on the walls of the city. And as they witness the splendour of their glittering crowns and see their faces radiant with glory, reflecting the image of Jesus, and then behold the unsurpassed glory and majesty of the King of kings and Lord of lords, their courage fails.

A sense of the treasure and glory which they have lost rushes upon them, and they realize that the Wages of sin is death. They see the holy, happy company Whom they have despised, clothed with glory, honour, immortality, and eternal life, while they are outside the city with every mean and abominable thing. —*Early Writings*, 293-294

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, December 7th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 30

Passover Celebrated

- 2Ch 30:1 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 30:2 For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the Passover in the second month.
- 2Ch 30:3 For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 30:4 And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation.
- 2Ch 30:5 So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done *it* of a long *time in such sort* as it was written.
- 2Ch 30:6 So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.
- 2Ch 30:7 And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.
- 2Ch 30:8 Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.
- 2Ch 30:9 For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.
- 2Ch 30:10 So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.
- 2Ch 30:11 Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 30:12 Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.
- 2Ch 30:13 And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation.
- 2Ch 30:14 And they arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast *them* into the brook Kidron.
- 2Ch 30:15 Then they killed the Passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 30:16 And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites.
- 2Ch 30:17 For *there were* many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the Passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto the LORD.

- 2Ch 30:18 For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the Passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one
- 2Ch 30:19 *That* prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though *he be* not *cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary.
- 2Ch 30:20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.
- 2Ch 30:21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, *singing* with loud instruments unto the LORD.
- 2Ch 30:22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 30:23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept *other* seven days with gladness.
- 2Ch 30:24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.
- 2Ch 30:25 And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.
- 2Ch 30:26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel *there was* not the like in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 30:27 Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *up* to his holy dwelling place, *even* unto heaven.

Children's Mission Story

Sabbath, December 7th, 2024



Vacation Bible School was an exciting time for children in Bethel, Alaska.

Vacation Bible School meant hearing wonderful stories from the Bible. It meant singing joyful songs. It meant enjoying yummy snacks. It also meant making new friends with people who flew from far away just to bring Vacation Bible School to the town. No roads go to Bethel. People have to fly in an airplane or ride in a boat to reach it.

About 35 kids from all around gathered for Vacation Bible School at the Seventh-day Adventist church. Among these children was a little boy named Nelson.

Nelson wasn't too sure about Vacation Bible School. He had different ideas about how things should be done. He didn't quite understand why the grown-ups were so excited about God, and he wanted to change the way that they did activities. However, he had a big reason to come to Vacation Bible School. His friends were there, and he didn't want to miss out on the fun.

Nelson, who was just 9 years old, acted mischievously at Vacation Bible School. He stole someone's hat, poked the other children, and treated the grown-ups disrespectfully.

Now, helping out at Vacation Bible School was a friendly teenager named Isaac. Isaac was 16 years old and he had flown to Bethel to help the grown-ups teach the kids about God. He kindly told Nelson that his behavior wasn't appropriate. "You can join Vacation Bible School and have fun, but you need to behave yourself," he said. "Otherwise, we'll have to send you away."

Nelson didn't like what he heard, but he agreed.

"Fine, I'll behave," he said.

But he kept misbehaving.

Finally, another grown-up named Logan took him aside.

“Nelson, what you’re doing is not appropriate,” he said. “But we will give you one more chance because we want you to be a part of our Vacation Bible School. But you must promise to behave yourself.”

This time Nelson wouldn’t agree.

“I don’t want to be here,” he said, angrily. “I’m leaving.”

He stomped out of the church and furiously pedaled his bike away.

Everyone thought that Nelson wouldn’t be back. But he returned the next day just as Isaac and Logan were handing out snacks.

“Why are you here, Nelson?” Isaac asked.

“Being at home was boring,” Nelson said. “I want to be with my friends. Can I come back?”

“Will you promise to behave and be nice to everyone?” Logan asked.

Nelson thought for a moment.

“OK, but that’s boring,” he said. “Can I do something else?”

“You can go home if you want,” Logan replied.

Nelson didn’t want to go home.

“No, I’ll stay,” he said.

Isaac gave him a snack of crackers. But instead of eating the crackers himself, Nelson shared them with a girl who didn’t have any. Isaac was surprised. “Why did you do that?” he said.

“I want to show you that I want to be here,” Nelson replied.

From that moment, Nelson began to change. He stopped poking the other children, and he treated the grown-ups respectfully.

At the end of Vacation Bible School, Isaac said goodbye to the kids by giving them high fives. But Nelson wanted something more. He gave Isaac a big hug.

When Isaac left, Nelson rode his bike to the Bethel airport and waved goodbye as he boarded the airplane. God gave Nelson a new heart, and Isaac hopes that Nelson always remembers that.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help more Alaska Native children know about Jesus at the church where Nelson attended Vacation Bible School in Bethel, Alaska. Thank you for a generous offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – December 8th

1. How does Babylon first appear in the Bible story?

➤ Genesis 10:8-10 —

NOTE : 'He was a mighty hunter before the Lord,' that is, in defiance of God. He carried on his activities, not ignorant of God but in defiance of God. This is the first mention of hunting, of pursuing and killing creatures for sport. Some authorities suggest that Nimrod's hunting may even have been of men, as well as animals.

'The word Babel is interesting because it is given two different meanings. *“Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth.”* [Genesis 11:9] In Hebrew the word Babel means confusion. The Babylonians themselves used the word to mean “the gate of God.” So the Babylonians said, “We are the gate of God,” and the Jews said, “No, you are confusion.” Throughout the Scriptures, right up to the book of Revelation, the concept of Babylon stands crucial, Babylon saying, “We are the gate of God,” and the Bible answering, “No, this is the place where the basic confusion of language occurred. You are confusion. Our own word Babylon is simply the word Babel with a Greek ending.”—*Francis Schaeffer: Genesis in Space and Time, page 153.*

2. What characterised the men of Babylon from the beginning?

➤ Genesis 11:4 —

➤ Genesis 9:1 —

NOTE : 'Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious. The magnificent tower, reaching to the heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the power and wisdom of its builders, perpetuating their fame to the latest generations.'—*Patriarchs & Prophets, page 118.*

'Genesis 11 and verse 4 makes what might be called the first public declaration of humanism: *“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”* [Genesis 11:4] We have already found this sort of humanism in the family of Cain, but what a strong humanistic statement this is! Let's make a name for ourselves so that we can maintain a human unity and we can achieve social stability.'—*Francis Schaeffer: Genesis in Space and Time, page 153.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 353***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 8th

Eternal Life or Eternal Death

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

Said the angel, Satan is the root, his children are the branches. They are now consumed root and branch. They have died an everlasting death. They are never to have a resurrection, and God will have a clean universe.

I then looked and saw the fire which had consumed the wicked, burning up the rubbish and purifying the earth. Again I looked and saw the earth purified. There was not a single sign of the curse. The broken, uneven surface of the earth now looked like a level, extensive plain. God's entire universe was clean, and the great controversy was forever ended.

Wherever we looked, everything upon which the eye rested was beautiful and holy. And all the redeemed host, old and young, great and small, cast their glittering crowns at the feet of their Redeemer, and prostrated themselves in adoration before Him, and worshiped Him that lives forever and ever. The beautiful new earth, with all its glory, was the eternal inheritance of the saints. The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was then given to the saints of the Most High, who were to possess it forever, even forever and ever.
—*Early Writings*, 295

Daily Scripture

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 31

Hezekiah Organizes the Priests

- 2Ch 31:1 Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.
- 2Ch 31:2 And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.
- 2Ch 31:3 *He appointed* also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, *to wit*, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as *it is* written in the law of the LORD.
- 2Ch 31:4 Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.
- 2Ch 31:5 And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all *things* brought they in abundantly.
- 2Ch 31:6 And *concerning* the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid *them* by heaps.
- 2Ch 31:7 In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished *them* in the seventh month.
- 2Ch 31:8 And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.
- 2Ch 31:9 Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.
- 2Ch 31:10 And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since *the people* began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left *is* this great store.
- 2Ch 31:11 Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared *them*,
- 2Ch 31:12 And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated *things* faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite *was* ruler, and Shimei his brother *was* the next.
- 2Ch 31:13 And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, *were* overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.
- 2Ch 31:14 And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, *was* over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things.
- 2Ch 31:15 And next him *were* Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in *their* set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small:
- 2Ch 31:16 Beside their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, *even* unto every one that enters into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses;
- 2Ch 31:17 Both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses;
- 2Ch 31:18 And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness:

- 2Ch 31:19 Also of the sons of Aaron the priests, *which were* in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the Levites.
- 2Ch 31:20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought *that which was* good and right and truth before the LORD his God.
- 2Ch 31:21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did *it* with all his heart, and prospered.

Monday – December 9th

1. Who was the founder of Babylon?

➤ Genesis 10:8-10 —

NOTE : 'Nimrod was this bold man. The name that he bears “signifies rebellion, supercilious contempt, and, according to Gesenius, is equivalent to 'the extremely impious rebel.'” And “*he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*” [Genesis 10:8] Or, as another translation gives it, he “was the first mighty one in the earth.” That is, he was the first one to establish the power of an organised kingdom or government, as such in the world.'—A. T. Jones: *The Empires of the Bible*, page 50.

'Sir Henry Rawlinson obtained cylinders [i.e. ancient documents written on clay cylinders] stating that the building was the temple of the seven planets, which had been partially built by a former king of Babylon, and, having fallen into decay, was restored and completed by Nebuchadnezzar. The Birs Nimrud is most probably the tower of Babel of the book of Genesis.'—G. Smith: *Assyrian Discoveries*, page 59.

2. What form did the religion of Babylon take in ancient times?

➤ Daniel 3:1 —

➤ Jeremiah 50:2 —

NOTE : The practice of worshipping 'the host of heaven,' the sun, moon and five visible planets, has been traced back to Babylon; the ziggurat, the seven-stage temple tower, with each stage devoted to the worship of a different planet, seems to have begun with the tower of Babel. This ancient idolatry is preserved in the names given to the days of the week in many languages. Nimrod rebelled against the Sabbath and the Lord of the Sabbath by dedicating each day of the week to the worship of the sun, moon and five visible planets respectively. 'From his rich store of treasure, Nebuchadnezzar caused to be made a great golden image, similar in its general features to that which had been seen in vision, save in the one particular of the material of which it was composed. Accustomed as they were to magnificent representations of their heathen deities, the Chaldeans had never before produced anything so imposing and majestic as this resplendent statue, threescore cubits in height and six cubits in breadth. And it is not surprising that in a land where idol worship was of universal prevalence, the beautiful and priceless image in the plain of Dura, representing the glory of Babylon and its magnificence and power, should be consecrated as an object of worship.'—*Prophets & Kings*, page 505-506.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, December 9th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 354***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 9th

Heed the Warnings

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Amos 8:12

We are in the investigative judgment. Soon judgment will be pronounced on our works and our actions which are passing in review before God. A solemn, awful period! Who realize this great work? I saw that those who do not now appreciate, study, and dearly prize the Word of God, spoken by His servants, will have cause to mourn bitterly hereafter.

The Lord in judgment will, at the close of time, walk through the earth; the fearful plagues will begin to fall. Then those who have despised God's Word, those who have lightly esteemed it, shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord and shall not find it. A famine is in the land for hearing the Word. The ministers of God will have done their last work, offered their last prayers, shed their last bitter tear for a rebellious church and an ungodly people. Their last solemn warning has been given.

O then how quickly would houses and lands, dollars that have been miserly hoarded and cherished and tightly grasped, be given for some consolation by those who have professed the truth and have not lived it out, for the way of salvation to be explained or to hear a hopeful word, or a prayer, or an exhortation from their ministers.

But no, they must hunger and thirst on in vain; their thirst will never be quenched, no consolation can they get; their cases are decided and eternally fixed. It is a fearful, awful time. There can much be done now to bring in those jewels who are hid beneath the rubbish, who will highly prize the truth as it falls from the lips of God's servants. —
Manuscript 1, June 1857

Daily Scripture

Monday, December 9th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 32

Sennacherib Invades Judah

- 2Ch 32:1 After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself.
- 2Ch 32:2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,
- 2Ch 32:3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which *were* without the city: and they did help him.
- 2Ch 32:4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?
- 2Ch 32:5 Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised *it* up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo *in* the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.
- 2Ch 32:6 And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,
- 2Ch 32:7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that *is* with him: for *there be* more with us than with him:
- 2Ch 32:8 With him *is* an arm of flesh; but with us *is* the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Sennacherib Blasphemes

- 2Ch 32:9 After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he *himself laid siege* against Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that *were* at Jerusalem, saying,
- 2Ch 32:10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem?
- 2Ch 32:11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?
- 2Ch 32:12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it?
- 2Ch 32:13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of *other* lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand?
- 2Ch 32:14 Who *was there* among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?
- 2Ch 32:15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?
- 2Ch 32:16 And his servants spake yet *more* against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah.
- 2Ch 32:17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of *other* lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand.
- 2Ch 32:18 Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' speech unto the people of Jerusalem that *were* on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city.
- 2Ch 32:19 And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, *which were* the work of the hands of man.

The Lord Delivers Jerusalem

- 2Ch 32:20 And for this *cause* Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.
- 2Ch 32:21 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.
- 2Ch 32:22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all *other*, and guided them on every side.
- 2Ch 32:23 And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

Hezekiah's Pride and Achievements

- 2Ch 32:24 In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.
- 2Ch 32:25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit *done* unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 32:26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, *both* he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.
- 2Ch 32:27 And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels;
- 2Ch 32:28 Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.
- 2Ch 32:29 Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.
- 2Ch 32:30 This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.
- 2Ch 32:31 Howbeit in *the business of* the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was *done* in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all *that was* in his heart.
- 2Ch 32:32 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they *are* written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, *and* in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.
- 2Ch 32:33 And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

Tuesday – December 10th

1. How did God warn against idolatry in all its forms?

➤ **Deuteronomy 4:15-19** —

NOTE : 'From the very first communication of God with them at Sinai, they had been warned against idolatry. Immediately after the proclamation of the law the message was sent them by Moses concerning the nations of Canaan: *“Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.”* Exodus 23:24, 25.'—*Patriarchs & Prophets, page 543.*

2. What form of idolatry will be imposed in the last days?

➤ **Revelation 13:11-14** —

NOTE : 'But what is the *“image to the beast?”* [Revelation 13:14] and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself, the papacy. When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of “heresy.” In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends. Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliance with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, thousands of nonconformist ministers were forced to flee from their churches, and many, both of pastors and people, were subjected to fine, imprisonment, torture, and martyrdom. It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy—the beast. Said Paul: *“There shall come a falling away, . . . and that man of sin be revealed.”* [2 Thessalonians 2:3] So apostasy in the church will prepare the way for the image to the beast.'—*The Great Controversy, page 443.*

3. Heaven’s Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 355***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 10th

As it Was in The Days of Noah

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

Matthew 24:38

Because of his holy integrity and unwavering adherence to God's commands, [Noah] was counted singular indeed and made himself an object of contempt and derision by answering to the claims of God without a questioning doubt. What a contrast to the prevailing unbelief and universal disregard of His law!

Noah was tested and tried thoroughly, and yet he preserved his integrity in the face of the world—all, all against him. Thus will it be when the Son of man shall be revealed. The saved will be few, as is represented by Noah and his family. The world might have believed the warnings, God's Spirit was striving with them to lead them to faith and obedience, but their own wicked hearts turned aside the counsel of God and resisted the pleadings of infinite love. They continued their empty ways as usual, eating, drinking, planting, and building, up to the very day Noah entered into the ark.

The class who professed to acknowledge God were the ones who took the lead in rejecting the preaching of Noah and through their influence leading others to reject it.

To everyone comes the time of test and trial.

The men before the flood sought to quiet their consciences that the Spirit of God had aroused by arguing how impossible it was for the message of Noah to be true and a flood to deluge the world, which would turn nature out of her course.

The same reasoning is heard today. “The world will not be destroyed by fire.” The siren song is sung, “*All things continue as they were from the beginning.*” [2 Peter 3:4.] No need to pay any regard to this preaching that the world's history will soon close. Why, the laws of nature show the inconsistency of this. He who is Lord of nature can employ it to serve His purpose, for He is not the slave of nature. —*Manuscript 5, 1876*

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 33

Manasseh Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 33:1 Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem:
- 2Ch 33:2 But did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.
- 2Ch 33:3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.
- 2Ch 33:4 Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.
- 2Ch 33:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 33:6 And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.
- 2Ch 33:7 And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:
- 2Ch 33:8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.
- 2Ch 33:9 So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, *and* to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

Manasseh's Repentance

- 2Ch 33:10 And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.
- 2Ch 33:11 Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.
- 2Ch 33:12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,
- 2Ch 33:13 And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he *was* God.
- 2Ch 33:14 Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah.
- 2Ch 33:15 And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast *them* out of the city.
- 2Ch 33:16 And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 33:17 Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, *yet* unto the LORD their God only.
- 2Ch 33:18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and the words of the seers that spake to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they *are written* in the book of the kings of Israel.
- 2Ch 33:19 His prayer also, and *how* God was entreated of him, and all his sin, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up groves and graven images, before he was humbled: behold, they *are* written among the sayings of the seers.

2Ch 33:20 So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house: and Amon his son reigned in his stead.

Amon's Reign and Death

2Ch 33:21 Amon *was* two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem.

2Ch 33:22 But he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;

2Ch 33:23 And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

2Ch 33:24 And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house.

2Ch 33:25 But the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

Wednesday – December 11th

1. How will this form of idolatry be enforced?

➤ Revelation 13:15-17 —

NOTE : 'When Satanic agencies shall unite with the professed Christian world in opposing God, these words of the prophet will be fulfilled. In blind zeal “*the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child; and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake; but he that endures to the end shall be saved.*” [Matthew 10:21-22] God desires His servants to remember the instruction here given, that they may not be deceived in regard to what is coming upon the world. Of ourselves we can do nothing. Without the Spirit of God we are utterly helpless. Our strength lies in hiding in Jesus. God can do more in one moment to convict people than we can do in a lifetime. Therefore let us hold fast to the arm of Omnipotence. Let us lean upon Jesus. Thus we shall grow strong to do His will. The Lord is our Helper. He will not leave or forsake us.'—*Signs of the Times*, November 7, 1900.

2. How is Babylon pictured in prophecy?

➤ Revelation 17:4-6 —

NOTE : The literal kingdom of Babylon was overthrown by the armies of Media and Persia in 539 BC. But 'Babylon', where idolatry and rebellion against God after the Flood originated, remained as a symbol of all false and counterfeit religion. Thus 'Babylon' continues to be a term for those religions that set themselves up as alternatives to the religion founded on the Word of God. 'The churches, represented by Babylon, are represented as having fallen from their spiritual state to become a persecuting power against those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. To John this persecuting power is represented as having horns like a lamb, but as speaking like a dragon... More and more will all false religionists of the world manifest their evil doings; for there are but two parties, those who keep the commandments of God and those who war against God's holy law. One of the marked characteristics of these false religious powers in that while they profess to have the character and features of a lamb, while they profess to be allied to heaven, they reveal by their actions that they have the heart of a dragon, that they are instigated by and united with satanic power, the same power that created war in heaven when Satan sought the supremacy and was expelled from heaven.'—*Manuscript Releases*, volume 18, pages 29-30.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 356***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 11th

Higher than the Heavens

For 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.

Isaiah 55:8-9

They reasoned that it was not in accordance with the character of God to save Noah and his family, eight persons only, in that vast world, and yet all the rest be swept out of existence by the waters of the flood. Oh, no. There were great men and good men on the earth. If they did not believe as Noah did, Noah was deceived.

As they reasoned in Noah's day, they reason today, when the warning message is proclaimed to fear God and keep His commandments, for the wrath of God is soon to fall on all the sinful and disobedient and they will perish in the general conflagration. Professed servants of Christ who are unfaithful, who do not reverence God and with fear prepare for the terrible future event, will lull themselves to carnal security with their fallacious reasoning, as they did in; Noah's day.

God is too good and too merciful to save just a few who keep the Sabbath and believe the message of warning. The great men and the good men, the philosophers and men of wisdom would see the Sabbath and the shortness of time, if it were true. They did not believe a merciful God who made men would consume them with fire because they did not believe the warnings given. Thus, they reason, is not in accordance with God.

God's love is represented in our day as being of such a character as would forbid His destroying the sinner. Men reason from their own low standard of right and justice. *“Thou thought that I was altogether such an one as thyself.”* [Psalm 50:21] They measure God by themselves. They reason as to how they would act under the circumstances and decide God would do as they imagine they would do. —*Manuscript 5, 1876*

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 34

Josiah Reigns in Judah

- 2Ch 34:1 Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.
- 2Ch 34:2 And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined *neither* to the right hand, nor to the left.
- 2Ch 34:3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.
- 2Ch 34:4 And they broke down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that *were* on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust *of them*, and strowed *it* upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.
- 2Ch 34:5 And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 34:6 And *so did he* in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.
- 2Ch 34:7 And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

The Book of the Law Found

- 2Ch 34:8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.
- 2Ch 34:9 And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 34:10 And they put *it* in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:
- 2Ch 34:11 Even to the artificers and builders gave they *it*, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.
- 2Ch 34:12 And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them *were* Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set *it* forward; and *other of* the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of music.
- 2Ch 34:13 Also *they were* over the bearers of burdens, and *were* overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites *there were* scribes, and officers, and porters.
- 2Ch 34:14 And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD *given* by Moses.
- 2Ch 34:15 And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.
- 2Ch 34:16 And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do *it*.
- 2Ch 34:17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.
- 2Ch 34:18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.
- 2Ch 34:19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

- 2Ch 34:20 And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,
- 2Ch 34:21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

Huldah Prophecies Disaster

- 2Ch 34:22 And Hilkiah, and *they* that the king *had appointed*, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spoke to her to that *effect*.
- 2Ch 34:23 And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,
- 2Ch 34:24 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, *even* all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah:
- 2Ch 34:25 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.
- 2Ch 34:26 And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel *concerning* the words which thou hast heard;
- 2Ch 34:27 Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heard his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbled thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard *thee* also, saith the LORD.
- 2Ch 34:28 Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.
- 2Ch 34:29 Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 34:30 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.
- 2Ch 34:31 And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.
- 2Ch 34:32 And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand *to it*. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.
- 2Ch 34:33 And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that *pertained* to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, *even* to serve the LORD their God. *And* all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Thursday – December 12th

1. In what pose is Babylon seen in John's vision?

➤ **Revelation 17:3** —

NOTE : 'In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.'—*Spirit of Prophecy, volume 4, page 233.*

A beast (the word means a ferocious beast) is a prophetic symbol for a political power that persecutes God's people. See Daniel 7:23 and compare Daniel 8:20-21. The woman seated on the beast is pictured as controlling it, as a rider on a horse controls his mount. Thus this fallen religious movement will employ the power of the state to enforce her decrees.

2. How is the range and extent of Babylon's influence pictured?

➤ **Revelation 18:3** —

NOTE : 'The great sin charged against Babylon is that she “made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ. Rome withheld the Bible from the people and required all men to accept her teachings in its place. It was the work of the Reformation to restore to men the word of God; but is it not too true that in the churches of our time men are taught to rest their faith upon their creed and the teachings of their church rather than on the Scriptures? Said Charles Beecher, speaking of the Protestant churches: “They shrink from any rude word against creeds with the same sensitiveness with which those holy fathers would have shrunk from a rude word against the rising veneration of saints and martyrs which they were fostering. . . . The Protestant evangelical denominations have so tied up one another's hands, and their own, that, between them all, a man cannot become a preacher at all, anywhere, without accepting some book besides the Bible.... There is nothing imaginary in the statement that the creed power is now beginning to prohibit the Bible as really as Rome did, though in a subtler way.” Sermon on “The Bible a Sufficient Creed,” delivered at Fort Wayne, Indiana, Feb. 22, 1846.'—*The Great Controversy, page 388.*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 357***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 12th

Forbearance

Or despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance?

Romans 2:4

God's goodness and long forbearance, His patience and mercy exercised to His subjects, will not hinder Him from punishing the sinner who refused to be obedient to His requirements. It is not for man—a criminal against God's holy law, pardoned only through the great sacrifice He made in giving His Son to die for the guilty because His law was changeless—to dictate to God. After all this effort on the part of God to preserve the sacred and exalted character of His law, if men, through the sophistry of the devil, turn the mercy and condescension of God into a curse, they must suffer the penalty. Because Christ died they consider they have liberty to transgress God's holy law that condemns the transgressor and would complain of its strictness and its penalty as severe and unlike God. They are uttering the words Satan utters to millions, to quiet their conscience in rebellion against God.

In no kingdom or government is it left to the lawbreakers to say what punishment is to be executed against those who have broken the law. All We have, all the bounties of His grace which we possess, we owe to God. The aggravating character of sin against such a God cannot be estimated any more than the heavens can be measured with a span. God is a moral governor as well as a Father. He is the Lawgiver. He makes and executes His laws. Law that has no penalty is of no force.

The plea may be made that a loving Father would not see His children suffering the punishment of God by fire, While He had the power to relieve them. But God would, for the good of His subjects and for their safety, punish the transgressor. God does not work on the plan of man. He can do infinite justice that man has no right to do before his fellow man. —*Manuscript 5, 1876*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 35

Josiah Keeps the Passover

- 2Ch 35:1 Moreover Josiah kept a Passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth *day* of the first month.
- 2Ch 35:2 And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD,
- 2Ch 35:3 And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; *it shall* not *be* a burden upon *your* shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,
- 2Ch 35:4 And prepare *yourselves* by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.
- 2Ch 35:5 And stand in the holy *place* according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and *after* the division of the families of the Levites.
- 2Ch 35:6 So kill the Passover, and sanctify yourselves, and prepare your brethren, that *they* may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.
- 2Ch 35:7 And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the Passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these *were* of the king's substance.
- 2Ch 35:8 And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave unto the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand and six hundred *small cattle*, and three hundred oxen.
- 2Ch 35:9 Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for Passover offerings five thousand *small cattle*, and five hundred oxen.
- 2Ch 35:10 So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.
- 2Ch 35:11 And they killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled *the blood* from their hands, and the Levites flayed *them*.
- 2Ch 35:12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as *it is* written in the book of Moses. And so *did they* with the oxen.
- 2Ch 35:13 And they roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the *other* holy *offerings* sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided *them* speedily among all the people.
- 2Ch 35:14 And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron *were busied* in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.
- 2Ch 35:15 And the singers the sons of Asaph *were* in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters *waited* at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.
- 2Ch 35:16 So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah.
- 2Ch 35:17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.
- 2Ch 35:18 And there was no Passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a Passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 35:19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept.

Josiah Killed in Battle

- 2Ch 35:20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.
- 2Ch 35:21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come* not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from *meddling with* God, who *is* with me, that he destroy thee not.
- 2Ch 35:22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.
- 2Ch 35:23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.
- 2Ch 35:24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in *one of* the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.
- 2Ch 35:25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they *are* written in the lamentations.
- 2Ch 35:26 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to *that which was* written in the law of the LORD,
- 2Ch 35:27 And his deeds, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

Preparation Day – December 13th

1. What is to be proclaimed to the world concerning Babylon?

➤ **Revelation 14:8** —

NOTE : 'The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches.'—*Evangelism*, page 365.

'Babylon is said to be *“the mother of harlots.”* [Revelation 17:5] By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel: *“Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.”* [Ezekiel 16:14] But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel, the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. *“Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and played the harlot because of thy renown.”* [Ezekiel 16:15] Many of the Protestant churches are following Rome's example of iniquitous connection with *“the kings of the earth,”* [Revelation 17:2] the state churches, by their relation to secular governments; and other denominations, by seeking the favour of the world. And the term “Babylon”, confusion, may be appropriately applied to these bodies, all professing to derive their doctrines from the Bible, yet divided into almost innumerable sects, with widely conflicting creeds and theories.'—*The Great Controversy*, pages 382-383.

2. What shows that Babylon is fallen?

➤ **Revelation 14:8, last part.** —

➤ **Revelation 18:2-3** —

NOTE : 'The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power, all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain *“Thus saith the Lord,”* the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.'—*Great Controversy*, page 606

3. Heaven’s Hotline



Last Day Events

Preparation Day, December 13th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 358***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 13th

Learn from the Past

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou might be justified in thy sayings, and might overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:4

Who will say God will not do what He says He will do? Let God be true and every man a liar. The Lord is coming in flaming fire to take vengeance on those sinners who know not God and obey not His gospel. And because, in His infinite mercy, He delays His coming to give the world a larger span for repentance, sinners flatter themselves He will never come.

In the public press, in the haunts of sin, as well as in the schools of science so-called, there is one sentiment. They curl the lips with scorn and jest and ridicule at the warnings given them and look upon the thousands who will not believe. Jests are uttered, witty paragraphs published at the expense of those who wait and look for His appearing and with fear, like Noah, prepare for the event. This is not new, but as old as sin. It is as false as the father of lies.

When ministers, farmers, merchants, lawyers, great men, and professedly good “*men shall cry, peace and safety, sudden destruction cometh.*” [1 Thessalonians 5:3.] Luke reports the words of Christ, that the day of God comes as a snare—the figure of an animal prowling in the woods for prey—and lo, suddenly he is entrapped in the concealed snare of the fowler. [see Luke 21:35.] —*Manuscript 5, 1876*

By living faith grasp the arm of infinite power, and hold fast. You are where you need wisdom, and Jesus will give it. Do not be unbelieving. Jesus is true. Let God be true, but every man a liar if need be. The more you are jostled, misapprehended, misstated, falsified the more evidence you have that you are doing a work for the Master, and the more closely you must cling to your Saviour. —*Letter 8, July 17, 1886*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, December 13th, 2024

2nd Chronicles

Chapter 36

Judah's Decline

- 2Ch 36:1 Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 36:2 Jehoahaz *was* twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 36:3 And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.
- 2Ch 36:4 And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.
- 2Ch 36:5 Jehoiakim *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God.
- 2Ch 36:6 Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.
- 2Ch 36:7 Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.
- 2Ch 36:8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they *are* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.
- 2Ch 36:9 Jehoiachin *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD.
- 2Ch 36:10 And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 36:11 Zedekiah *was* one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 36:12 And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God, *and* humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet *speaking* from the mouth of the LORD.
- 2Ch 36:13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.
- 2Ch 36:14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.
- 2Ch 36:15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:
- 2Ch 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy.

Jerusalem Captured and Burned

- 2Ch 36:17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand.
- 2Ch 36:18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all *these* he brought to Babylon.
- 2Ch 36:19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

- 2Ch 36:20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:
- 2Ch 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: *for* as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

The Proclamation of Cyrus

- 2Ch 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,
- 2Ch 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all his people? The LORD his God *be* with him, and let him go up.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, December 13th, 2024



Being a camp counselor to boys at a summer camp in Alaska sounded exciting to Micah.

He was 11 years old and living in Oregon. His Sabbath School teacher had read a mission story from Camp Polaris, a Seventh-day Adventist summer camp in Alaska. The story was about Alaska Native boys who were scared of ghosts until they learned that Jesus was more powerful.

The story fascinated Micah. He had never thought that there were children living in the United States who were afraid of ghosts and didn't know Jesus. When Thirteenth Sabbath arrived, he happily gave an offering to help the children at Camp Polaris.

Little did Micah know that six years later he would work at Camp Polaris. Little did he know that he would have his own opportunity to share Jesus with Alaska Native boys who didn't know Him.

But that is exactly what happened.

Micah, as a 17-year-old student from Oklahoma Academy, went to Alaska to work for a summer as a camp counselor.

At Camp Polaris, he was placed in charge of six boys aged 10–15 in one of the cabins built with the help of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that he had given as a child. He prayed every day for a chance to share Jesus.

One evening, Micah opened his Bible to Romans 8:38 for the cabin worship. He read, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (NKJV).

Looking up, Micah said, “What do you think of that? God is always with us and is our Friend.”

The boys pondered the idea for a moment. Then one boy piped up, “Jesus is our eternal buddy system.”

The other boys smiled. Camp Polaris operates under a “buddy system” in which no child goes anywhere alone. If a boy wants to go somewhere, he has to go with another boy. That means that if he wants to go to the bathroom, he has to go with a buddy. If he wants to fill his water bottle from the outdoor tap, he has to go with a buddy. If he wants to go back to his cabin for something he forgot, he has to go with a buddy. The boys only practiced the buddy system at camp. But the Bible verse suggested to them that Jesus was their Eternal Buddy who went with them everywhere.

“That’s right!” Micah exclaimed. “Jesus is our eternal buddy system. No matter what we do, Jesus is always with us. We sometimes forget a friend in the bathroom, but we don’t have to worry about Jesus forgetting us.”

The boys’ smiles grew broader. They liked the idea of Jesus being their Eternal Buddy.

Micah asked if a boy would like to pray. Silence. Then a boy spoke up.

“I used to pray,” he said, shyly. “But I haven’t for a while. I forgot how.”

Micah said, “We can pray together now. I can help you pray. Just repeat after me.”

Micah bowed his head and prayed, “Dear God, thank You for the day.”

“Dear God, thank You for the day,” the boy repeated.

“Keep us safe tonight.”

“Keep us safe tonight.”

“Thank You for everything You have done for us.”

“Thank You for everything You have done for us.”

“And thanks for all the fun we had today.”

“And thanks for all the fun we had today.”

“Amen.”

“Amen.”

Later, when all the boys were snug in their sleeping bags on their bunk beds, Micah went over to the boy who had prayed. “You just talk to Jesus like a friend,” he whispered. “Tell Him what happened during the day.”

The boy nodded his head.

Micah beamed with joy as he headed to bed. He felt awesome! He had been praying every day for a chance to share Jesus. It had been an awesome evening.

Thank you for a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped improve Camp Polaris with new cabins and real showers and toilets. You also can share the love with Jesus with Alaska Native children this quarter by giving to a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will go to Bethel, Alaska. Thank you for planning a generous offering on December 28.

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 12

“CHOOSE YE THIS DAY”

December 14 - December 20

MEMORY VERSE : “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” [Revelation 14:12]

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Early Writings, pages 254-258

SCRIPTURE : Revelation 14:6-12

LESSON AIM : To study the third part of God's final message of warning.

INTRODUCTION : “The third angel's message, embracing the messages of the first and second angels, is the message for this time. We are to raise aloft the banner on which is inscribed, “The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The world is soon to meet the great Lawgiver over His broken law. This is not the time to put out of sight the great issues before us. God calls upon His people to magnify the law and make it honourable.”—*Counsels on Health*, page 357.

Sabbath – December 14th

1. What was the heart of Elijah's message to the people of his day?

➤ 1 Kings 18:21 —

NOTE : The light from the word of God reveals the fact that the law must be proclaimed. Christ must be lifted up, because he is a Saviour who forgives transgression, iniquity, and sin, but will by no means clear the guilty and unrepentant soul. God has raised up men to meet the necessity of this time who will cry aloud and spare not, who will lift up their voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins. Their work is not only to proclaim the law, but to preach the truth for this time, the Lord our righteousness. The curse of Meroz will be upon those who do not now come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Well may the question be asked in the spirit of Elijah. “*How long halt you between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him.*” [1 Kings 18:21]—*Review & Herald*, August 13, 1889.

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

EGW Study Help

Sabbath, December 14th, 2024

**Early Writings
Chapter 1, p. 254-258**

“Spiritual Gifts Volume 1”

**The Third Angel's Message
[SEE APPENDIX.]**

As the ministration of Jesus closed in the holy place, and He passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent another mighty angel with a third message to the world. A parchment was placed in the angel's hand, and as he descended to the earth in power and majesty, he proclaimed a fearful warning, with the most terrible threatening ever borne to man. This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, "They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image. Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast. Although their lives are at stake, they must hold fast the truth." The third angel closes his message thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living. It includes all who died trusting in Christ, but who, not having received the light upon God's commandments, had sinned ignorantly in transgressing its precepts.

After Jesus opened the door of the most holy, the light of the Sabbath was seen, and the people of God were tested, as the children of Israel were tested anciently, to see if they would keep God's law. I saw the third angel pointing upward, showing the disappointed ones the way to the holiest of the heavenly sanctuary. As they by faith enter the most holy, they find Jesus, and hope and joy spring up anew. I saw them looking back, reviewing the past, from the proclamation of the second advent of Jesus, down through their experience to the passing of the time in 1844. They see their disappointment explained, and joy and certainty again animate them. The third angel has lighted up the past, the present, and the future, and they know that God has indeed led them by His mysterious providence.

It was represented to me that the remnant followed Jesus into the most holy place and beheld the ark and the mercy seat, and were captivated with their glory. Jesus then raised the cover of the ark, and lo! the tables of stone, with the ten commandments written upon them. They trace down the lively oracles, but start back with trembling when they see the fourth commandment among the ten holy precepts, with a brighter light shining upon it than upon the other nine, and a halo of glory all around it. They find nothing there informing them that the Sabbath has been abolished, or changed to the first day of the week. The commandment reads as when spoken by the voice of God in solemn and awful grandeur upon the mount, while the lightnings flashed and the thunders rolled; it is the same as when written with His own finger on the tables of stone: "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." They are amazed as they behold the care taken of the ten commandments. They see them placed close by Jehovah, overshadowed and protected by His holiness. They see that they have been trampling upon the fourth commandment of the Decalogue, and have observed a day handed down by the heathen and papists, instead of the day sanctified by Jehovah. They humble themselves before God and mourn over their past transgressions.

I saw the incense in the censer smoke as Jesus offered their confessions and prayers to His Father. And as it ascended, a bright light rested upon Jesus and upon the mercy seat; and the earnest, praying ones, who were troubled because they had discovered themselves to be transgressors of God's law, were blessed, and their countenances lighted up with hope and joy. They joined in the work of the third angel and raised their voices to proclaim the solemn warning. But few at first received it; yet the faithful continued with energy to proclaim the

message. Then I saw many embrace the message of the third angel and unite their voices with those who had first given the warning, and they honoured God by observing His sanctified rest day.

Many who embraced the third message had not had an experience in the two former messages. Satan understood this, and his evil eye was upon them to overthrow them; but the third angel was pointing them to the most holy place, and those who had had an experience in the past messages were pointing them the way to the heavenly sanctuary. Many saw the perfect chain of truth in the angels' messages, and gladly received them in their order, and followed Jesus by faith into the heavenly sanctuary. These messages were represented to me as an anchor to the people of God. Those who understand and receive them will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan.

After the great disappointment in 1844, Satan and his angels were busily engaged in laying snares to unsettle the faith of the body. He affected the minds of persons who had had an experience in the messages, and who had an appearance of humility. Some pointed to the future for the fulfillment of the first and second messages, while others pointed far back into the past, declaring that they had been there fulfilled. These were gaining an influence over the minds of the inexperienced and unsettling their faith. Some were searching the Bible to build up a faith of their own, independent of the body. Satan exulted in all this; for he knew that those who broke loose from the anchor he could affect by different errors and drive about with divers winds of doctrine. Many who had led in the first and second messages now denied them, and there was division and confusion throughout the body.

My attention was then called to William Miller. He looked perplexed and was bowed with anxiety and distress for his people. The company who had been united and loving in 1844 were losing their love, opposing one another, and falling into a cold, backslidden state. As he beheld this, grief wasted his strength. I saw leading men watching him, and fearing lest he should receive the third angel's message and the commandments of God. And as he would lean toward the light from heaven, these men would lay some plan to draw his mind away. A human influence was exerted to keep him in darkness and to retain his influence among those who opposed the truth. At length William Miller raised his voice against the light from heaven. He failed in not receiving the message which would have fully explained his disappointment and cast a light and glory on the past, which would have revived his exhausted energies, brightened his hope, and led him to glorify God. He leaned to human wisdom instead of divine, but being broken with arduous labour in his Master's cause and by age, he was not as accountable as those who kept him from the truth. They are responsible; the sin rests upon them.

If William Miller could have seen the light of the third message, many things which looked dark and mysterious to him would have been explained. But his brethren professed so deep love and interest for him, that he thought he could not tear away from them. His heart would incline toward the truth, and then he looked at his brethren; they opposed it. Could he tear away from those who had stood side by side with him in proclaiming the coming of Jesus? He thought they surely would not lead him astray.

God suffered him to fall under the power of Satan, the dominion of death, and hid him in the grave from those who were constantly drawing him from the truth. Moses erred as he was about to enter the Promised Land. So also, I saw that William Miller erred as he was soon to enter the heavenly Canaan, in suffering his influence to go against the truth. Others led him to this; others must account for it. But angels watch the precious dust of this servant of God, and he will come forth at the sound of the last trump.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, December 14th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 359***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 14th

Walk in the Light

NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

God has given us his Word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path its teachings have a vital bearing on our prosperity in all the relations of life. Even in our temporal affairs it will be a wiser guide than any other counsellor. Its divine instruction is the only way to success. There is no social position, no phase of human experience, for which the study of the Bible is not an essential preparation.

The Bible is the great standard of right and wrong, clearly defining sin and holiness. Its living principles, running through our lives like threads of gold, are our only safeguard in trial and temptation.

The Bible is a chart, showing us the waymarks of truth. Those who are acquainted with this chart will be enabled to tread with certainty in the path of duty, wherever they may be called to go.

The Bible contains a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy; it is the book that makes us wise unto salvation. It tells us how to reach the abode of eternal happiness. It tells us of the love of God as shown in the plan of redemption, imparting the knowledge essential for all,—the knowledge of Christ He is the Sent of God; he is the Author of our salvation. But apart from the Word of God, we could have no knowledge that such a person as the Lord Jesus ever visited our world, nor any knowledge of his divinity, as indicated by his previous existence with the Father. —*The Review and Herald, June 11, 1908*

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, December 14th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 1

The Proclamation of Cyrus

- Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying,
- Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah.
- Ezr 1:3 Who *is there* among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he *is* the God,) which *is* in Jerusalem.
- Ezr 1:4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourns, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.
- Ezr 1:5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all *them* whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem.
- Ezr 1:6 And all they that *were* about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all *that* was willingly offered.
- Ezr 1:7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;
- Ezr 1:8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.
- Ezr 1:9 And this *is* the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,
- Ezr 1:10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second *sort* four hundred and ten, *and* other vessels a thousand.
- Ezr 1:11 All the vessels of gold and of silver *were* five thousand and four hundred. All *these* did Sheshbazzar bring up with *them of* the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, December 14th, 2024



When you pray to God, do you ever ask for something that is very, very big? Do you ever ask for something that is so big that it seems impossible to get?

Someone prayed for a sick relative.

Someone prayed for a personal problem.

Then Joy, who was leading the prayer meeting, said she had a big, big prayer request.

The request was from a mother who had one child and was expecting a second. But the mother wouldn’t be able to care for the new baby.

“She is asking for prayers to find a father and mother who would be willing to adopt the baby after he is born,” Joy said.

Two people at the prayer meeting immediately looked at each other.

Those same two people immediately said, “Joy, we need to talk to you after the prayer meeting.”

Those two people were a married couple named Frank and Robin. They didn’t have any children of their own, and they had longed to have a child for a very long time.

After the prayer meeting, Frank and Robin talked with Joy.

“We are interested in adopting the child,” Robin said.

“Yes, we are,” Frank agreed.

Joy promised that she would give Frank and Robin’s contact information to the mother. She cautioned, however, that one or two other sets of parents also were interested in adopting the baby.

Frank and Robin prayed. Joy prayed. The people from the church prayer meeting prayed. Joy told the mother about Frank and Robin and, a day or two later, the mother called them on the phone.

After talking, the mother decided that she would like to meet Frank and Robin in person.

That evening, they met at a restaurant and talked some more.

Frank and Robin prayed. Joy prayed. The people from the church prayer meeting prayed.

The next day, the mother called. She said she wanted a certain kind of parents for her baby. She wanted the parents to be married, she wanted both of the parents to have jobs, and she wanted the parents not to have any other children.

Frank and Robin were married, both Frank and Robin had jobs as nurses, and Frank and Robin didn’t have any other children. In fact, they didn’t have any children at all. The mother said she had decided that Frank and Robin would be the best parents for her baby. Frank and Robin were so happy! It looked like God was answering their big, big prayer.

The final step was the hardest. The mother was an Alaska Native, and Native leaders had to agree to the adoption. In Alaska, the law says Alaska Native children can only be adopted by other Alaska Native families.

But Frank and Robin were not Alaska Natives. In fact, when they had first moved to Bethel to work as nurses, they had thought about adopting a child. But when they had learned about the law, they had given up hope.

Now, however, they could adopt the baby if the Alaska Native leaders agreed. Frank and Robin prayed. Joy prayed. The people from the church prayer meeting prayed.

When the mother told the Alaska Native leaders about her desire for Frank and Robin to be the parents of her baby, they agreed immediately.

“If that is what you want, we will honor your desire,” they said.

Frank and Robin were thrilled! The big, big prayer request had been answered. Robin was in the delivery room when little Caleb was born, and she took him home from the hospital.

When Caleb was 5 months old, the adoption was finalized. Frank officially became Caleb’s father, and Robin officially became his mother.

Today, Caleb is an energetic 9-year-old boy. He loves his parents, he loves God, and he loves going to the church where God heard the big, big prayer request.

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help share God’s love through Caleb’s church in Bethel, Alaska. Thank you for planning a generous offering next Sabbath.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – December 15th

1. What is the choice for those who live at the end of time?

➤ **Revelation 14:7** —

➤ **Revelation 14:9** —

NOTE : "The Lord has been pleased to give His people the third angel's message as a testing message to bear to the world. John beholds a people distinct and separate from the world, who refuse to worship the beast or his image, who bear God's sign, keeping holy His Sabbath, the seventh-day to be kept holy as a memorial of the living God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Of them the apostle writes, "*Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*" [Revelation 14:12]' —*Evangelism*, page 233.

2. What awaits those who choose to worship the beast and his image?

➤ **Revelation 14:10-11** —

NOTE : "The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to "*every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.*" [Revelation 14:6] The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world.'—*The Great Controversy*, page 449

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 12, pp. 360

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 15th

Angels Among Us

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalm 91:10-12

None of finite judgment and foresight can have any power to conceive of the care God has exercised through His angels over the children of men in their travels, in their own houses, in their eating and drinking. Wherever they are, His eye is upon them. They are preserved from a thousand dangers, all to them unseen. Satan has laid snares, but the Lord is constantly at work to save His people from them.

But [from] those who have no sense of the goodness and mercy of God, who refuse His merciful warnings, who reject His counsels to reach the highest standard of Bible requirements, who do despite to the Spirit of grace, the Lord would remove His protecting power. I was shown that Satan would entangle and then destroy if he could, the souls he had tempted. God will bear long, but there is a bound to His mercy, a line which marks His mercy and His justice.

It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land bringing calamity and distress, sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey. Storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short, and if he is not restrained we shall see more terrible manifestations of his power than we have ever dreamed of. —*Letter 14, August 8, 1883*

When the earthborn children know it not, they have the angels of light as their companions, for they are heavenly messengers sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to win and draw him to Christ. The angels never leave the tempted one a prey to the enemy who would destroy the souls of men if permitted to do so. As long as there is hope, until they resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, men are guarded by heavenly intelligences. —*Manuscript 52, 1896*

Daily Scripture

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 2

The Exiles Return

- Ezr 2:1 Now these *are* the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city;
- Ezr 2:2 Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:
- Ezr 2:3 The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.
- Ezr 2:4 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.
- Ezr 2:5 The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five.
- Ezr 2:6 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua *and* Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.
- Ezr 2:7 The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
- Ezr 2:8 The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five.
- Ezr 2:9 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.
- Ezr 2:10 The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.
- Ezr 2:11 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three.
- Ezr 2:12 The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.
- Ezr 2:13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.
- Ezr 2:14 The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six.
- Ezr 2:15 The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.
- Ezr 2:16 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.
- Ezr 2:17 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and three.
- Ezr 2:18 The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.
- Ezr 2:19 The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three.
- Ezr 2:20 The children of Gibbar, ninety and five.
- Ezr 2:21 The children of Bethlehem, an hundred twenty and three.
- Ezr 2:22 The men of Netophah, fifty and six.
- Ezr 2:23 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.
- Ezr 2:24 The children of Azmaveth, forty and two.
- Ezr 2:25 The children of Kirjatharim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three.
- Ezr 2:26 The children of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one.
- Ezr 2:27 The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two.
- Ezr 2:28 The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty and three.
- Ezr 2:29 The children of Nebo, fifty and two.
- Ezr 2:30 The children of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six.
- Ezr 2:31 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
- Ezr 2:32 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.
- Ezr 2:33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five.
- Ezr 2:34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.
- Ezr 2:35 The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.
- Ezr 2:36 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.
- Ezr 2:37 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.

- Ezr 2:38 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
- Ezr 2:39 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
- Ezr 2:40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.
- Ezr 2:41 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.
- Ezr 2:42 The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, *in* all an hundred thirty and nine.
- Ezr 2:43 The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
- Ezr 2:44 The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
- Ezr 2:45 The children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,
- Ezr 2:46 The children of Hagab, the children of Shalmal, the children of Hanan,
- Ezr 2:47 The children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,
- Ezr 2:48 The children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
- Ezr 2:49 The children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,
- Ezr 2:50 The children of Asnah, the children of Mehunim, the children of Nephusim,
- Ezr 2:51 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
- Ezr 2:52 The children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
- Ezr 2:53 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Thamah,
- Ezr 2:54 The children of Nezhiah, the children of Hatipha.
- Ezr 2:55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda,
- Ezr 2:56 The children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
- Ezr 2:57 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.
- Ezr 2:58 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety and two.
- Ezr 2:59 And these *were* they which went up from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addan, *and* Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, and their seed, whether they *were* of Israel:
- Ezr 2:60 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.
- Ezr 2:61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:
- Ezr 2:62 These sought their register *among* those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.
- Ezr 2:63 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.
- Ezr 2:64 The whole congregation together *was* forty and two thousand three hundred *and* threescore,
- Ezr 2:65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and *there were* among them two hundred singing men and singing women.
- Ezr 2:66 Their horses *were* seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;
- Ezr 2:67 Their camels, four hundred thirty and five; *their* asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.
- Ezr 2:68 And *some* of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the LORD which *is* at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place:
- Ezr 2:69 They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.
- Ezr 2:70 So the priests, and the Levites, and *some* of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Monday – December 16th

1. What is the wrath of God?

➤ **Revelation 15:1** —

➤ **Revelation 16** —

NOTE : 'When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who “*worship the beast and his image and receive his mark,*” [Revelation 14:9] will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people...These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy. The bolts of God's wrath are soon to fall, and when He shall begin to punish the transgressors, there will be no period of respite until the end. The storm of God's wrath is gathering, and those only will stand who are sanctified through the truth in the love of God. They shall be hid with Christ in God till the desolation shall be overpast.'—*Maranatha*, page 267.

2. What awaits those who refuse to worship the beast and his image?

➤ **Revelation 13:15-16** —

NOTE : 'The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.'—*Prophets & Kings*, page 188

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, December 16th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 361***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 16th

To Whom Do You Give Your Soul, God or Man?

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29

Men have insulted God by accepting as holy a common working day. Nothing can put the stamp of the man of sin so definitely upon the world as the acceptance of the spurious Sabbath, while the day God has set apart is trampled underfoot.

With His own finger God wrote His commandments on two tables of stone. These tables were not left in the keeping of men, but were placed in the ark; and in the great day when every case is decided, these tables, inscribed with the commandments, will be placed so that all the world will see and understand. The witness against them will be unanswerable. And upon those, who have taken upon them the work of shepherds of the flock, will be visited the heaviest judgments, because they have presented to the people fables instead of truth. Children will rise up and curse their parents.

Church members, who have seen the light and been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom for their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised, "I am lost, eternally lost." Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth.

The pure truth for this time requires a reformation in the life, but they separate themselves from the love of the truth, and of them it can be said, "*O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself.*" [Hosea 13:9] The Lord sends a message to the people: "*Set a trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the Lord because they have transgressed my covenant and trespassed against my law.*" [Hosea 8:1.]—*Letter 30, February 25, 1900*

Daily Scripture

Monday, December 16th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 3

Rebuilding the Altar

- Ezr 3:1 And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel *were* in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.
- Ezr 3:2 Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and builded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as *it is* written in the law of Moses the man of God.
- Ezr 3:3 And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear *was* upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, *even* burnt offerings morning and evening.
- Ezr 3:4 They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as *it is* written, and *offered* the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;
- Ezr 3:5 And afterward *offered* the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD.
- Ezr 3:6 From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not *yet* laid.
- Ezr 3:7 They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

Rebuilding the Temple

- Ezr 3:8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the LORD.
- Ezr 3:9 Then stood Jeshua *with* his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, *with* their sons and their brethren the Levites.
- Ezr 3:10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.
- Ezr 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is* good, for his mercy *endures* for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.
- Ezr 3:12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:
- Ezr 3:13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Tuesday – December 17th

1. What precious promises may those faithful to God depend on in this fearful time?

➤ **Isaiah 33:16-17**

NOTE : 'Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. “*Seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” [Matthew 6:33] Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. 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.'—*The Desire of Ages*, page 121.

2. What characterises those who remain true to God in this time of crisis?

➤ **Revelation 14:12**

NOTE : 'At this time the church is to put on her beautiful garments, “Christ our righteousness.” [see 2 Peter 1:1] There are clear, decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The beauty of holiness is to appear in its native lustre in contrast with the deformity and darkness of the disloyal, those who have revolted from the law of God. Thus we acknowledge God, and recognise His law, the foundation of His government in heaven and throughout His earthly dominions. His authority should be kept distinct and plain before the world; and no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah. If in defiance of God's arrangements the world be allowed to influence our decisions or our actions, the purpose of God is defeated. However specious the pretext, if the church waver here, there is written against her in the books of heaven a betrayal of the most sacred trusts, and treachery to the kingdom of Christ. The church is firmly and decidedly to hold her principles before the whole heavenly universe and the kingdoms of the world; steadfast fidelity in maintaining the honour and sacredness of the law of God will attract the notice and admiration of even the world, and many will, by the good works which they shall behold, be led to glorify our Father in heaven. The loyal and true bear the credentials of heaven, not of earthly potentates. All men shall know who are the disciples of Christ, chosen and faithful, and shall know them when crowned and glorified as those who honoured God and whom He has honoured, bringing them into possession of an eternal weight of glory.'—*Christian Experience & Teachings*, page 207.

3. Heaven's Hotline —

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 362***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 17th

Ignore God's Warning - Lose Your Life

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

Hosea 4:6

At any moment God can withdraw from the impenitent the tokens of His wonderful mercy and love. Oh, that human agencies might consider what will be the sure result of their ingratitude to Him and of their disregard of the infinite Gift of Christ to our world! If they continue to love transgression more than obedience, the present blessings and the great mercy of God that they now enjoy, but do not appreciate, will finally become the occasion of their eternal ruin.—*Manuscript 125, 1907 (Sermons and Talks, vol. 1, pp. 388, 389).*

They may for a time choose to engage in worldly amusements and sinful pleasures, rather than to check themselves in their course of sin, and live for God and for the honour of the Majesty of heaven; but when it is too late for them to see and to understand that which they have slighted as a thing of naught, they will know what it means to be without God, without hope.

Then they will sense what they have lost by choosing to be disloyal to God and to stand in rebellion against His commandments. In the past they defied His power and rejected His overtures of mercy; finally His judgments will fall upon them. Then they will realize that they have lost happiness—life, eternal life, in the heavenly courts. . . . Surely they will say, "Our life was full of madness against God, and now we are lost!" [EGW]—*Manuscript 151, 1901*

Shall the warnings from God be passed by unheeded? Shall the opportunities for service be unimproved? Shall the world's scorn, the pride of reason, conformity to human customs and traditions, hold the professed followers of Christ from service to Him? Will they reject God's word as the Jewish leaders rejected Christ? The result of Israel's sin is before us. Will the church of today take warning?—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 306*

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 4

Adversaries Oppose the Rebuilding

- Ezr 4:1 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;
- Ezr 4:2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.
- Ezr 4:3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.
- Ezr 4:4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,
- Ezr 4:5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.
- Ezr 4:6 And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they *unto him* an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

The Letter to King Artaxerxes

- Ezr 4:7 And in the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of their companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter *was* written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue.
- Ezr 4:8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:
- Ezr 4:9 Then *wrote* Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Susanchites, the Dehavites, *and* the Elamites,
- Ezr 4:10 And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnappar brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest *that are* on this side the river, and at such a time.
- Ezr 4:11 This *is* the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, *even* unto Artaxerxes the king; Thy servants the men on this side the river, and at such a time.
- Ezr 4:12 Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad city, and have set up the walls *thereof*, and joined the foundations.
- Ezr 4:13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up *again*, *then* will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and *so* thou shalt damage the revenue of the kings.
- Ezr 4:14 Now because we have maintenance from *the king's* palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;
- Ezr 4:15 That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city *is* a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause was this city destroyed.
- Ezr 4:16 We certify the king that, if this city be builded *again*, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river.

The King Orders the Work to Cease

- Ezr 4:17 *Then* sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and *to* Shimshai the scribe, and *to* the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and *unto* the rest beyond the river, Peace, and at such a time.
- Ezr 4:18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

- Ezr 4:19 And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and *that* rebellion and sedition have been made therein.
- Ezr 4:20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all *countries* beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.
- Ezr 4:21 Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until *another* commandment shall be given from me.
- Ezr 4:22 Take heed now that ye fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?
- Ezr 4:23 Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter *was* read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.
- Ezr 4:24 Then ceased the work of the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Wednesday – December 18th

1. How did John emphasise the importance of obedience to God's commandments?

➤ 1 John 2:3-4 —

NOTE : 'It is our work to magnify and exalt the law of God. The truth of God's holy word is to be made manifest. We are to hold up the Scriptures as the rule of life. In all modesty, in the spirit of grace, and in the love of God, we are to point men to the fact that the Lord God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. In the name of the Lord we are to go forward, unfurling His banner, advocating His word. When the authorities command us not to do this work; when they forbid us to proclaim the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, then it will be necessary for us to say as did the apostles: “*Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge you. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*” [Acts 4:19-20]’—*Counsels to Writers & Editors*, page 70.

2. For what is Jesus seeking when He returns?

➤ Luke 18:8 —

➤ Galatians 2:16 —

NOTE : 'Ever are we to keep in mind the solemn thought of the Lord's soon return, and in view of this to recognise the individual work to be done. Through the aid of the Holy Spirit we are to resist natural inclinations and tendencies to wrong, and weed out of the life every un-Christlike element. Thus we shall prepare our hearts for the reception of God's blessing, which will impart to us grace and bring us into harmony with the faith of Jesus. For this work of preparation great advantages have been granted to this people in light bestowed, in messages of warning and instruction, sent through the agency of the Spirit of God.'—*In Heavenly Places*, page 347.

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 363***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 18th

Convey God's Words of Warning

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he reveals his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

An immense ball of fire came down upon the world, and crushed large houses. From place to place rose the cry, "The Lord has come! The Lord has come!" [EGW] Many were unprepared to meet Him, but a few were saying, "Praise the Lord!"

"Why are you praising the Lord?" [EGW] inquired those upon whom was coming sudden destruction.

"Because we now see what we have been looking for." [EGW]

"If you believed that these things were coming, why did you not tell us?" [EGW] was the terrible response. "We did not know about these things. Why did you leave us in ignorance? Again and again you have seen us; why did you not become acquainted with us, and tell us of the judgment to come, and that we must serve God, lest we perish? Now we are lost!" [EGW]

Every church member is to train the intellect, in order that he may gain a clear understanding of the will of God concerning him; everyone is to educate the voice, that he may communicate a knowledge of the Scriptures to those who are in ignorance. May God help us to stand, like Daniel, in our lot and place during the days of probation that remain. Parents, teach your children regarding the things that are coming upon the earth, and lead them to prepare to meet their Lord in peace...—*Manuscript 102, July 2, 1904*

A very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire falling among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, "We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon." [EGW] Others said, "You knew? Why then did you not tell us? We did not know." [EGW] On every side I heard such words spoken. . . .—*Letter 217, July 3, 1904*

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 5

Rebuilding Begins Anew

- Ezr 5:1 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that *were* in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, *even* unto them.
- Ezr 5:2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which *is* at Jerusalem: and with them *were* the prophets of God helping them.
- Ezr 5:3 At the same time came to them Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?
- Ezr 5:4 Then said we unto them after this manner, What are the names of the men that make this building?
- Ezr 5:5 But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease, till the matter came to Darius: and then they returned answer by letter concerning this *matter*.

Tattenai's Letter to King Darius

- Ezr 5:6 The copy of the letter that Tatnai, governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his companions the Apharsachites, which *were* on this side the river, sent unto Darius the king:
- Ezr 5:7 They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus; Unto Darius the king, all peace.
- Ezr 5:8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the province of Judea, to the house of the great God, which is builded with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospers in their hands.
- Ezr 5:9 Then asked we those elders, *and* said unto them thus, Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?
- Ezr 5:10 We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that *were* the chief of them.
- Ezr 5:11 And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house that was builded these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded and set up.
- Ezr 5:12 But after that our fathers had provoked the God of heaven unto wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.
- Ezr 5:13 But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon *the same* king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.
- Ezr 5:14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that *was* in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto *one*, whose name *was* Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;
- Ezr 5:15 And said unto him, Take these vessels, go, carry them into the temple that *is* in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be builded in his place.
- Ezr 5:16 Then came the same Sheshbazzar, *and* laid the foundation of the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and *yet* it is not finished.
- Ezr 5:17 Now therefore, if *it seem* good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which *is* there at Babylon, whether it be *so*, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

Thursday – December 19th

1. What is the evidence that a person has the faith of Jesus? James 2:14-17



NOTE : 'Faith works by love and purifies the soul. Faith buds and blossoms and bears a harvest of precious fruit. Where faith is, good works appear. The sick are visited, the poor are cared for, the fatherless and the widows are not neglected, the naked are clothed, the destitute are fed. Christ went about doing good, and when men are united with Him, they love the children of God, and meekness and truth guide their footsteps. The expression of the countenance reveals their experience, and men take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Christ and the believer become one, and His beauty of character is revealed in those who are vitally connected with the Source of power and love. Christ is the great depositary of justifying righteousness and sanctifying grace.'—*Selected Messages, Book 1, page 398*

2. What example of faith are we shown in Scripture? Matthew 8:5-10



NOTE : 'Faith is complete dependence upon the word of God, expecting that word to do what the word itself says.'—A. T. Jones, *Review & Herald, March 14, 1899*

'Men must not only become just by faith, by dependence upon the word of God, but being just, we must live by faith. The just man lives in precisely the same way, and by precisely the same thing, that he becomes just. We become just by faith; faith is entire dependence on the word of God. We, being just, must live by precisely the same thing by which we become just; that is, by entire dependence upon the word of God. And this is exactly what Jesus said: Man shall live “By every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” When Jesus said that, it is perfectly plain that He simply said, in other words, Man shall live by faith.'—A. T. Jones, *Review & Herald, March 7, 1899*

“*The faith of Jesus.*” [Revelation 14:12] It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.'—*Selected Messages, Book 3, page 172*

3. Heaven's Hotline —



Last Day Events

Thursday, December 19th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 364***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 19th

Ready or Not

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:44

Light has been given me that as we near the close of this earth's history we shall have the scenes of the San Francisco calamity repeated in other places; and I do want to gather strength, that I may be able to stand before the people and bear a clear, decided testimony. The period of time in which we are living is a very solemn one.

These things make me feel very solemn, because I know that the judgment day is right upon us. The judgments that have already come are a warning, but not the finishing, of the punishment that will come on wicked cities. Our cities are most terrible places, wherein are practiced all kinds of sin and iniquity of the most revolting character. The Lord's name is greatly dishonoured.

In the night season I have had many presentations of the judgments of God coming upon our cities; and now I can understand better the real meaning of these scenes that I have witnessed.

Oh, how soon the scenes of destruction and desolation will come and be universal, we cannot tell. "*Be ye also ready,*" saith the Lord, "*for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*" [Matthew 24:44]

These scenes will soon be witnessed, just as they are clearly described. I present these wonderful statements from the Scriptures for the consideration of everyone. The prophecies recorded in the Old Testament are the word of the Lord for the last day, and will be fulfilled as surely as we have seen the desolation of San Francisco.—*Letter 154, May 26, 1906*

There will be no second probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments.—*The Signs of the Times, November 22, 1905*

Daily Scripture

Thursday, December 19th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 6

The Decree of Darius

- Ezr 6:1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.
- Ezr 6:2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that *is* in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein *was* a record thus written:
- Ezr 6:3 In the first year of Cyrus the king *the same* Cyrus the king made a decree *concerning* the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, *and* the breadth thereof threescore cubits;
- Ezr 6:4 *With* three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:
- Ezr 6:5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which *is* at Jerusalem, *everyone* to his place, and place *them* in the house of God.
- Ezr 6:6 Now *therefore*, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shetharboznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which *are* beyond the river, be ye far from thence:
- Ezr 6:7 Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.
- Ezr 6:8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the king's goods, *even* of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men, that they be not hindered.
- Ezr 6:9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which *are* at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:
- Ezr 6:10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.
- Ezr 6:11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.
- Ezr 6:12 And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter *and* to destroy this house of God which *is* at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

The Temple Finished and Dedicated

- Ezr 6:13 Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shetharboznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.
- Ezr 6:14 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.
- Ezr 6:15 And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.
- Ezr 6:16 And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy,

- Ezr 6:17 And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.
- Ezr 6:18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which *is* at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

Passover Celebrated

- Ezr 6:19 And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth *day* of the first month.
- Ezr 6:20 For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them *were* pure, and killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.
- Ezr 6:21 And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,
- Ezr 6:22 And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Preparation Day – December 20th

1. What quality will mark those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?

- **Revelation 14:12, first part** —
- **Matthew 24:13** —
- **Hebrews 10:35-37** —

NOTE : The word 'patience' carries with it the idea of persistence, perseverance.—*Source: Vine: Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, page 168.*

' In the epistle to the Hebrews is pointed out the single-hearted purpose that should characterise the Christian's race for eternal life: “*Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.*” [Hebrews 12:1-2] Envy, malice, evil thinking, evil speaking, covetousness, these are weights that the Christian must lay aside if he would run successfully the race for immortality. Every habit or practice that leads into sin and brings dishonour upon Christ must be put away, whatever the sacrifice. The blessing of heaven cannot attend any man in violating the eternal principles of right. One sin cherished is sufficient to work degradation of character and to mislead others.'—*Acts of the Apostles, page 312.*

2. What counsel is given to those suffering persecution?

- **Revelation 2:25** —

NOTE : 'All who in that evil day would fearlessly serve God according to the dictates of conscience, will need courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His word; for those who are true to God will be persecuted, their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, and their names cast out as evil. Satan will work with all his deceptive power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil. The stronger and purer the faith of God's people, and the firmer their determination to obey Him, the more fiercely will Satan strive to stir up against them the rage of those who, while claiming to be righteous, trample upon the law of God. It will require the firmest trust, the most heroic purpose, to hold fast the faith once delivered to the saints.'—*Acts of the Apostles, page 431*

3. Heaven's Hotline

-

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, December 20th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 365***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 20th

If it Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It!

There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

Will any body of men bring upon themselves the displeasure of the Lord by framing a law for the observance of a spurious sabbath, and then compelling obedience to this law? Will they insult God by profaning His holy day, and assuming authority, as gods, to exalt the first day of the week to be observed by all?

How can men set aside the true Sabbath, when they know that God came to our world and from Sinai's mount in awful grandeur proclaimed His law to be observed in commemoration of the day He had ordained as a day of rest--a day ever to be kept as a memorial of God as the Creator of the heavens and of the earth? He made the world in six days, and rested on the seventh day, and was refreshed. He sanctified the seventh day because that in it He had rested. He instituted the Sabbath as a memorial pointing to the fact that He was the Creator of the world, the Monarch of the universe. The Lord has given to men the day that He has chosen to be observed by all the world and regarded as a sacred rest day.

Whoever of the human family will dare to defy the Lord God will pay the penalty by meeting the great Lawgiver over His broken law. The Word has gone forth. It is not the Word of a human power, but of Almighty Authority, of a living and true God. Will man dare trifle with the sacred law of Jehovah, and place in its stead a common workday that marks the beginning of the week for the transaction of ordinary business? Who will venture to meet Jehovah over His broken law?

The Creator has with His own authority given you His Sabbath to observe; and yet human agencies will attempt to set aside the seventh-day Sabbath, which commemorates God's holy work of creating the world in six working days, and resting on the seventh day. How can men dare assume the authority of Jehovah, and represent themselves as God, to change times and laws?

I call the attention of thinking men to these things. Dare you continue to take a human enactment that bears not the stamp of divine approval, and place it before the people as something to respect and honour? Will you substitute a counterfeit in place of the true and genuine? Will you thus meet God over His broken law, and stand with threats of persecution and severe punishment against the people whom you regard as criminals because they choose to obey the law of Jehovah in place of a spurious sabbath that man has created?—*Letter 154, May 12, 1906*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, December 20th, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 7

Ezra Sent to Teach the People

- Ezr 7:1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
- Ezr 7:2 The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
- Ezr 7:3 The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
- Ezr 7:4 The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
- Ezr 7:5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:
- Ezr 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he *was* a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.
- Ezr 7:7 And there went up *some* of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.
- Ezr 7:8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which *was* in the seventh year of the king.
- Ezr 7:9 For upon the first *day* of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first *day* of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.
- Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.
- Ezr 7:11 Now this *is* the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, *even* a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel.
- Ezr 7:12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect *peace*, and at such a time.
- Ezr 7:13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and *of* his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.
- Ezr 7:14 Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which *is* in thine hand;
- Ezr 7:15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation *is* in Jerusalem,
- Ezr 7:16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which *is* in Jerusalem:
- Ezr 7:17 That thou may buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which *is* in Jerusalem.
- Ezr 7:18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God.
- Ezr 7:19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, *those* deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem.
- Ezr 7:20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow *it* out of the king's treasure house.
- Ezr 7:21 And I, *even* I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which *are* beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,
- Ezr 7:22 Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing *how much*.

- Ezr 7:23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?
- Ezr 7:24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.
- Ezr 7:25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that *is* in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that *are* beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know *them* not.
- Ezr 7:26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether *it be* unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.
- Ezr 7:27 Blessed *be* the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put *such a thing* as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which *is* in Jerusalem:
- Ezr 7:28 And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king's mighty princes. And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God *was* upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, December 20th, 2024



The camp director called an emergency late-night meeting to discuss supernatural activity at Camp Polaris in Alaska.

Wes, who was working as the camp’s handyman, joined other staff members in the main lodge to talk and pray. His girlfriend, Rachel, who was working as a camp counselor, told the other staff members of strange occurrences taking place in the cabin where she was caring for eight Alaska Native girls. Whenever Jesus was mentioned before bedtime — sometimes in prayers and other times in worship talks — strange things happened after the lights were turned out. The girls were scared and having bad dreams.

At the end of the emergency meeting, staff members prayed together and went to their cabins for the night.

When Wes reached his cabin, it was close to 11 o’clock.

“This is not a time for sleeping,” he thought. “This is a time to watch and pray.”

Wes left the cabin and followed a trail to a new block of boys’ bathrooms, which had been constructed recently with the assistance of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Behind the bathroom block, he sat down and started praying for Rachel, her girls, and their cabin.

“Lord, I pray that Your angels would surround Rachel’s cabin,” he said. “Keep out any evil influence so that the campers can fully enjoy the camp and get to know You.”

Five minutes passed. Ten minutes. Fifteen minutes.

Wes had never prayed for more than 10 or 15 minutes before, but he didn't want to stop. He was determined to watch and pray until he sensed that his prayers were no longer necessary.

“Lord, send Your angels to keep any evil powers from entering Rachel's cabin,” he said. “Help Rachel and the kids not to have any more bad dreams. Help them to sleep peacefully. Give me wisdom on how I can help them more.”

He prayed for 20 to 30 minutes.

Then he heard a group of people walking to the main lodge. He heard strange noises. He kept praying.

After that, he saw the group of people go to the camp's boat. He got up and went over to help. A girl was unwell and needed to be taken to the hospital in town. Wes was trained as an emergency medical technician, so he got in the boat with five other staff members to take the girl to the hospital. He was glad that he had been watching and praying so he was awake to help.

After delivering the girl safely to the hospital, Wes and the other staff members sailed back to camp. By now it was 2 o'clock in the morning. The night sky was dark, and the boat's sonar wasn't working. The lake was shallow in places, and the boat risked running aground or capsizing if it hit a sandbar or a rock.

Wes prayed. Everyone on the boat prayed.

With the help of GPS navigation equipment, the boat carefully made its way back toward the camp. But then it slowed down. The camp and the shore should be right ahead. But no one could see anything. It was pitch-black. They couldn't land safely.

Wes prayed. Everyone on the boat prayed.

Suddenly, a bright light appeared in the middle of the camp. The brilliant, white light cast dazzling rays over the camp. Wes and the others could see the boys' cabins. They could see the girls' cabins. They could see the main lodge. They could see the bathroom blocks. Most important, they could see the shoreline.

A staff member pointed the boat toward the light and guided it to the shore.

Once on dry land, the boat riders looked to see where the light was coming from. They wanted to thank the person who had switched it on. But the light went off, and darkness returned to the camp. Everyone at camp seemed to be asleep.

In the morning, Wes and the other boat riders tried to find out who had lit the light. No one took credit. Everyone said they had been sleeping. Wes believes an angel showed the way to the camp.

Wes, who is now Camp Polaris director and married to Rachel, learned an important lesson about watching and praying that night.

“I was used by God to help the camper get the help that was needed,” he said. “I was available because of the impression that I had to watch and pray. I helped resolve the situation — and then an angel helped to resolve our situation.”

Thank you for your 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped improve Camp Polaris with new cabins and real showers and toilets. Please pray for the camp, which is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's only summer camp specifically for Alaska Native children.


“This camp has a way of piquing the devil’s interest,” Wes said. “I feel like he has a stronger focus here because of how strong we influence the kids for the good.”

By Andrew McChesney

LESSON 13

“COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE”


December 21 — December 27

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” [Revelation 18:4]

 **STUDY HELP :** ✓ The Great Controversy, pages 603-612

 **SCRIPTURE :** Revelation 18

 **LESSON AIM :** To understand the God's last message of mercy and warning.

 **INTRODUCTION :** 'Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. When those that “*believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness,*” [2 Thessalonians 2:12] shall be left to receive strong delusion and to believe a lie, then the light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it, and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: “*Come out of her, My people.*” [Revelation 18:4]—*Maranatha, page 173*

Sabbath – December 21st

1. How is God's last message of warning and mercy pictured?

➤ **Revelation 18:1 —**

NOTE : 'A work of worldwide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. The light which attended this angel penetrated everywhere, as he cried mightily, with a strong voice, “*Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*” [Revelation 18:2]—*The Faith I Live By, page 335.*

2. Heaven's Hotline

➤

**The Great Controversy
Chapter 38, p. 603-612**

The Final Warning

“I saw another angel come down from Heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” “And I heard another voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” [Revelation 18:1, 2, 4.]

This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel [Revelation 14:8] of Revelation 14, is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described. With every rejection of truth, the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood. In defiance of the warnings which God has given, they will continue to trample upon one of the precepts of the Decalogue, until they are led to persecute those who hold it sacred. Christ is set at naught in the contempt placed upon his Word and his people. As the teachings of Spiritualism are accepted by the churches, the restraint imposed upon the carnal heart is removed, and the profession of religion will become a cloak to conceal the basest iniquity. A belief in spiritual manifestations opens the door to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, and thus the influence of evil angels will be felt in the churches.

Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophecy, it is declared, “Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” [Revelation 18:5.] She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her. But God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of his judgments, these faithful ones must be called out, that they “partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.” Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from Heaven, lightening the earth with his glory, and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard, “Come out of her, my people.” These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.

Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, “both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,” [Revelation 13:16.] shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest-day demands obedience, and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment, receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from Heaven is, “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation.” [Revelation 14:9, 10.]

But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart, and tries every motive, will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the

issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the State, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God. [SEE APPENDIX, NOTE 13.]

Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and State would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been, the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.

In every generation God has sent his servants to rebuke sin, both in the world and in the church. But the people desire smooth things spoken to them, and the pure, unvarnished truth is not acceptable. Many reformers, in entering upon their work, determined to exercise great prudence in attacking the sins of the church and the nation. They hoped, by the example of a pure Christian life, to lead the people back to the doctrines of the Bible. But the Spirit of God came upon them as it came upon Elijah, moving him to rebuke the sins of a wicked king and an apostate people; they could not refrain from preaching the plain utterances of the Bible,—doctrines which they had been reluctant to present. They were impelled to zealously declare the truth, and the danger which threatened souls. The words which the Lord gave them they uttered, fearless of consequences, and the people were compelled to hear the warning.

Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to his service. The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of his Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from Heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophecy smooth things, to soothe their fears, and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men, and demand a plain “Thus saith the Lord,” the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan, and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.

As the controversy extends into new fields, and the minds of the people are called to God's down-trodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light, lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavour to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment-keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is, “Show us from the Word of God our error,”—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.

Conscientious obedience to the Word of God will be treated as rebellion. Blinded by Satan, the parent will exercise harshness and severity toward the believing child; the master or mistress will oppress the commandment-keeping servant. Affection will be alienated; children will be disinherited, and driven from home. The words of Paul will be literally fulfilled, “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” [2 Timothy 3:12.] As the defenders of truth refuse to honour the Sunday-sabbath, some of them will be thrust into prison, some will be exiled, some will be treated as slaves. To human wisdom, all this now seems impossible; but as the restraining Spirit of God shall be withdrawn from men, and they shall be under the control of Satan, who hates the divine precepts, there will be strange developments. The heart can be very cruel when God's fear and love are removed.

As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath-keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.

In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to his Word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, or sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with consternation, will be ready to exclaim, “Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace.” They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.

The same trials have been experienced by men of God in ages past. Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley, urged that all doctrines be brought to the test of the Bible, and declared that they would renounce everything which it condemned. Against these men, persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands his servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave results with God.

As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the Word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contest grows closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is, “We dare not tamper with God's Word, dividing his holy law, calling one portion essential and another non-essential, to gain the favour of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?”

Persecution in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists, and Christianity has vital power. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness. Evil angels will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them in seeking to separate him from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.

But so long as Jesus remains man's intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls, to some extent, the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws,

the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has his agents among the leading men of the nation. The enemy moves upon his servants to propose measures that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel's message may do its work. When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble.

The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The Advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be far exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

The work will be similar to that of the day of Pentecost. As the “former rain” was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the “latter rain” will be given at its close, for the ripening of the harvest. “Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.” [Hosea 6:3.] “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.” [Joel 2:23.] “In the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.” “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” [Acts 2:17, 21.] The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are “the times of refreshing” to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the investigative Judgment], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus.” [Acts 3:19, 20.]

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [Revelation 13:13.] Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.

Last Day Events

Sabbath, December 21st, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 366***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 21st

The Voice that Shakes the Earth

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:2-3

It is at midnight that God manifests his power for the deliverance of his people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up, and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, “*It is done.*” [Revelation 16:17, 18.]

That voice shakes the heavens and the earth. There is a mighty earthquake, “*such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great.*” [Revelation 16:17, 18.] The firmament appears to open and shut. The glory from the throne of God seems flashing through. The mountains shake like a reed in the wind, and ragged rocks are scattered on every side. There is a roar as of a coming tempest. The sea is lashed into fury. There is heard the shriek of the hurricane, like the voice of demons upon a mission of destruction. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 636, 637

As lightnings from heaven unite with the fire in the earth, the mountains will burn like a furnace, and will pour forth terrific streams of lava, overwhelming gardens and fields, villages and cities. Seething molten masses thrown into the rivers will cause the waters to boil, sending forth massive rocks with indescribable violence and scattering their broken fragments upon the land. Rivers will be dried up. The earth will be convulsed; everywhere there will be dreadful earthquakes and eruptions.

Thus God will destroy the wicked from off the earth. But the righteous will be preserved in the midst of these commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark. —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 110

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, December 21st, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 8

Genealogy of Those Who Returned with Ezra

- Ezr 8:1 These *are* now the chief of their fathers, and *this is* the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.
- Ezr 8:2 Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush.
- Ezr 8:3 Of the sons of Shechaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males an hundred and fifty.
- Ezr 8:4 Of the sons of Pahathmoab; Elihoenai the son of Zerariah, and with him two hundred males.
- Ezr 8:5 Of the sons of Shechaniah; the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males.
- Ezr 8:6 Of the sons also of Adin; Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males.
- Ezr 8:7 And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.
- Ezr 8:8 And of the sons of Shephatiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males.
- Ezr 8:9 Of the sons of Joab; Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.
- Ezr 8:10 And of the sons of Shelomith; the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males.
- Ezr 8:11 And of the sons of Bebai; Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males.
- Ezr 8:12 And of the sons of Azgad; Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him an hundred and ten males.
- Ezr 8:13 And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names *are* these, Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them threescore males.
- Ezr 8:14 Of the sons also of Bigvai; Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

Ezra Sends for Levites

- Ezr 8:15 And I gathered them together to the river that runs to Ahava; and there abode we in tents three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.
- Ezr 8:16 Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, men of understanding.
- Ezr 8:17 And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, *and* to his brethren the Nethinims, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God.
- Ezr 8:18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;
- Ezr 8:19 And Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty;
- Ezr 8:20 Also of the Nethinims, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name.

Fasting and Prayer for Protection

- Ezr 8:21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.
- Ezr 8:22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath *is* against all them that forsake him.
- Ezr 8:23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us.

Priests to Guard Offerings

- Ezr 8:24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them,
- Ezr 8:25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, *even* the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel *there* present, had offered:
- Ezr 8:26 I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, *and* of gold an hundred talents;
- Ezr 8:27 Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.
- Ezr 8:28 And I said unto them, Ye *are* holy unto the LORD; the vessels *are* holy also; and the silver and the gold *are* a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers.
- Ezr 8:29 Watch ye, and keep *them*, until ye weigh *them* before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.
- Ezr 8:30 So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring *them* to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.
- Ezr 8:31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth *day* of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.
- Ezr 8:32 And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.
- Ezr 8:33 Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him *was* Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them *was* Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites;
- Ezr 8:34 By number *and* by weight of every one: and all the weight was written at that time.
- Ezr 8:35 *Also* the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats *for* a sin offering: all *this was* a burnt offering unto the LORD.
- Ezr 8:36 And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the people, and the house of God.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, December 21st, 2024



Matrona was excited about the big Sabbath adventure. She was going to travel by boat from her home in Bethel, Alaska, to an Alaska Native village where she would help to give a special Sabbath presentation to children. She was sure that it was going to be an especially fun Sabbath.

The rain was falling when Matrona boarded the motorboat with her mother and four friends from the Seventh-day Adventist church in Bethel. It was 9 o'clock in the morning, and they planned to arrive three hours later at the village on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. But things didn't go according to plan. After only 30 minutes, the boat got stuck on a sandbar in the middle of an enormous river.

Matrona and the others did everything that they could to get the boat unstuck from the sandbar. They got out of the boat and, standing on the sandbar, tried to push it back into the water. The boat remained stuck. They tried to pull the boat into the water. The boat remained stuck. They got back into the boat and swayed back and forth, hoping to shake the boat loose from the sandbar. The boat remained stuck. It was like they were on a tiny island, and they couldn't get off it.

An hour passed.

Matrona and the others sang some songs. Surrounded by the huge river, no one could hear them for miles and miles. So, they sang songs like "In His Time" and "Over the Sea" at the top of their lungs.

When Matrona got tired of singing, she took selfies and photos of the boat and their surroundings with Mother's cellphone.

Two hours passed.

Matrona started to feel hungry. She and the others ate sandwiches that they had packed for the trip. Matrona enjoyed mock tuna sandwiches made of chickpeas and onions on whole-wheat bread. For dessert, she ate bread smeared with pink fireweed jelly. Fireweed jelly is made from pink Fireweed flowers and has an unusual flavor. It is sweet and sour, flowery and fruity. It tastes kind of like a mixture of strawberries and apricots.

After eating, Matrona began to feel a little discouraged. Their group had received special permission from the local Alaska Native authorities to give the children’s program at the village’s meeting house. It had been a long and complicated process. But now they were stuck on the sandbar and going nowhere.

“We went through all of that, and now we can’t go,” Matrona said to Mother.

Mother took her cellphone and called the woman at the village who had helped organize the visit.

“We are stuck on a sandbar,” she said.

“I hate it when that happens,” the woman replied.

The woman said they could still do the children’s program if they arrived by 5 p.m. After that, the children would be busy doing something else.

By now, three hours had passed since Matrona had left Bethel on the boat. The tide was coming in, and the water rose and rose. Suddenly, the boat broke free from the sandbar. It could move again!

Matrona listened as the grown-ups talked about what to do next. It would take two more hours to travel to the village. Matrona wondered if it was worth it. The grown-ups said they were willing to go.

“Let’s see what happens,” one said. “It’s worth trying.”

The boat arrived at the village exactly at 5 p.m. Matrona and the others went to the meeting house to set up for the children’s program. Then they announced over the village loudspeaker that the children could come to the program.

“We are here for the advertised program,” Mother said over the loudspeaker. “We are sorry for being late. The program will last for one hour. Please come!”

More than 50 children flocked to the meeting house, and the building was completely full. Matrona and the other visitors introduced themselves to the children. Then everyone sang happy songs about Jesus. Matrona operated a projector that put the words for the songs on a screen so the kids could follow along. After that, Mother told a short story about Jesus, and the kids did some fun crafts with modeling clay and puppets.

Finally, Matrona helped pass out snacks. The kids were so excited to eat fresh fruit: red apples, green kiwis, yellow peaches, orange oranges, and purple grapes. Fruit does not grow anywhere near the village, so it was a special treat.

After the children’s program ended, Matrona climbed back into the boat. She was tired but very happy. It had been a big Sabbath adventure — and she couldn’t wait to do it again.

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help share God’s love through Matrona’s church in Bethel, Alaska. Your offering also will help two other projects — in St. Louis, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland — in the North American Division. Thank you for giving a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Sunday – December 22nd

1. What is the substance of this message?

➤ Revelation 18:2-3 —

➤ Revelation 14:8 —

NOTE : 'As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power, all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, Are these things so? the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain “*Thus saith the Lord*,” the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it.’—*The Great Controversy*, page 606

2. What is the outcome of Babylon's fall?

➤ Revelation 18:2, last part. —

NOTE : 'Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavour to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvellously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.'—*The Great Controversy*, page 464

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 12, pp. 367

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 22nd

Books Opened - Case Closed

The beast that thou saw was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 17:8

As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart,—all appear as if written in letters of fire.

Above the throne is revealed the cross; and like a panoramic view appear the scenes of Adam's temptation and fall, and the successive steps in the great plan of redemption. The Saviour's lowly birth; his early life of simplicity and obedience; his baptism in Jordan; the fast and temptation in the wilderness; his public ministry, unfolding to men Heaven's most precious blessings; the days crowded with deeds of love and mercy, the nights of prayer and watching in the solitude of the mountains; the plottings of envy, hate, and malice which repaid his benefits; the awful, mysterious agony in Gethsemane, beneath the crushing weight of the sins of the whole world; his betrayal into the hands of the murderous mob; the fearful events of that night of horror,—the unresisting prisoner, forsaken by his best-loved disciples, rudely hurried through the streets of Jerusalem; the Son of God exultingly displayed before Annas, arraigned in the high priest's palace, in the judgment hall of Pilate, before the cowardly and cruel Herod, mocked, insulted, tortured, and condemned to die,—all are vividly portrayed. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 666)

Every hour's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. The record of wasted moments and unimproved opportunities must be met when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened and everyone shall be judged according to the things written in the books. Selfishness, envy, pride, jealousy, idleness, or any other sin which is cherished in the heart, will exclude one from the blessedness of heaven. "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." [Romans 6:16]—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 453

Daily Scripture

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 9

Ezra Prays About Intermarriage

- Ezr 9:1 Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations, *even* of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.
- Ezr 9:2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.
- Ezr 9:3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astounded.
- Ezr 9:4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astounded until the evening sacrifice.
- Ezr 9:5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,
- Ezr 9:6 And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over *our* head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.
- Ezr 9:7 Since the days of our fathers *have we been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as *it is* this day.
- Ezr 9:8 And now for a little space grace hath been *shewed* from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.
- Ezr 9:9 For we *were* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.
- Ezr 9:10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments,
- Ezr 9:11 Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.
- Ezr 9:12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever.
- Ezr 9:13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this;
- Ezr 9:14 Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? would not thou be angry with us till thou had consumed *us*, so that *there should be* no remnant nor escaping?
- Ezr 9:15 O LORD God of Israel, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

Monday – December 23rd

1. How widespread is Babylon's influence?

➤ Revelation 18:3 —

NOTE : 'The so-called Christian world is to be the theatre of great and decisive actions. Men in authority will enact laws controlling the conscience, after the example of the papacy. Babylon will make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Every nation will be involved. Of this time John the Revelator declares: “*These have one mind.*” [Revelation 17:13] There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. “*And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*” [Revelation 17:13] Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism. In the great conflict between faith and unbelief the whole Christian world will be involved. All Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.’—*Last Day Events, pages 136-137*

2. What urgent warning is given to God's people who remain in Babylon?

➤ Revelation 18:4 —

NOTE : 'God's work is to be carried forward with power. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that God will add to the ranks of His people men of ability and influence who are to act their part in warning the world. All in the world are not lawless and sinful. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There are God-fearing men and women in the fallen churches. If this were not so, we would not be given the message to bear: “*Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . . Come out of her, My people.*” [Revelation 18:2-4] Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognise the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God's word.’—*Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, page 110*

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Monday, December 23rd, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 368***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 23rd

Banished From Heaven

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:7-9

Satan seems paralysed as he beholds the glory and majesty of Christ. He who was once a covering cherub remembers whence he has fallen. A shining seraph, “*son of the morning*,” [Isaiah 14:12] how changed, how degraded! From the council where once he was honoured, he is forever excluded. He sees another now standing near to the Father, veiling his glory. He has seen the crown placed upon the head of Christ by an angel of lofty stature and majestic presence, and he knows that the exalted position of this angel might have been his.

Memory recalls the home of his innocence and purity, the peace and content that were his until he indulged in murmuring against God, and envy of Christ. His accusations, his rebellion, his deceptions to gain the sympathy and support of the angels, his stubborn persistence in making no effort for self-recovery when God would have granted him forgiveness,—all come vividly before him. He reviews his work among men and its results,—the enmity of man toward his fellow-man, the terrible destruction of life, the rise and fall of kingdoms, the overturning of thrones, the long succession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions. He recalls his constant efforts to oppose the work of Christ and to sink man lower and lower. He sees that his hellish plots have been powerless to destroy those who have put their trust in Jesus.

As Satan looks upon his kingdom, the fruit of his toil, he sees only failure and ruin. He has led the multitudes to believe that the city of God would be an easy prey; but he knows that this is false. Again and again, in the progress of the great controversy, he has been defeated, and compelled to yield. He knows too well the power and majesty of the Eternal. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 669

Daily Scripture

Monday, December 23rd, 2024

Ezra

Chapter 10

The People Confess Their Sin

- Ezr 10:1 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore.
- Ezr 10:2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, *one* of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.
- Ezr 10:3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.
- Ezr 10:4 Arise; for *this* matter *belongs* unto thee: we also *will be* with thee: be of good courage, and do *it*.
- Ezr 10:5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they swore it.
- Ezr 10:6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and *when* he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.
- Ezr 10:7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem;
- Ezr 10:8 And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.
- Ezr 10:9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It *was* the ninth month, on the twentieth *day* of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of *this* matter, and for the great rain.
- Ezr 10:10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.
- Ezr 10:11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.
- Ezr 10:12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.
- Ezr 10:13 But the people *are* many, and *it is* a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither *is this* a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing.
- Ezr 10:14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God for this matter be turned from us.
- Ezr 10:15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were employed about this *matter*: and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.
- Ezr 10:16 And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, *with* certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by *their* names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.
- Ezr 10:17 And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.

Those Guilty of Intermarriage

- Ezr 10:18 And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: *namely*, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

- Ezr 10:19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and *being* guilty, *they offered* a ram of the flock for their trespass.
- Ezr 10:20 And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadiah.
- Ezr 10:21 And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah.
- Ezr 10:22 And of the sons of Pashur; Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasah.
- Ezr 10:23 Also of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah, (the same *is* Kelita,) Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.
- Ezr 10:24 Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.
- Ezr 10:25 Moreover of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.
- Ezr 10:26 And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah.
- Ezr 10:27 And of the sons of Zattu; Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.
- Ezr 10:28 Of the sons also of Bebai; Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, *and* Athlai.
- Ezr 10:29 And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth.
- Ezr 10:30 And of the sons of Pahathmoab; Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.
- Ezr 10:31 And *of* the sons of Harim; Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,
- Ezr 10:32 Benjamin, Malluch, *and* Shemariah.
- Ezr 10:33 Of the sons of Hashum; Mattenai, Mattathah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, *and* Shimei.
- Ezr 10:34 Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, and Uel,
- Ezr 10:35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,
- Ezr 10:36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
- Ezr 10:37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau,
- Ezr 10:38 And Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,
- Ezr 10:39 And Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,
- Ezr 10:40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
- Ezr 10:41 Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,
- Ezr 10:42 Shallum, Amariah, *and* Joseph.
- Ezr 10:43 Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah.
- Ezr 10:44 All these had taken strange wives: and *some* of them had wives by whom they had children.

Tuesday – December 24th

1. What will be the fate of those who do not heed this call?

➤ Revelation 18:4, last part. —

➤ Revelation 16:1-2 —

NOTE : 'Not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.'—*The Great Controversy*, page 605

2. To whom is this last message of warning given?

➤ Revelation 18:4 —

NOTE : 'Babylon is said to be “*the mother of harlots.*” [Revelation 17:5] By her daughters must be symbolised churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel. In the words of the prophet to Israel: “*Thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.*” [Ezekiel 16:14] But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel, the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly. “*Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and played the harlot because of thy renown.*” [Ezekiel 16:14-15]’—*The Great Controversy*, page 382

'God has children, many of them, in the Protestant churches, and a large number in the Catholic churches, who are more true to obey the light and to do [to] the very best of their knowledge than a large number among Sabbath-keeping Adventists who do not walk in the light. The Lord will have the message of truth proclaimed, that Protestants may be warned and awakened to the true state of things.'—*Selected Messages*, Book 3, page 386

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 369***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 24th

The Great Controversy Finale

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

The aim of the great rebel has ever been to justify himself, and to prove the divine government responsible for the rebellion. To this end he has bent all the power of his giant intellect. He has worked deliberately and systematically, and with marvellous success, leading vast multitudes to accept his version of the great controversy which has been so long in progress.

For thousands of years this chief of conspiracy has palmed off falsehood for truth. But the time has now come when the rebellion is to be finally defeated, and the history and character of Satan disclosed. In his last great effort to dethrone Christ, destroy his people, and take possession of the city of God, the arch-deceiver has been fully unmasked. Those who have united with him see the total failure of his cause. Christ's followers and the loyal angels behold the full extent of his machinations against the government of God. He is the object of universal abhorrence.

Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for Heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of Heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavoured to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down, and confesses the justice of his sentence. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 670

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 1

Report from Jerusalem

- Neh 1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,
- Neh 1:2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
- Neh 1:3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

Nehemiah's Prayer

- Neh 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,
- Neh 1:5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keeps covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:
- Neh 1:6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou may hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.
- Neh 1:7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commanded thy servant Moses.
- Neh 1:8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commanded thy servant Moses, saying, *If* ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:
- Neh 1:9 But *if* ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, *yet* will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.
- Neh 1:10 Now these *are* thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.
- Neh 1:11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Wednesday – December 25th

1. How does the Bible picture the destruction of symbolic Babylon?

➤ **Revelation 17:15-17** —

NOTE : 'Church members who have seen the light and been convicted, but who have trusted the salvation of their souls to the minister, will learn in the day of God that no other soul can pay the ransom for their transgression. A terrible cry will be raised, “I am lost, eternally lost.” Men will feel as though they could rend in pieces the ministers who have preached falsehoods and condemned the truth. All unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. “We are lost!” they cry, “and you are the cause of our ruin”; and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies.'—*Last Day Events*, page 247

2. What will be the effect of this last message of warning upon those who give and receive it?

➤ **Malachi 4:6** —

➤ **Luke 1:17** —

NOTE : 'Every Christian family should illustrate to the world the power and excellence of Christian influences. The home in which the members are kindly, courteous Christians exerts a far-reaching influence for good. Other families mark the results attained by such a home and follow the example set, in their turn guarding their homes against evil influences. Angels of heaven often visit the home in which the will of God bears sway. Under the power of divine grace such a home becomes a place of refreshing to worn, weary pilgrims. Self is kept from asserting itself. Right habits are formed. There is a careful recognition of the rights of others. The faith that works by love and purifies the soul stands at the helm, presiding over the entire household. One well-ordered, well-disciplined family tells more in behalf of Christianity than all the sermons that can be preached.'—*My Life Today*, page 124

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Wednesday, December 25th, 2024

Last Day Events, Chapter 12, pp. 370

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 25th

Satan Receives the Greatest Punishment

And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.

Obadiah 1:18

Notwithstanding that Satan has been constrained to acknowledge God's justice, and to bow to the supremacy of Christ, his character remains unchanged. The spirit of rebellion, like a mighty torrent, again bursts forth. Filled with frenzy, he determines not to yield the great controversy. The time has come for a last desperate struggle against the King of Heaven. He rushes into the midst of his subjects, and endeavours to inspire them with his own fury, and arouse them to instant battle.

But of all the countless millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his supremacy. His power is at an end. The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them.

The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. [see Isaiah 34:8; Proverbs 11:31.] They “*shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts.*” [Malachi 4:1.] Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished “*according to their deeds.*” [2 Corinthians 11:15] The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived.

After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch,—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and Heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah. —*The Great Controversy*, p. 661-673

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, December 25th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 2

Nehemiah Sent to Judah

- Neh 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that* wine *was* before him: and I took up the wine, and gave *it* unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime* sad in his presence.
- Neh 2:2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why *is* thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick? this *is* nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,
- Neh 2:3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, *lies* waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?
- Neh 2:4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.
- Neh 2:5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou would send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.
- Neh 2:6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.
- Neh 2:7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;
- Neh 2:8 And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which *appertained* to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem's Walls

- Neh 2:9 Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.
- Neh 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard *of it*, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.
- Neh 2:11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.
- Neh 2:12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither *was there any* beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.
- Neh 2:13 And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon well, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.
- Neh 2:14 Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but *there was* no place for the beast *that was* under me to pass.
- Neh 2:15 Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and *so* returned.
- Neh 2:16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.
- Neh 2:17 Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.
- Neh 2:18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good *work*.
- Neh 2:19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

Neh 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Thursday – December 26th

1. What was Elijah's prayer for his people?

➤ 1 Kings 18:37 —

NOTE : 'This work is to be done in all our churches. Christ, His love, His forgiveness, His purity, is to be the theme upon which we dwell. The charms of Jesus are to be kept ever before our minds, charged with the elevated character of the true model that every soul should copy. Let us turn our hearts from everything that would dishearten and discourage. Satan will seek to distort everything to our vision, and make a mountain of a mole hill. Our eyes must be steadily fixed on Jesus. The Lord Jesus is our leader. We must follow where He leads the way. We are not to commence to plan for the second step. We are not to say, Lord, after I have taken this step, what shall I do, for I shall meet with difficulties? But by faith we must take that one step, come what will, and trust in Jesus.'—*The Paulson Collection*, page 345

2. How will the people of God be enabled to carry this final message of warning to the world?

➤ Acts 2:17-18 —

NOTE : 'As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy. Many will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those who sit in darkness. Many, even among the uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from heaven. The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. But unless the members of God's church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping. Unless they keep their lamps trimmed and burning, they will fail of receiving added grace in times of special need. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. By prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit.'—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 220

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Thursday, December 26th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 371***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 26th

Tables Will Be Turned

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receives thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luke 16:25

The awful spectacle appears just as it was. Satan, his angels, and his subjects have no power to turn from the picture of their own work. Each actor recalls the part which he performed. Herod, who slew the innocent children of Bethlehem that he might destroy the King of Israel; the base Herodias, upon whose guilty soul rests the blood of John the Baptist; the weak, time-serving Pilate; the mocking soldiers; the priests and rulers and the maddened throng who cried, “*His blood be on us, and our children!*” [Matthew 27:25]—all behold the enormity of their guilt. They vainly seek to hide from the divine majesty of His countenance, outshining the glory of the sun, while the redeemed cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet, exclaiming, “He died for me!”

The whole wicked world stand arraigned at the bar of God, on the charge of high treason against the government of Heaven. They have none to plead their cause; they are without excuse; and the sentence of eternal death is pronounced against them. . . .

The wicked see what they have forfeited by their life of rebellion. The far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory was despised when offered them; but how desirable it now appears. “All this,” cries the lost soul, “I might have had; but I chose to put these things far from me. Oh, strange infatuation! I have exchanged peace, happiness, and honour, for wretchedness, infamy, and despair.” All see that their exclusion from Heaven is just. By their lives they have declared, “*We will not have this Jesus to reign over us.*” [Luke 19:14] —*From Here to Forever*, p. 404-405

Amid the ransomed throng are the apostles of Christ, the heroic Paul, the ardent Peter, the loved and loving John, and their true-hearted brethren, and with them the vast host of martyrs; while outside the walls, with every vile and abominable thing, are those by whom they were persecuted, imprisoned, and slain. —*Great Controversy*, p. 667

Daily Scripture

Thursday, December 26th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 3

Rebuilding the Wall

- Neh 3:1** Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.
- Neh 3:2** And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri.
- Neh 3:3** But the fish gate did the sons of Hassenaah build, who *also* laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.
- Neh 3:4** And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabeel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.
- Neh 3:5** And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.
- Neh 3:6** Moreover the old gate repaired Jehoiada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.
- Neh 3:7** And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.
- Neh 3:8** Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of *one of* the apothecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall.
- Neh 3:9** And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.
- Neh 3:10** And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah.
- Neh 3:11** Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahathmoab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces.
- Neh 3:12** And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.
- Neh 3:13** The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate.
- Neh 3:14** But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Bethhaccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.
- Neh 3:15** But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.
- Neh 3:16** After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Bethzur, unto *the place* over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.
- Neh 3:17** After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.
- Neh 3:18** After him repaired their brethren, Bavai the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah.
- Neh 3:19** And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armoury at the turning *of the wall*.
- Neh 3:20** After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning *of the wall* unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
- Neh 3:21** After him repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koz another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

- Neh 3:22 And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain.
- Neh 3:23 After him repaired Benjamin and Hashub over against their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house.
- Neh 3:24 After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning *of the wall*, even unto the corner.
- Neh 3:25 Palal the son of Uzai, over against the turning *of the wall*, and the tower which lies out from the king's high house, that *was* by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh.
- Neh 3:26 Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto *the place* over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lies out.
- Neh 3:27 After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lies out, even unto the wall of Ophel.
- Neh 3:28 From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house.
- Neh 3:29 After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his house. After him repaired also Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate.
- Neh 3:30 After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, another piece. After him repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah over against his chamber.
- Neh 3:31 After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.
- Neh 3:32 And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

Preparation Day – December 27th

1. What should be the focus of the prayers of God's people at this time?

➤ **Zechariah 10:1** —

NOTE : 'Without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labour of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work. Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. We must seek His favours with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, “*Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst.*” [Matthew 18:20] The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain. At every meeting we attend our prayers should ascend that at this very time, God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised. The Holy Spirit will come to all who are begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbours.'—*The Faith I Live By*, page 334.

2. End Thought — Your days may not all be clear and joyful, but let not this afflict you. In meekness, faith, and endurance, wait, hope, and trust. Your life is hidden with Christ in God. Your life, even now, may be a lesson to all, showing that one can be happy in the failing of strength under affliction. When the deep waters go over the soul, God's presence makes holy the chamber of His dying saints. Their patient endurance and joyful constancy, their support by an unseen power, is a powerful testimony in favour of the Christian's religion and the Christian's Saviour. These light afflictions will be a transforming power, refining, purifying, ennobling, and fitting for the courts above”—*Daughters of God* pg. 218.2

The [second] coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, “*the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*” [Titus 2:13] was the “*blessed hope.*” [Titus 2:13]—*Maranatha* pg. 12

3. Heaven's Hotline

➤

Last Day Events

Preparation Day, December 27th, 2024

***Last Day Events,
Chapter 12, pp. 372***

“Prepare for the Last Days”

December 27th

Curse of Sin Eternally

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

2 Peter 3:13

Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe, and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. *“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they [the righteous] break forth into singing.”* [Isaiah 14:7.] And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe. *“The voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,”* is heard, *“saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigns.”* [Revelation 19:6]

While the earth was wrapped in the fire of destruction, the righteous abode safely in the holy city. Upon those that *“has part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power.”* [Revelation 20:6] While God is to the wicked a consuming fire, he is to his people both *“a sun and a shield.”* [Psalm 84:11.]

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.” [Revelation 21:1.] The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin.

One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of his crucifixion. Upon his wounded head, upon his side, his hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in his glory, *“He had bright beams coming out of his side; and there was the hiding of his power.”* [Habakkuk 3:4] That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God,—there is the Saviour's glory, there *“the hiding of his power.”* [Habakkuk 3:4]

“Mighty to save,” [Isaiah 63:1] through the sacrifice of redemption, he was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of his humiliation are his highest honour; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth his praise, and declare his power.—*Great Controversy, p. 673-674*

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, December 27th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 4

Opposition to the Work

- Neh 4:1 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wrath, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.
- Neh 4:2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?
- Neh 4:3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.
- Neh 4:4 Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:
- Neh 4:5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked *thee* to anger before the builders.
- Neh 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.
- Neh 4:7 But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,
- Neh 4:8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.
- Neh 4:9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.
- Neh 4:10 And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and *there is* much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.
- Neh 4:11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.
- Neh 4:12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us *they will be upon you*.
- Neh 4:13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, *and* on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.
- Neh 4:14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not you afraid of them: remember the Lord, *which is* great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

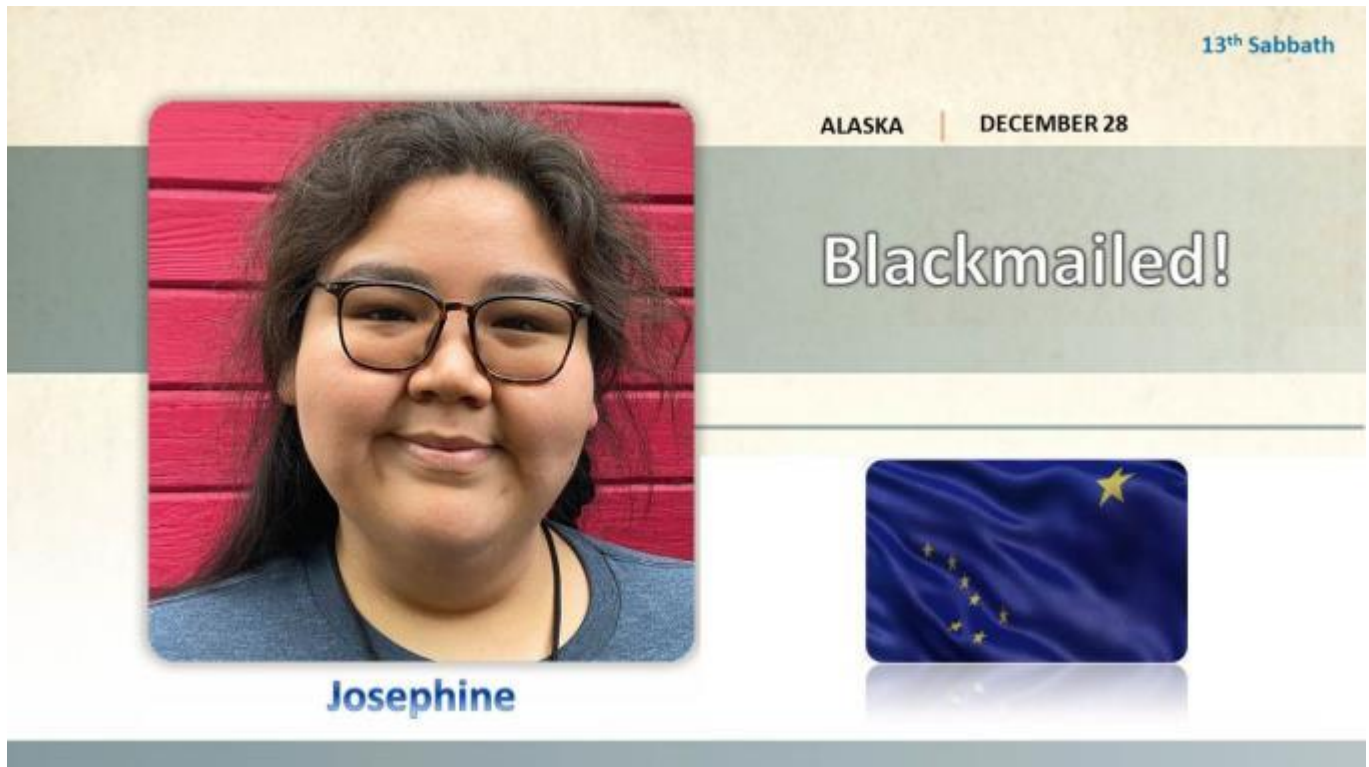
The Work Resumes

- Neh 4:15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.
- Neh 4:16 And it came to pass from that time forth, *that* the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers *were* behind all the house of Judah.
- Neh 4:17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *everyone* with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other *hand* held a weapon.
- Neh 4:18 For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and *so* builded. And he that sounded the trumpet *was* by me.
- Neh 4:19 And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, The work *is* great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

- Neh 4:20 In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.
- Neh 4:21 So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.
- Neh 4:22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let everyone with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.
- Neh 4:23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, *saving that* everyone put them off for washing.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, December 27th, 2024



In the small Alaska Native village of Togiak, two sisters, Josephine and Emily, were walking down a dusty street on a lazy summer evening.

Even though it was about 7 o'clock, the sun was high in the sky. The sun wouldn't go down for many more hours; not until about midnight.

There wasn't much for children to do on long summer days in the village.

“Look!” 12-year-old Emily exclaimed as she stopped in front of the Seventh-day Adventist church. “There is a Vacation Bible School at this church. I want to go.”

For her, Vacation Bible School meant interesting stories from the Bible. It meant fun activities. It meant yummy snacks. Most of all, it meant something to do in a place where there wasn't much for children to do in the summer.

Emily tugged on her 17-year-old sister's arm.

“Come on,” she pleaded.

But Josephine didn't want to go. Even though there wasn't much to do, she didn't want to go to church.

“I don't want to go to Vacation Bible School,” she said.

“But I want to go,” Emily said.

“Well, I don’t want to go,” Josephine said, speaking with all the authority of an older sister. “I want to do something else.”

Emily looked sad for a moment.

But only for a moment.

She was determined to win the argument, and she knew just the way.

“If we don’t go, I won’t share my chew,” she said.

Josephine looked sharply at her little sister. She didn’t have any chewing tobacco left, and she didn’t know where she could get more. She looked at the church. She thought about how grumpy, irritable, and cross she would become if Emily made good on her threat not to share her chewing tobacco.

“Fine,” she said. “Let’s go.”

And so it was that Josephine was blackmailed into entering an Adventist church for the first time.

She sat in the back row, while Emily joined about 20 children participating in activities in the front.

“But I want to go,” Emily said.

“Well, I don’t want to go,” Josephine said, speaking with all the authority of an older sister. “I want to do something else.”

Emily looked sad for a moment.

But only for a moment.

She was determined to win the argument, and she knew just the way.

“If we don’t go, I won’t share my chew,” she said.

Josephine looked sharply at her little sister. She didn’t have any chewing tobacco left, and she didn’t know where she could get more. She looked at the church. She thought about how grumpy, irritable, and cross she would become if Emily made good on her threat not to share her chewing tobacco.

“Fine,” she said. “Let’s go.”

And so it was that Josephine was blackmailed into entering an Adventist church for the first time.

She sat in the back row, while Emily joined about 20 children participating in activities in the front.

After a while, the church pastor came over to Josephine and introduced himself as Pastor Chad.

Seeing that Josephine was older than most of the kids, he asked if she would like to help out, perhaps by passing around snacks and materials for Vacation Bible School activities.

Josephine agreed.

After that, she and Emily returned to the church at 7 o’clock every evening during Vacation Bible School.

Near the end of Vacation Bible School, the pastor invited Josephine to go to a children’s summer camp. To get there, she would have to fly on a plane, ride in a bus, and take a boat.

She loved the idea. But she was sure that she was too old for children’s camp. She was 17.

“No problem,” the pastor said. “Would you like to help out at the camp?”

A big smile wrapped itself around Josephine’s face. She could certainly help out.

So, she went to Camp Polaris as a counselor. She helped a regular camp counselor take care of a cabin filled with Alaska Native girls from various villages. She also learned a lot about Jesus during her week at camp.

Josephine loved summer camp so much that she went back the next year and the next.

Between camps, she kept going to the Adventist church at home. A love for Jesus grew in her heart. Jesus helped her to quit using chewing tobacco. She gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Today, Josephine still works at Camp Polaris — but now as a leader. Every year, she brings 7–10 children from her village to the camp. The children don’t have much to do during the summer. Some of them become grumpy, irritable, and cross as they go through nicotine withdrawal without their chewing tobacco at camp.

But, like Josephine, the children also hear about Jesus at the camp and learn that He can help them kick the bad habit. They return home, knowing that life with Jesus is never boring and that they can do anything with Him.

Just like Josephine’s little sister once brought her to church, Josephine is now bringing children to church. But she does not have to use blackmail to get them to come. She prays and invites them to Camp Polaris.

“I love working with kids,” she said in an interview at Camp Polaris. “I have made a lot of good friends. Camp Polaris gives me something to look forward to.”

Camp Polaris, located on a lake near Dillingham, Alaska, is the only Seventh-day Adventist summer camp that caters specifically to Alaska Native children. Part of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped improve the camp with new cabins and real toilets and showers. Thank you.

Today, we have a chance to share the love of Jesus in Alaska with another Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. This time, one of the Thirteenth Sabbath projects will help share the gospel through a center of influence in Bethel, Alaska.

Today’s offering also will support outreach projects in St. Louis, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland. Thank you for your generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Published by
Hope International
6 Tawa St Ohura
New Zealand