

Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide

Jan | Feb | Mar 2025

Name

“After This Manner Therefore Pray”



**STUDENT'S PERSONAL
STUDY NOTES**

OVERVIEW

General Introduction for the 1st Quarter, 2025

‘After This Manner Therefore Pray’

‘Christ did not give this prayer for men to repeat as a form. He gave it as an illustration of what our prayers should be, simple, earnest, and comprehensive.

‘Many prayers are offered without faith. A set form of words is used, but there is no real importunity. These prayers are doubtful, hesitating; they bring no relief to those who offer them, and no comfort or hope to others. The form of prayer is used, but the spirit is wanting, showing that the petitioner does not feel his need.

‘Learn to pray short and right to the point, asking for just what you need. Learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you. Do not offer make-believe prayers, but earnest, feeling petitions, expressing the hunger of the soul for the Bread of Life. If we prayed more in secret, we should be able to pray more intelligently in public. These doubtful, hesitating prayers would cease. And when we engaged with our brethren in public worship, we could add to the interest of the meeting; for we should bring with us some of the atmosphere of heaven, and our worship would be a reality, and not a mere form. If the soul is not drawn out in prayer in the closet and while engaged in the business of the day, it will be manifest in the prayer meeting. ‘The life of the soul depends upon habitual communion with God. Its wants are made known, and the heart is open to receive fresh blessings. Gratitude flows from unfeigned lips; and the refreshing that is received from Jesus is manifested in words, in deeds of active benevolence, and in public devotion. There is love to Jesus in the heart; and where love exists, it will not be repressed, but will express itself. Secret prayer sustains this inner life. The heart that loves God will desire to commune with Him, and will lean on Him in holy confidence.

‘Let us learn to pray intelligently, expressing our requests with clearness and precision. Let us pray as though we meant it. “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*” James 5:16.’—*Our High Calling*, page 130.

‘In my morning devotions I have regarded it my privilege to close my petition with the prayer that Christ taught to His disciples. There is so much I really must have to meet the needs of my own case that I sometimes fear that I shall ask amiss; but when in sincerity I offer the model prayer that Christ gave to His disciples, I cannot but feel that in these few words all my needs are comprehended. This I offer after I have presented my special private prayer. If with heart and mind and soul I repeat the Lord's prayer, then I can go forth in peace to my work, knowing that I have not asked amiss.’ —*Manuscript Releases*, volume 20, page 271.

Compiler's Note: The Lord's Prayer, as it is usually called, is recorded twice in the New Testament, in Matthew 6:9-13, as part of Christ's Sermon on the Mount, and in Luke 11:2-4, where Christ responds to a request from the disciples to teach them to pray. The two versions differ in some ways. Luke records the following:

‘Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.’

Here is Matthew's account: ‘Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.’ The closing clause in Matthew's account is omitted in nearly all modern English versions. This is because these versions use a Greek text dependent on the Alexandrian manuscripts, particularly Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus. (The words are also omitted in the Vulgate and the Roman Catholic

translations of the Vulgate.) These words, however, appear in the overwhelming majority of Greek manuscripts. The variation between Matthew's 'debts' and Luke's 'sins' seems to be explained by the fact that in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, the same word is used for 'debts' and 'sins'. So it appears that in translating into Greek, Luke chose one meaning, and Matthew the other, of the self-same Aramaic word. Many, especially those who use the Authorised (King James) Version, will be surprised to realise that the Lord's Prayer they recite in church services is differently worded from their Bibles. In many English-speaking countries, the version of the Lord's Prayer recited originates in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer of 1662. This is how the Lord's Prayer is worded there: Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. Slightly modernised versions are often heard, for example: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. — (The changes are marked by italics. The above is the wording of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.)

One further comment: the word translated 'daily' is a word found nowhere else in ancient Greek literature. For this reason, Roman Catholics choose to make it mean 'supernatural' and interpret it as referring to the need to participate in the Mass daily. The Douai version, for example, has: 'Give us this day our supersubstantial bread.'

NOTATIONS

Please Note:

In addition to the writings of Ellen 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:

“In Heavenly Places” by E.G. White

My Prayer for Today:

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.

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LESSON 1

“OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN”

December 28 — January 3

MEMORY VERSE : *“Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear Him.”*
[Psalm 103:13]

STUDY HELP : ✓ In Heavenly Places, page 71

LESSON AIM : To study the fatherhood of God.

INTRODUCTION : Brethren and sisters, let us study carefully the prayer of Christ. Let us seek to experience the oneness in faith and works for which He prayed. The Fatherhood of God is given to us in the gift of Jesus Christ; and as God was one with His only begotten Son, so He would have His earthly children one with Him. Faith in Christ will help us to overcome all weakness of the flesh. It is our privilege through faith in our Redeemer to become sanctified, holy, cleansed from all sin in this life, and in that life that measures with the life of God to be partakers in the joys of the redeemed.—*Review & Herald, September 30, 1909.*

Sabbath – December 28th

1. Where does the Bible first reveal God as our Father?

- Deuteronomy 32:6 —
- 1 Corinthians 6:20 —
- 1 Corinthians 7:23 —

NOTE : The church of today has followed in the steps of the Jews of old, who set aside the commandments of God for their own traditions. She has changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant, and now, as then, pride, unbelief, and infidelity are the result. Her true condition is set forth in these words from the song of Moses: "They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of His children; they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? Is not He thy Father that hath bought thee? Hath He not made thee, and established thee?"—*Review & Herald, March 18, 1884.*

2. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, December 28th, 2024

In Heavenly Places

Chapter 5, p. 71

“Letters to Heaven”

March 5th

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

Hebrews 4:16

Prayer is not an expiation for sin. It is not a penance. We need not come to God as condemned criminals, for Christ has paid the penalty of our transgression. He has made an atonement for us. His blood cleanses from sin. Our prayers are as letters sent from earth, directed to our Father in heaven. The petitions that ascend from sincere, humble hearts will surely reach Him. He can discern the sincerity of His adopted children. He pities our weakness and strengthens our infirmities. He has said, “Ask, and ye shall receive.”

Many of the human family know not what they should ask for as they ought. But the Lord is kind and tender. He helps their infirmities by giving them words to speak. He who comes with sanctified desire has access through Christ to the Father. Christ is our intercessor. The prayers that are placed in the golden censer of the Saviour’s merits are accepted by the Father.

Every promise in the Word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think. Educate yourself to have unlimited confidence in God. Cast all your care upon Him. Wait patiently for Him, and He will bring it to pass.

We are to come to God, not in a spirit of self-justification, but with humility, repenting of our sins. He is able to help us, willing to do for us more than we ask or think. He has the abundance of heaven wherewith to supply our necessities.... God is holy, and we must pray, “lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (1 Timothy 2:8)....

We are to seek “first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). We are to be ready to receive the blessing which God will bestow upon those who seek Him with the whole heart, in sincerity and truth. We must keep the heart open if we would receive of the grace of Christ.

Radiant Religion

Sabbath, December 28th, 2024

In Heavenly Places

Chapter 12, pp. 364

“An Eternity of Bliss”

December 28th

Pleasures Forevermore in Our Father’s Kingdom

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

In comparison with the millions of the world, God’s people will be, as they have ever been, a little flock; but if they stand for the truth as revealed in His Word, God will be their refuge. They stand under the broad shield of Omnipotence. God is always a majority. When the sound of the last trump shall penetrate the prison-house of the dead, and the righteous shall come forth with triumph, exclaiming, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”—standing then with God, with Christ, with the angels, and with the loyal and true of all ages, the children of God will be far in the majority....

In this world their minds were consecrated to God; they served Him with the intellect and with the heart; and now He can place His name “in their foreheads.” “And they shall reign forever and ever.” They do not go in and out as those who beg a place. They are of that number to whom Christ says, “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” He welcomes them as His children, saying, “Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 590.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, December 28th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 5

Nehemiah Stops Oppression of the Poor

- Neh 5:1 And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.
- Neh 5:2 For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, *are* many: therefore we take up corn *for them*, that we may eat, and live.
- Neh 5:3 *Some* also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.
- Neh 5:4 There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, *and that upon* our lands and vineyards.
- Neh 5:5 Yet now our flesh *is* as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and *some* of our daughters are brought unto bondage *already*: neither *is it* in our power *to redeem them*; for other men have our lands and vineyards.
- Neh 5:6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.
- Neh 5:7 Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.
- Neh 5:8 And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing *to answer*.
- Neh 5:9 Also I said, It *is* not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?
- Neh 5:10 I likewise, *and* my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.
- Neh 5:11 Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth *part* of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.
- Neh 5:12 Then said they, We will restore *them*, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou say. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.
- Neh 5:13 Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performs not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise.

Nehemiah's Generosity

- Neh 5:14 Moreover from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that is*, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.
- Neh 5:15 But the former governors that *had been* before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.
- Neh 5:16 Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants *were* gathered thither unto the work.
- Neh 5:17 Moreover *there were* at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that *are* about us.
- Neh 5:18 Now *that* which was prepared *for me* daily *was* one ox *and* six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.
- Neh 5:19 Think upon me, my God, for good, *according* to all that I have done for this people.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, December 28th, 2024

By Andrew McChesney



Five-year-old Tamir [ta-MIR] was bored. He was waiting for Mom to finish her work at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia. Mom worked as an accountant, which meant she counted money for the school. Tamir went to the school’s preschool. Now his classes were over, and he was sitting on a chair, waiting to go home.

“Mommy, can I have your phone?” he asked.

Mom handed the phone to the boy. His eyes stopped on an app with a picture of a man with wavy white hair and a red jacket.

“Mommy,” he said, “who is that?”

“That’s Mozart,” Mom said.

“Wow,” Tamir said. “He’s so handsome.”

Mom smiled. She opened the app and pressed “play” on a song written by the famous Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Tamir’s eyes opened wide with amazement as violin and piano music filled the room. It was beautiful! Happy butterflies filled his tummy.

Tamir couldn’t stop thinking about the music. Two days later, he told Mom and Dad that he wanted to learn to play the violin and the piano. Dad shook his head. “We don’t have money for music lessons,” he said.

Tears came to Tamir’s eyes. He wanted to play the violin and piano, and he didn’t give up. He asked again the next year when he was 6 years old. He asked when he was 7 and then 8. He asked when he was 9 and then 10. He

asked when he was 11 and then 12. Every time, Mom and Dad shook their heads. But Tamir didn't give up. He asked again when he was 13.

This time, Mom and Dad didn't shake their heads.

“I'll take you to violin lessons tomorrow,” Mom said. She had a friend who would teach the violin to Tamir.

Tamir was so happy! His smile stretched from ear to ear. Happy butterflies filled his tummy. He excitedly told his friends.

They were surprised. “Are you really going to play the violin?” one boy asked.

“Yes!” he replied. “I'm going to learn the violin tomorrow!”

“Wow!” said another boy. “You're going to be famous one day!”

Learning the violin wasn't easy. It was difficult to learn the notes. Sometimes Tamir wanted to play with friends, but he had to practice. He didn't mind. He wanted to fill his tummy with happy butterflies.

A year passed, and Tamir kept practicing. Then he was asked to play for special music at church. Mom was so happy!

On Sabbath morning, she excitedly told everyone, “My son is playing the violin up front today.”

But Tamir wasn't so happy. His hands began sweating. His neck began sweating. His face began sweating. He was scared about playing in front of a crowd. He thought, “No, no, no! I don't want to play the violin anymore. I want to go home.”

Dad saw that the boy was nervous. “Don't worry,” he said. “Jesus will help you.”

Tamir knew that Dad was right. He wondered why he hadn't thought about that first. He silently prayed, “God, please help me not to be scared of the people when I play the violin. Please bless me.”

Then he played in front of all those people. He wasn't scared. His face wasn't sweating. His neck wasn't sweating. His hands weren't sweating. Happy butterflies filled his tummy. He felt good! When he finished, everyone was so happy.

“Wow, you are a good player,” someone said.

“One day, you'll be famous,” someone else said.

Tamir knew that God had helped him.

To play well, Tamir needs to practice every day, and he needs to pray every day. Tamir wants to represent Mongolia and God before the world. He wants happy butterflies in fill his tummy all the time.

Pray that Tamir will be a good representative of God as he learns the violin and studies at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. His school received part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to grow with new classrooms and a library. This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children's recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, where children will be able learn about the God who answers prayers.

Sunday – December 29th

1. What promise did God make to David through Nathan the prophet concerning Solomon?

➤ **2 Samuel 7:14, first part.** —

➤ **Revelation 21:7** —

NOTE : Come out from among them and be separate, says God, and I will receive you, and ye shall be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. What a promise is this! It is a pledge to you that you shall become members of the royal family, heirs of the heavenly kingdom. If a person is honoured by, or becomes connected with, any of the monarchs of earth, how it goes the rounds of the periodicals of the day, and excites the envy of those who do not think themselves so fortunate. But here is One who is king over all, the monarch of the universe, the originator of every good thing; and He says to us, I will make you My sons and daughters; I will unite you to Myself; you shall become members of the royal family, and children of the heavenly King.--Ye Shall Receive Power, page 373.

2. What kind of father is God?

➤ **Psalms 103:13** —

NOTE : In all the sufferings and afflictions of man there is an Eye to pity, a Heart to love. "Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear Him" (Psalms 103:13). God's tenderest care is exercised over us. He pities us in our weakness and in our sorrow. We may be despondent, even despairing; the heavy clouds of affliction may be over us; but there is light ahead. Beyond the gloom is a sympathetic, compassionate Friend, One who does not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men. In the gracious blessings which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us we may discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite, and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child. When we study the divine character in the light of the cross, we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice. In the language of John we exclaim: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1).

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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Radiant Religion

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

In Heavenly Places

Chapter 12, pp. 365

“An Eternity of Bliss”

December 29th

We Shall Have Unending Joy

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:10

The prophet caught the sound of music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived. “The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” “Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.” “As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there.” “They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord.”—Prophets and Kings, 730.

There the redeemed shall “know, even as also they are known.” 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”—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 677.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 6

Conspiracy Against Nehemiah

- Neh 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and *that* there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)
- Neh 6:2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *some one of* the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.
- Neh 6:3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?
- Neh 6:4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.
- Neh 6:5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;
- Neh 6:6 Wherein *was* written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith *it, that* thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou build the wall, that thou may be their king, according to these words.
- Neh 6:7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, *There is* a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.
- Neh 6:8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou say, but thou feign them out of thine own heart.
- Neh 6:9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, *O God*, strengthen my hands.
- Neh 6:10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.
- Neh 6:11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who *is there*, that, *being* as I *am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.
- Neh 6:12 And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
- Neh 6:13 Therefore *was* he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and *that* they might have *matter* for an evil report, that they might reproach me.
- Neh 6:14 My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

The Wall Is Finished

- Neh 6:15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.
- Neh 6:16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.
- Neh 6:17 Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and *the letters* of Tobiah came unto them.
- Neh 6:18 For *there were* many in Judah sworn unto him, because he *was* the son in law of Shechaniah the son of Arah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.
- Neh 6:19 Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. *And* Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

Monday – December 30th

1. What does the Lord always bear in mind in His attitude towards us?

➤ **Psalm 103:14** —

NOTE : Our heavenly Father requires no more nor less than He has given us ability to do. He lays upon His servants no burdens that they are not able to bear. "He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." Psalm 103:14. All that He claims from us we through divine grace can render.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 362.

The Lord is full of compassion for His suffering ones. What sins are too great for His pardon? He is merciful, and as such is infinitely more ready and more pleased to pardon than to condemn. He is gracious, not looking for wrong in us; He knows our frame; He remembers that we are but dust. In His boundless compassion and mercy He heals all our backslidings, loving us freely while we are yet sinners, withdrawing not His light, but shining on us for Christ's sake.—*Reflecting Christ*, page 281.

2. How can we discover what our heavenly Father is like?

➤ **John 14:7-9** —

➤ **John 1:18** —

➤ **Luke 10:22** —

NOTE : When Philip came to Jesus with the request, "Show us the Father, and it suffices us," the Saviour answered him: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how say thou then, Show us the Father?" Christ declares Himself to be sent into the world as a representative of the Father. In His nobility of character, in His mercy and tender pity, in His love and goodness, He stands before us as the embodiment of divine perfection, the image of the invisible God. Says the apostle: "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." Only as we contemplate the great plan of redemption can we have a just appreciation of the character of God. The work of creation was a manifestation of His love; but the gift of God to save the guilty and ruined race, alone reveals the infinite depths of divine tenderness and compassion. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." While the law of God is maintained, and its justice vindicated, the sinner can be pardoned. The dearest gift that heaven itself had to bestow has been poured out that God "might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." By that gift men are uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin to become children of God. Says Paul: "Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."—*Testimonies*, volume 5, page 739.

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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Radiant Religion

Monday, December 30th, 2024

In Heavenly Places

Chapter 12, pp. 366

“An Eternity of Bliss”

December 30th

We Shall Live in a New Creation

Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Isaiah 65:18

“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”
[Isaiah 65:17]

There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirements of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations 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 mind and soul and body.

All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God’s redeemed. 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 unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God’s handiwork. 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.

Daily Scripture

Monday, December 30th, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 7

- Neh 7:1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,
- Neh 7:2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he *was* a faithful man, and feared God above many.
- Neh 7:3 And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar *them*: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, everyone in his watch, and every one *to be* over against his house.
- Neh 7:4 Now the city *was* large and great: but the people *were* few therein, and the houses *were* not builded.

Lists of Returned Exiles

- Neh 7:5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,
- Neh 7:6 These *are* the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city;
- Neh 7:7 Who came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number, *I say*, of the men of the people of Israel *was this*;
- Neh 7:8 The children of Parosh, two thousand an hundred seventy and two.
- Neh 7:9 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy and two.
- Neh 7:10 The children of Arah, six hundred fifty and two.
- Neh 7:11 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand and eight hundred *and* eighteen.
- Neh 7:12 The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
- Neh 7:13 The children of Zattu, eight hundred forty and five.
- Neh 7:14 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.
- Neh 7:15 The children of Binnui, six hundred forty and eight.
- Neh 7:16 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and eight.
- Neh 7:17 The children of Azgad, two thousand three hundred twenty and two.
- Neh 7:18 The children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven.
- Neh 7:19 The children of Bigvai, two thousand threescore and seven.
- Neh 7:20 The children of Adin, six hundred fifty and five.
- Neh 7:21 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.
- Neh 7:22 The children of Hashum, three hundred twenty and eight.
- Neh 7:23 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty and four.
- Neh 7:24 The children of Hariph, an hundred and twelve.
- Neh 7:25 The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.
- Neh 7:26 The men of Bethlehem and Netophah, an hundred fourscore and eight.
- Neh 7:27 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.
- Neh 7:28 The men of Bethazmaveth, forty and two.
- Neh 7:29 The men of Kirjathjearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three.
- Neh 7:30 The men of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty and one.
- Neh 7:31 The men of Michmas, an hundred and twenty and two.

- Neh 7:32 The men of Bethel and Ai, an hundred twenty and three.
- Neh 7:33 The men of the other Nebo, fifty and two.
- Neh 7:34 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
- Neh 7:35 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.
- Neh 7:36 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.
- Neh 7:37 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one.
- Neh 7:38 The children of Senaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.
- Neh 7:39 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.
- Neh 7:40 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.
- Neh 7:41 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
- Neh 7:42 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
- Neh 7:43 The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, *and* of the children of Hodevah, seventy and four.
- Neh 7:44 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight.
- Neh 7:45 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, an hundred thirty and eight.
- Neh 7:46 The Nethinims: the children of Ziha, the children of Hashupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
- Neh 7:47 The children of Keros, the children of Sia, the children of Padon,
- Neh 7:48 The children of Lebana, the children of Hagaba, the children of Shalmal,
- Neh 7:49 The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar,
- Neh 7:50 The children of Reaiah, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda,
- Neh 7:51 The children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah,
- Neh 7:52 The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishesim,
- Neh 7:53 The children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
- Neh 7:54 The children of Bazlith, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
- Neh 7:55 The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tamah,
- Neh 7:56 The children of Nezhiah, the children of Hatipha.
- Neh 7:57 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida,
- Neh 7:58 The children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
- Neh 7:59 The children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.
- Neh 7:60 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants, *were* three hundred ninety and two.
- Neh 7:61 And these *were* they which went up *also* from Telmelah, Telharesha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they *were* of Israel.
- Neh 7:62 The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two.
- Neh 7:63 And of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai, which took *one* of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite to wife, and was called after their name.
- Neh 7:64 These sought their register *among* those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.
- Neh 7:65 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 Thummim.

Totals of People and Gifts

- Neh 7:66 The whole congregation together *was* forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore,
- Neh 7:67 Beside their manservants and their maidservants, of whom *there were* seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and they had two hundred forty and five singing men and singing women.
- Neh 7:68 Their horses, seven hundred thirty and six: their mules, two hundred forty and five:
- Neh 7:69 *Their* camels, four hundred thirty and five: six thousand seven hundred and twenty asses.
- Neh 7:70 And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

- Neh 7:71 And *some* of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.
- Neh 7:72 And *that* which the rest of the people gave *was* twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.
- Neh 7:73 So the priests, and the Levites, and the porters, and the singers, and *some* of the people, and the Nethinims, and all Israel, dwelt in their cities; and when the seventh month came, the children of Israel *were* in their cities.

Tuesday – December 31st

1. What sort of father did Jesus reveal?

➤ **Matthew 10:29-31** —

NOTE : Christ came into the world to represent the Father to man; for Satan had presented Him before the world in a false light. Because God is a God of justice, of terrible majesty, who has power to destroy as well as to preserve man, Satan caused men to regard Him with fear, to look upon Him as a tyrant. Jesus had been with the Father from the everlasting ages, before the creation of man, and He came to reveal the Father, declaring, "God is love." Jesus represented God as a kind Father, who cares for the subjects of His kingdom. He declared that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the notice of the Father, and that the children of men are of more value in His sight than many sparrows, that the very hairs of their head are all numbered.' Lift Him Up, page 36.

2. What story did Christ tell which illustrates the fatherhood of God?

➤ **Luke 15:11-32** —

NOTE : Little did the thoughtless youth, as he went out from his father's gate, dream of the ache and longing left in that father's heart. When he danced and feasted with his wild companions, little did he think of the shadow that had fallen on his home. And now as with weary and painful steps he pursues the homeward way, he knows not that one is watching for his return.' A Call to Stand Apart, page 13.

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

Radiant Religion

Tuesday, December 31st, 2024

In Heavenly Places

Chapter 12, pp. 367

“An Eternity of Bliss”

December 31st

We Shall Rejoice in God’s Pleasures Forevermore

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

The years of eternity, as they roll, will bring riches 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 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.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, December 31st, 2024

Nehemiah

Chapter 8

Ezra Reads the Law

- Neh 8:1** And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.
- Neh 8:2** And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.
- Neh 8:3** And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.
- Neh 8:4** And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.
- Neh 8:5** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:
- Neh 8:6** And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.
- Neh 8:7** Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people *stood* in their place.
- Neh 8:8** So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

This Day Is Holy

- Neh 8:9** And Nehemiah, which *is* the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day *is* holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.
- Neh 8:10** Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this* day *is* holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.
- Neh 8:11** So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day *is* holy; neither be ye grieved.
- Neh 8:12** And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

Feast of Booths Celebrated

- Neh 8:13** And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.
- Neh 8:14** And they found written in the law which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:
- Neh 8:15** And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying, Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as *it is* written.

- Neh 8:16 So the people went forth, and brought *them*, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.
- Neh 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.
- Neh 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day *was* a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Wednesday – January 1st

1. What was the father's attitude to his prodigal son?

➤ Luke 15:20 —

➤ Luke 15:22-24 —

NOTE : While he is yet "a great way off" the father discerns his form. Love is of quick sight. Not even the degradation of the years of sin can conceal the son from the father's eyes. He "had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck" in a long, clinging, tender embrace. The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son's misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son's wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." The father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as stern and severe. How different his conception of him now! So those who are deceived by Satan look upon God as hard and exacting. They regard Him as watching to denounce and condemn, as unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there is a legal excuse for not helping him. His law they regard as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they are glad to escape. But he whose eyes have been opened by the love of Christ will behold God as full of compassion. He does not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son.—*A Call to Stand Apart, page 13.*

2. How did Isaiah picture our relationship with our heavenly Father?

➤ Isaiah 64:8 —

NOTE : We do not know what the Lord will do for us, if we will come into line. God sees what He can make of man. There are possibilities which our feeble faith does not discern. "Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9. He sees all the now unamiable traits of character in man, and He knows, if men will learn the meekness and lowliness of Christ, He can mould and fashion the combative spirit, the unamiable disposition, and bring every power of the being into working order to advance His kingdom. He longs to refine, elevate, and ennoble the entire life. Through the Holy Spirit's power He can use the very worst characters, and make them men and women of opportunity. Blessed is the man who by faith can get a glimpse of Christ's faith. Then there is a possibility of his becoming Christlike in character. Great light comes to man as he sees the privileges that are for him. He sees God's plans for him and he dies to self. He submits to be worked. When he submits to be as clay in the hands of the potter, then God works the man into a vessel of honour. Clay in the hands of the potter is turned again and again until the will of the potter is wrought out in the vessel. Grace and truth will make perfect the work of fashioning the human clay, that the glory of the great Potter may appear in the production of a shapely vessel, moulded and polished for service. The Potter cannot mould and fashion unto honour that which has never been placed in His hands. The Christian life is one of daily surrender, submission, and continual overcoming. Every day fresh victories will be gained. Self must be lost sight of, and the love of God must be constantly cultivated. Thus we grow up into Christ. Thus the life is fashioned according to the divine model. Let the hand of God work the clay for His own service. He knows just what kind of vessel He wants.—*Our High Calling, page 335.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 7***

January 1st

Our Exalted Privilege

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ... and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6

As God raised Christ from the dead, that He might bring life and immortality to light through the gospel, and thus save His people from their sins, so Christ has raised fallen human beings to spiritual life, quickening them with His life, filling their hearts with hope and joy.

Christ gave Himself for the redemption of the race, that all who believe in Him may have everlasting life. Those who appreciate this great sacrifice receive from the Saviour that most precious of all gifts—a clean heart. They gain an experience that is more valuable than gold or silver or precious stones. They sit together in heavenly places in Christ, enjoying in communion with Him the joy and peace that He alone can give. They love Him with heart and mind and soul and strength, realizing that they are His blood-bought heritage. Their spiritual eyesight is not dimmed by worldly policy or worldly aims. They are one with Christ as He is one with the Father.

Christ “gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). He made an offering so complete that through His grace every one may reach the standard of perfection. Of those who receive His grace and follow His example it will be written in the book of life, “Complete in Him—without spot or stain.”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” ... “who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). What is there left for us to ask, that is not included in this merciful, abundant provision? Through the merits of Christ we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. It is our privilege to draw nigh to God, to breathe in the atmosphere of His presence.... Nothing short of abiding in the presence of Christ will bring peace, freedom, courage, and power.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 1st, 2025

Nehemiah

Chapter 9

The People of Israel Confess Their Sin

- Neh 9:1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.
- Neh 9:2 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.
- Neh 9:3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God *one* fourth part of the day; and *another* fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.
- Neh 9:4 Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, *and* Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God.
- Neh 9:5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, *and* Pethahiah, said, Stand up *and* bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.
- Neh 9:6 Thou, *even* thou, *art* LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all *things* that *are* therein, the seas, and all that *is* therein, and thou preserve them all; and the host of heaven worship thee.
- Neh 9:7 Thou *art* the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and brought him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gave him the name of Abraham;
- Neh 9:8 And found his heart faithful before thee, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give *it*, *I say*, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou *art* righteous:
- Neh 9:9 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heard their cry by the Red sea;
- Neh 9:10 And showed signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knew that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as *it is* this day.
- Neh 9:11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threw into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.
- Neh 9:12 Moreover thou led them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go.
- Neh 9:13 Thou came down also upon mount Sinai, and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:
- Neh 9:14 And made known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:
- Neh 9:15 And gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, and brought forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promised them that they should go in to possess the land which thou had sworn to give them.
- Neh 9:16 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,
- Neh 9:17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou *art* a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsook them not.
- Neh 9:18 Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This *is* thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations;

- Neh 9:19 Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsook them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.
- Neh 9:20 Thou gave also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheld not thy manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.
- Neh 9:21 Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, *so that* they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.
- Neh 9:22 Moreover thou gave them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners: so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.
- Neh 9:23 Their children also multiplied thou as the stars of heaven, and brought them into the land, concerning which thou had promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess *it*.
- Neh 9:24 So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.
- Neh 9:25 And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells dug, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.
- Neh 9:26 Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.
- Neh 9:27 Therefore thou delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heard *them* from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gave them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.
- Neh 9:28 But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore left thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heard *them* from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies;
- Neh 9:29 And testified against them, that thou might bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.
- Neh 9:30 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testified against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gave thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.
- Neh 9:31 Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou *art* a gracious and merciful God.
- Neh 9:32 Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keeps covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.
- Neh 9:33 Howbeit thou *art* just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:
- Neh 9:34 Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies, wherewith thou didst testify against them.
- Neh 9:35 For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gave them, and in the large and fat land which thou gave before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.
- Neh 9:36 Behold, we *are* servants this day, and *for* the land that thou gave unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we *are* servants in it:
- Neh 9:37 And it yielded much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we *are* in great distress.
- Neh 9:38 And because of all this we make a sure *covenant*, and write *it*; and our princes, Levites, *and* priests, seal *unto it*.

Thursday – January 2nd

1. How did Isaiah describe the attitude of our heavenly Father towards His children?

➤ **Isaiah 63:7-9** —

NOTE : In Isaiah's day the spiritual understanding of mankind was dark through misapprehension of God. Long had Satan sought to lead men to look upon their Creator as the author of sin and suffering and death. Those whom he had thus deceived, imagined that God was hard and exacting. They regarded Him as watching to denounce and condemn, unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there was a legal excuse for not helping him. The law of love by which heaven is ruled had been misrepresented by the archdeceiver as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they should be glad to escape. He declared that its precepts could not be obeyed and that the penalties of transgression were bestowed arbitrarily. In losing sight of the true character of Jehovah, the Israelites were without excuse. Often had God revealed Himself to them as one "full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." Psalm 86:15. "When Israel was a child," He testified, "then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt." Hosea 11:1. Tenderly had the Lord dealt with Israel in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and in their journey to the Promised Land. "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." [Isaiah 63:9]—*Prophets & Kings, pages 311-312*

2. How did Paul speak of the relationship that we can have with our heavenly Father?

➤ **Galatians 4:6** —

➤ **Romans 8:14-15** —

NOTE : The scholar Prof. Joachim Jeremias discovered after many years of research that "Jewish prayers fail to disclose any examples of Abba as an address to God. What was so intimate as to be regarded as irreverent to the Jewish mind was daringly taken by Jesus [Mark 14:36] to express His own relationship to God." Under the circumstances, the term is even more daringly taken here by Paul. For its meaning, it seems, is the equivalent of the familiar term Daddy. The Aramaic form, baba, is used by Arabic children today in addressing their fathers. So lovingly, intimately, yet reverently and with awe, may the Christian call upon His heavenly Father.—*Thomas A. Davis: Romans for the Everyday Man, page 109.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Thursday, January 2nd, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 8***

January 2nd

Getting Acquainted With God

Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

Job 22:21, 22

From the beginning it has been Satan’s studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Therefore he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of evil himself—as arbitrary, severe, and unforgiving—that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men....

Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, a God of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. By the world’s Redeemer the thick darkness with which Satan had enshrouded the throne of the Deity was swept away, and the Father was again manifest to men as the Light of life....

Christ is saddened by the sight of men so absorbed in worldly cares and business perplexities that they have no time to become acquainted with God. To them heaven is a strange place; for they have lost it out of their reckoning. Not familiar with heavenly things, they tire of hearing about them. They dislike to have their minds disturbed in regard to their need of salvation. But the Lord desires to disturb their minds, that they may become acquainted with Him in time to accept His offer of salvation....

The day will come when the awful denunciation of God’s wrath will be uttered against those who have persisted in their disloyalty to Him.... But you need not be among those who will come under His wrath. We are living in the day of His salvation. The light from the cross of Calvary is shining forth in clear, bright rays, revealing Jesus, our sacrifice for sin. “We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Ephesians 1:7).

God desires to restore His image in you. Believe that He is your Helper. Resolve to become acquainted with Him. As you draw nigh to Him with confession and repentance, He will draw nigh to you with mercy and forgiveness.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, January 2nd, 2025

Nehemiah

Chapter 10

The People Who Sealed the Covenant

Neh 10:1 Now those that sealed *were*, Nehemiah, the Tirshatha, the son of Hachaliah, and Zidkijah,
Neh 10:2 Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,
Neh 10:3 Pashur, Amariah, Malchijah,
Neh 10:4 Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,
Neh 10:5 Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,
Neh 10:6 Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,
Neh 10:7 Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,
Neh 10:8 Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah: these *were* the priests.
Neh 10:9 And the Levites: both Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel;
Neh 10:10 And their brethren, Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,
Neh 10:11 Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,
Neh 10:12 Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,
Neh 10:13 Hodijah, Bani, Beninu.
Neh 10:14 The chief of the people; Parosh, Pahathmoab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,
Neh 10:15 Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,
Neh 10:16 Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,
Neh 10:17 Ater, Hizkijah, Azzur,
Neh 10:18 Hodijah, Hashum, Bezai,
Neh 10:19 Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,
Neh 10:20 Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,
Neh 10:21 Meshezabeel, Zadok, Jaddua,
Neh 10:22 Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,
Neh 10:23 Hoshea, Hananiah, Hashub,
Neh 10:24 Hallohesh, Pileha, Shobek,
Neh 10:25 Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,
Neh 10:26 And Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,
Neh 10:27 Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

The Obligations of the Covenant

Neh 10:28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;
Neh 10:29 They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;
Neh 10:30 And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:
Neh 10:31 And *if* the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, *that* we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and *that* we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

- Neh 10:32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God;
- Neh 10:33 For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the holy *things*, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and *for* all the work of the house of our God.
- Neh 10:34 And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring *it* into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed year by year, to burn upon the altar of the LORD our God, as *it is* written in the law:
- Neh 10:35 And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the LORD:
- Neh 10:36 Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as *it is* written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, unto the priests that minister in the house of our God:
- Neh 10:37 And *that* we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.
- Neh 10:38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.
- Neh 10:39 For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where *are* the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.

Preparation Day – January 3rd

1. Because God is truly our Father, what precious hope does the Christian have and what should be our attitude to this hope?

➤ **1 John 3:1-3** —

NOTE : When we seek for appropriate language in which to describe the love of God, we find words too tame, too weak, too far beneath the theme, and we lay down our pen and say, "No, it cannot be described." We can only do as did the beloved disciple, and say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1. In attempting any description of this love, we feel that we are as infants lisping their first words. Silently we may adore; for silence in this matter is the only eloquence. This love is past all language to describe. 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. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more.—*The Faith I Live By*, page 43.

2. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 9***

January 3rd

Learning of God Through His Works

The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

Psalm 145:9-10

We love to contemplate the character and love of God in His created works. What evidences has He given the children of men of His power, as well as of His parental love! He has garnished the heavens and made grand and beautiful the earth.

“O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! ... When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visited him?” “All thy works praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee” (Psalm 8:1, 3, 4; 145:10).

Had our world been formed with a perfectly level surface the monotony would have fatigued the eye and wearied the senses. God has adorned our world with grand mountains, hills, valleys, and ranges of mountains. The rugged granite, bare mountains, also the mountains decorated with evergreens and verdure, and the valleys with their softened beauty make the world a mirror of loveliness. The goodness, wisdom, and power of God are manifest everywhere. In mountains, rocks, hills, and valleys, I see the works of divine power. I can never be lonely while viewing the grand scenery of nature. On the journey over the plains and mountains I have had feelings of the deepest reverence and awe while viewing the frowning precipice and snow-capped mountain heights.

The mountains, hills, and valleys should be to us as schools in which to study the character of God in His created works. The works of God which we may view in the ever-varying scenes—in mountains, hills, and valleys, in trees, shrubs, and flowers, in every leaf, every spire of grass—should teach us lessons of the skill and love of God and of His infinite power.

Those who study nature cannot be lonesome. They love the quiet hours of meditation, for they feel that they are brought in close communion with God while tracing His power in His created works.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2025

Nehemiah

Chapter 11

The Leaders in Jerusalem

- Neh 11:1 And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem the holy city, and nine parts *to dwell* in *other* cities.
- Neh 11:2 And the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.
- Neh 11:3 Now these *are* the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem: but in the cities of Judah dwelt everyone in his possession in their cities, *to wit*, Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon's servants.
- Neh 11:4 And at Jerusalem dwelt *certain* of the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin. Of the children of Judah; Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;
- Neh 11:5 And Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Colhozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.
- Neh 11:6 All the sons of Perez that dwelt at Jerusalem *were* four hundred threescore and eight valiant men.
- Neh 11:7 And these *are* the sons of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jesaiah.
- Neh 11:8 And after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred twenty and eight.
- Neh 11:9 And Joel the son of Zichri *was* their overseer: and Judah the son of Senuah *was* second over the city.
- Neh 11:10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin.
- Neh 11:11 Seraiah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, *was* the ruler of the house of God.
- Neh 11:12 And their brethren that did the work of the house *were* eight hundred twenty and two: and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchiah,
- Neh 11:13 And his brethren, chief of the fathers, two hundred forty and two: and Amashai the son of Azareel, the son of Ahasai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,
- Neh 11:14 And their brethren, mighty men of valour, an hundred twenty and eight: and their overseer *was* Zabdiel, the son of *one* of the great men.
- Neh 11:15 Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hashub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;
- Neh 11:16 And Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, *had* the oversight of the outward business of the house of God.
- Neh 11:17 And Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, *was* the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer: and Bakbukiah the second among his brethren, and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.
- Neh 11:18 All the Levites in the holy city *were* two hundred fourscore and four.
- Neh 11:19 Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren that kept the gates, *were* an hundred seventy and two.
- Neh 11:20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, *and* the Levites, *were* in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.
- Neh 11:21 But the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel: and Ziha and Gispa *were* over the Nethinims.
- Neh 11:22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem *was* Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers *were* over the business of the house of God.

- Neh 11:23 For *it was* the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, due for every day.
- Neh 11:24 And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabeel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, *was* at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

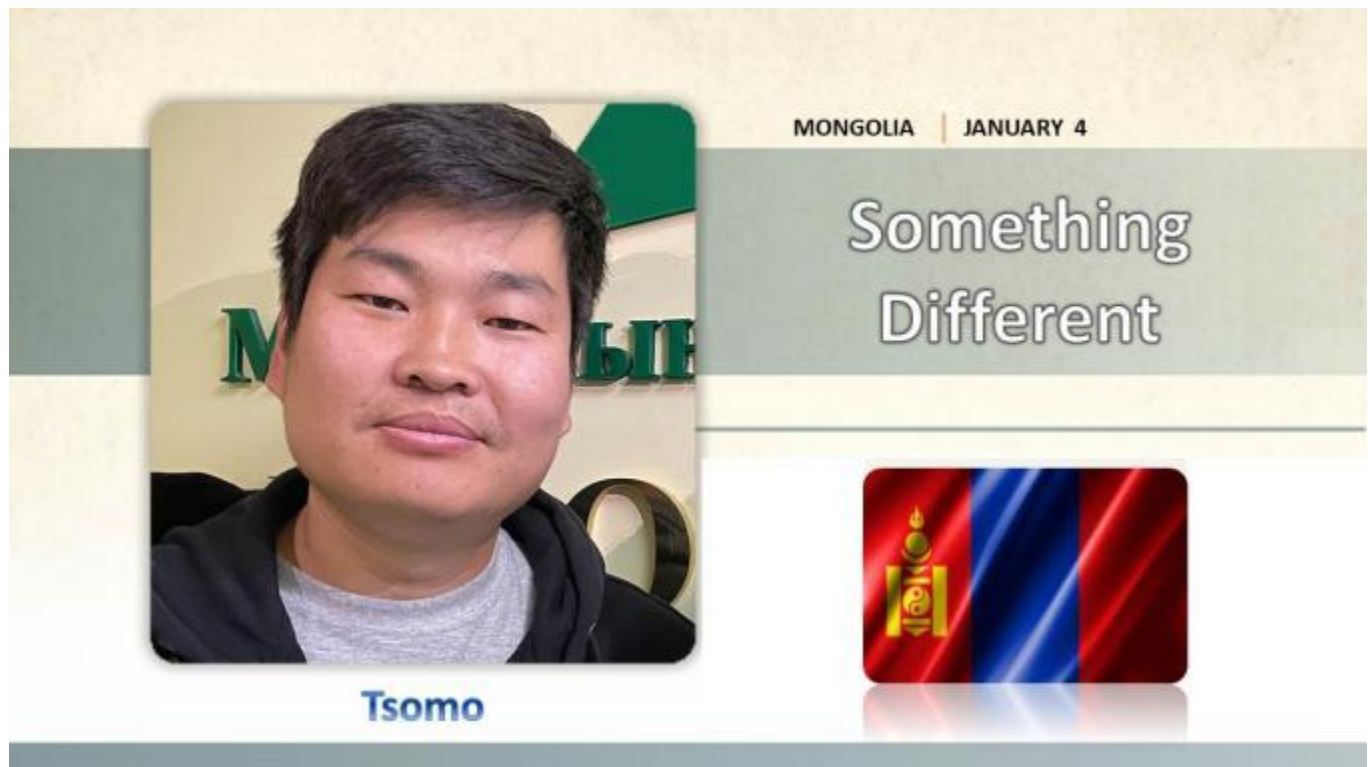
Villages Outside Jerusalem

- Neh 11:25 And for the villages, with their fields, *some* of the children of Judah dwelt at Kirjatharba, and *in* the villages thereof, and at Dibon, and *in* the villages thereof, and at Jekabzeel, and *in* the villages thereof,
- Neh 11:26 And at Jeshua, and at Moladah, and at Bethphelet,
- Neh 11:27 And at Hazarshual, and at Beersheba, and *in* the villages thereof,
- Neh 11:28 And at Ziklag, and at Mekonah, and in the villages thereof,
- Neh 11:29 And at Enrimmon, and at Zareah, and at Jarmuth,
- Neh 11:30 Zanoah, Adullam, and *in* their villages, at Lachish, and the fields thereof, at Azekah, and *in* the villages thereof. And they dwelt from Beersheba unto the valley of Hinnom.
- Neh 11:31 The children also of Benjamin from Geba *dwelt* at Michmash, and Aija, and Bethel, and *in* their villages,
- Neh 11:32 *And* at Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,
- Neh 11:33 Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,
- Neh 11:34 Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,
- Neh 11:35 Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.
- Neh 11:36 And of the Levites *were* divisions *in* Judah, *and* in Benjamin.

Adult Mission Story

Friday, January 3rd, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Tsomo [TSO-mo] never had any interest in Christianity. It was not Mongolia’s traditional religion. Moreover, he didn’t believe in any God. He was an atheist.

Then his aunt visited a Seventh-day Adventist church in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar. Wanting to learn English, she had gone to evangelistic meetings led by a guest speaker from Australia. Something about the Adventist church was different, and she invited her 18-year-old nephew to come. “This is a really nice place,” she said. “There are a lot of young people like you.”

“Oh no, Auntie,” Tsomo said. “That’s not our traditional religion. It’s a foreign religion.”

But she still kept inviting him to church. She spoke about the young people and how they played the guitar and sang.

“They’re nice,” she said.

Tsomo went to church with his aunt. He liked the Australian speaker and his companions. He had never met foreigners before, and they were interesting. Moreover, he enjoyed the music. It was so nice. Like his aunt, he sensed something different about the church. He felt something he had never felt before. “These are really nice people,” he thought. “They’re always smiling.”

Tsomo went back to the church many times after the first visit. He became an Adventist. A desire grew in his heart to share his love for Jesus. But how?

A year after becoming an Adventist, Tsomo went to the countryside to visit friends. All of the local teens knew him, and they noticed that something was different.

“You are so different compared to before,” said a girl.

“You’ve changed,” said a boy.

“What happened?”

“I’ve met God,” Tsomo said.

The teens laughed. They weren’t Christians, and they didn’t believe in God.

Now at that time, no rain had fallen in the area for six months. The grass was brown and dry. This was a problem. Grass was needed to feed the horses, cows, sheep, goats, and camels that Mongolians rely on for food, wool, and transportation.

A miracle was needed to end the drought, and the teens decided to test Tsomo’s God.

“If your God really exists, you should pray for rain,” one boy said.

Others agreed.

“Let’s see what your God can do,” said another boy.

Tsomo called together all of the teens.

“OK, let’s do it,” he said. “Let’s pray together.”

He prayed to God for rain.

The next morning, the rain came. The raindrops fell lightly at first, but then the heavens opened up and it poured.

The teens were so surprised! They came running to Tsomo, exclaiming, “It’s raining! It’s raining!”

Some of them began to believe in God.

“Wow, your God is real,” said one.

“I want to know more,” said another.

Tsomo formed a small group of 10 teens. He read the Bible to them, he prayed with them, and he taught them Christian songs. The group met every day for a month. Then Tsomo returned to his home in the city.

Several years have passed since the miraculous rain. Tsomo became an Adventist pastor and today serves in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar. No Adventist church has been established in the region where the miracle took place. But the young people who witnessed the rain remain faithful to God. Several of their parents also have accepted God.

“There is no church there, and there is no pastor there, but they believe in God even today,” Tsomo said.

They believe after seeing something different about the God of heaven.

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to a new children’s recreation center in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, where children and their parents will be able to learn that something is different about the God of heaven. Thank you for planning a generous offering for this Thirteenth Sabbath project on March 29

LESSON 2

“HALLOWED BE THY NAME”

January 4 — January 10

MEMORY VERSE : “*You shall not take the name of The LORD your God in vain; for The LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.*” [Exodus 20:7]

STUDY HELP : ✓ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 106-107

LESSON AIM : To study the holiness of God's name.

INTRODUCTION : God's name is hallowed by the angels of heaven and by the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds. When you pray, "Hallowed by Thy name," you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonour to the "worthy name by which ye are called." God sends you into the world as His representatives. In every act of life you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, or represent Him to the world, unless, in life and character, you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of Christ.—*Signs of the Times, October 28, 1903.*

Sabbath – January 4th

1. When Moses asked what the name of God was, what answer did He receive?

➤ Exodus 3:13-14 —

NOTE : The name of the Lord expresses both existence and character. "I am" expresses existence. I am that, or that which, I am, expresses character. And to believe in God is to believe in both His existence and His character. It is not enough to believe only in the existence of God. To believe only that He is, and not to believe that He is what He is, is not to believe in Him at all. For even to believe in His existence and then to believe Him to be of a character different from that which He really is, this is only to believe in a different God from that which He really is. And to believe in a different God from what He is, is really to believe in another God; but in reality there is no other God than He; all others are only imaginary. Therefore, even to believe that He is, and then believe Him to be different in character from that which He really is, this, in reality, is not to believe in Him at all. It is to believe in another than He; it is only to have another god, and so in idolatry.—A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald, September 17, 1895.*

2. Heaven's Hotline :

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E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, January 4th, 2025

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings

Chapter 5, p. 106-107

The LORD's Prayer

"Which art in heaven." He to whom Christ bids us look as "our Father" "is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased." In His care we may safely rest, saying, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." [Psalm 115:3; Psalm 56:3]

"Hallowed be Thy name." [Matthew 6:9]

To hallow the name of the Lord requires that the words in which we speak of the Supreme Being be uttered with reverence. "Holy and reverend is His name." [Psalm 111:9] We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!

But to hallow the name of the Lord means much more than this. We may, like the Jews in Christ's day, manifest the greatest outward reverence for God, and yet profane His name continually. "The name of the Lord" is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." [Exodus 34:5-7] Of the church of Christ it is written, "This is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness." [Jeremiah 33:16] This name is put upon every follower of Christ. It is the heritage of the child of God. The family are called after the Father. The prophet Jeremiah, in the time of Israel's sore distress and tribulation, prayed, "We are called by Thy name; leave us not." [Jeremiah 14:9]

This name is hallowed by the angels of heaven, by the inhabitants of unfallen worlds. When you pray, "Hallowed be Thy name," you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonour to the "worthy name by which ye are called." [James 2:7] God sends you into the world as His representative. In every act of life you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, you cannot represent Him to the world, unless in life and character you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of the grace and righteousness of Christ.

"Thy kingdom come." [Matthew 6:10]

God is our Father, who loves and cares for us as His children; He is also the great King of the universe. The interests of His kingdom are our interests, and we are to work for its upbuilding.

The disciples of Christ were looking for the immediate coming of the kingdom of His glory, but in giving them this prayer Jesus taught that the kingdom was not then to be established. They were to pray for its coming as an event yet future. But this petition was also an assurance to them. While they were not to behold the coming of the kingdom in their day, the fact that Jesus bade them pray for it is evidence that in God's own time it will surely come.

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, January 4th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 10***

January 4th

Love That Is Measureless

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.

Jeremiah 31:3

Those who know not God cannot by their learning or science find out God. Christ does not try to prove the great mystery, but reveals a love that is beyond measurement. He does not make God's power and greatness the chief theme of His discourses. He speaks of Him oftenest as *our Father*.... He desires our minds, weakened by sin, to be encouraged to grasp the idea that God is love....

The father of the prodigal son is the type that Christ chooses as a representation of God. This father longs to see and receive once more the son who has left him. He waits and watches for him, yearning to see him, hoping that he will come. When he sees a stranger approaching, poor and clothed with rags, he goes out to meet him, if perchance it may be his son. And he feeds and clothes him as if he were indeed his son. By and by he has his reward, for his son comes home, on his lips the beseeching confession, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.” And the father says to the servants, “Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry” (Luke 15:21-23).

There is no taunting, no casting up to the prodigal of his evil course. The son feels that the past is forgiven and forgotten, blotted out forever. And so God says to the sinner, “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins” (Isaiah 44:22). “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34)....

Heaven is waiting and yearning for the return of the prodigals who have wandered far from the fold. Many of those who have strayed away may be brought back by the loving service of God's children....

Think of the Father subjecting Himself to sorrow, sparing not His own Son, but freely delivering Him up for us all.... O that we had a better understanding of His love!

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, January 4th, 2025

Nehemiah

Chapter 12

Priests and Levites

- Neh 12:1 Now these *are* the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,
- Neh 12:2 Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,
- Neh 12:3 Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,
- Neh 12:4 Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah,
- Neh 12:5 Miamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,
- Neh 12:6 Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah,
- Neh 12:7 Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These *were* the chief of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jeshua.
- Neh 12:8 Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, *and* Mattaniah, *which was* over the thanksgiving, he and his brethren.
- Neh 12:9 Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, *were* over against them in the watches.
- Neh 12:10 And Jeshua begat Joiakim, Joiakim also begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada,
- Neh 12:11 And Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.
- Neh 12:12 And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the chief of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;
- Neh 12:13 Of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;
- Neh 12:14 Of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;
- Neh 12:15 Of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;
- Neh 12:16 Of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;
- Neh 12:17 Of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;
- Neh 12:18 Of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;
- Neh 12:19 And of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;
- Neh 12:20 Of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;
- Neh 12:21 Of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.
- Neh 12:22 The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, *were* recorded chief of the fathers: also the priests, to the reign of Darius the Persian.
- Neh 12:23 The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, *were* written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.
- Neh 12:24 And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise *and* to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward.
- Neh 12:25 Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, *were* porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates.
- Neh 12:26 These *were* in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

Dedication of the Wall

- Neh 12:27 And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, *with* cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

- Neh 12:28 And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;
- Neh 12:29 Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the fields of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem.
- Neh 12:30 And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.
- Neh 12:31 Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great *companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one* went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:
- Neh 12:32 And after them went Hoshaiiah, and half of the princes of Judah,
- Neh 12:33 And Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam,
- Neh 12:34 Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah, and Jeremiah,
- Neh 12:35 And *certain* of the priests' sons with trumpets; *namely*, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph:
- Neh 12:36 And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.
- Neh 12:37 And at the fountain gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.
- Neh 12:38 And the other *company of them that gave thanks* went over against *them*, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall;
- Neh 12:39 And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.
- Neh 12:40 So stood the two *companies of them that gave thanks* in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me:
- Neh 12:41 And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, *and* Hananiah, with trumpets;
- Neh 12:42 And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Jezrahiah *their* overseer.
- Neh 12:43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

Service at the Temple

- Neh 12:44 And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.
- Neh 12:45 And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, *and* of Solomon his son.
- Neh 12:46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old *there were* chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.
- Neh 12:47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified *holy things* unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified *them* unto the children of Aaron.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, January 4th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Itgel [IT-gil] is a 10-year-old boy in Mongolia. His name, Itgel, means “faith” in the Mongolian language. Itgel has a lot of faith.

When the school year began, Itgel was excited to return to the Seventh-day Adventist school where he studied in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. He was ready to start fourth grade. But his joy lasted only for a week.

At the end of the first week of school, all of the boys and girls got together for a special sports day. Itgel enjoyed being outdoors. It was fun to be out in the open air. He ran and ran and ran as fast as he could.

That night, however, Itgel didn’t feel well. His legs hurt terribly. He could barely move. Mom was worried, and she put a hand on his forehead. He was burning up with fever. Mom and Dad took the boy to the hospital.

When the doctor saw Itgel’s high fever and heard about the pain in his legs, he also was worried. He pulled out a syringe and gave Itgel a shot. Itgel had to stay at the hospital.

That night, Itgel tried to fall asleep, but it was hard to sleep when he felt so hot and his legs hurt so much.

He prayed in his heart, “God, please heal me quickly.”

In the morning, the doctor gave Itgel another shot. At noon, he gave him a third shot and Itgel began to feel a little bit better. But he still couldn’t walk. His legs hurt and felt so weak. The doctor told him not to try to stand up. A nurse helped him sit in a wheelchair so he could go around the hospital.

Itgel was happy for the wheelchair, but he wanted to walk. He wanted to go back to school. He already missed his friends. He prayed in his heart, “God please heal me quickly. I want to start walking on my own. I want to go back to school to see my friends.”

He didn't know when he would be able to go home, but he believed that God would heal him. He decided to keep praying. When he woke up the next day, he immediately prayed, “God please heal me quickly. I want to start walking on my own. I want to go back to school to see my friends.”

When the doctor came to help him, he prayed, “God please heal me quickly. I want to start walking on my own. I want to go back to school to see my friends.”

When he went to bed at night, he prayed, “God please heal me quickly. I want to start walking on my own. I want to go back to school to see my friends.”

For two weeks, Itgel prayed.

One day, the doctor said, “Let's see how you're doing.”

He looked at the boy, gave him a shot, and said, “You're well! You can go home.”

Itgel was so happy! A big smile filled his face. God had answered his prayers.

When Itgel returned to school, his friends had many questions. They had missed him.

“What happened?” one boy asked.

“I was really sick,” Itgel said.

“How did you get well?” asked another boy.

“God healed me,” Itgel said. “I was really sick, but now I'm well because I prayed.”

Some of Itgel's friends didn't come from Christian homes and didn't believe in God.

“What?” said one boy. “It's just pure luck that you got well.”

“No way,” said another. “You aren't telling the truth.”

Itgel wasn't surprised. He wasn't upset. He knew that his friends didn't understand because they didn't know God. But he knew God, and he knew that God had healed him.

“You can say whatever you like, but it's true,” he said. “God healed me.”

Itgel wants his friends to know God. Ever since his sickness, he hasn't stopped telling them about Him.

Itgel's name means “faith,” and he intends to always have faith in God. “Even though some of my friends don't believe in God, I still believe in Him,” he said. “I saw that He healed me.”

Pray for Itgel and his friends at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help his school grow with new classrooms and a library. This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children's recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, where children will be able learn about the God who answers prayers.

Sunday – January 5th

1. When did Jesus apply this name to Himself?

➤ **John 8:58** —

NOTE : By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, "I AM THAT I AM. . . . Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel's deliverance. So when He came "in the likeness of men," He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God "manifest in the flesh." 1 Timothy 3:16. And to us He says: "I AM the Good Shepherd." "I AM the living Bread." "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." John 10:11; 6:51; 14:6; Matthew 28:18. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. "God with us" is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.—*The Desire of Ages*, page 24.

'I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee'

2. When Moses asked God to show him His glory, what did God promise to do?

➤ **Exodus 33:18-19** —

NOTE : In another place His name is given in a more extended form, so that we may more fully understand what it really is. When Moses asked the Lord to show him His Glory, the Lord said: "I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken. . . . I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee." "And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God." This is "Jehovah, Jehovah God;" "Jah;" and corresponds to "I Am," expressing existence.—*A. T. Jones: Review & Herald, September 17, 1895.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, January 5th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 11***

January 5th

Gift of God's Love

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

How can we understand God? How are we to know our Father? We are to call Him by the endearing name of Father. And how are we to know Him and the power of His love? It is through diligent search of the Scriptures. We cannot appreciate God unless we take into our souls the great plan of redemption. We want to know all about these grand problems of the soul, of the redemption of the fallen race. It is a wonderful thing that after man had violated the law of God and separated himself from God, was divorced, as it were, from God—that after all this there was a plan made whereby man should not perish, but that he should have everlasting life.... God gave His only-begotten Son to die for us.... When our minds are constantly dwelling upon the matchless love of God to the fallen race, we begin to know God, to become acquainted with Him....

Right here on this little atom of a world were enacted the grandest scenes that were ever known to humanity. All the universe of heaven was looking on with intense interest. Why? The great battle was to be fought between the power of darkness and the Prince of light. Satan's work was to magnify his power constantly.... He was all the time placing God in a false light. He was presenting Him as a God of injustice, and not a God of mercy. He was constantly stirring up their minds so that they would have an incorrect view of God.

How was God to be rightly represented to the world? How was it to be known that He was a God of love, full of mercy, kindness, and pity? How was the world to know this? God sent His Son, and He was to represent to the world the character of God....

We want to keep this perfect Pattern before us. God was so good as to send a representation of Himself in His Son Jesus Christ, and we want to get the mind and heart to unfold and reach upward.... Let yours be the prayer, Reveal Thyself to me, that in Thy matchless grace I may lay hold on the golden link, Christ, which has been let down from heaven to earth, that I may grasp it and be drawn upward.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, January 5th, 2025

Nehemiah

Chapter 13

Nehemiah's Final Reforms

- Neh 13:1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever;
- Neh 13:2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.
- Neh 13:3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.
- Neh 13:4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, *was* allied unto Tobiah:
- Neh 13:5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded *to be given* to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.
- Neh 13:6 But in all this *time* was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:
- Neh 13:7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.
- Neh 13:8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.
- Neh 13:9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.
- Neh 13:10 And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given *them*: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled everyone to his field.
- Neh 13:11 Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.
- Neh 13:12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.
- Neh 13:13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them *was* Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office *was* to distribute unto their brethren.
- Neh 13:14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.
- Neh 13:15 In those days saw I in Judah *some* treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified *against them* in the day wherein they sold victuals.
- Neh 13:16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.
- Neh 13:17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing *is* this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?
- Neh 13:18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.
- Neh 13:19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and *some* of my servants set I at the gates, *that* there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.
- Neh 13:20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

- Neh 13:21 Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do *so* again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no *more* on the sabbath.
- Neh 13:22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and *that* they should come *and* keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, *concerning* this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.
- Neh 13:23 In those days also saw I Jews *that* had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, *and* of Moab:
- Neh 13:24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.
- Neh 13:25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, *saying*, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.
- Neh 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.
- Neh 13:27 Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?
- Neh 13:28 And *one* of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, *was* son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.
- Neh 13:29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.
- Neh 13:30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, everyone in his business;
- Neh 13:31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Monday – January 6th

1. In fulfilling this promise what did God show Moses?

➤ **Exodus 34:5-7** —

NOTE : The glory of God is His character. While Moses was in the mount, earnestly interceding with God, he prayed, "I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory." In answer God declared, "I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." The glory of God, His character, was then revealed: "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, and that will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 33:18, 9 19; 34:6, 7). This character was revealed in the life of Christ. That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Constantly He beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world. Christ desires His followers to reveal in their lives this same character. In His intercessory prayer for His disciples He declared: "The glory [character] which Thou gave Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one; I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me" (John 17:22, 23).—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 322.

2. What was Moses' response to this proclamation of the name of the Lord?

➤ **Exodus 34:8** —

NOTE : As the Lord impressed upon the heart of Moses a clear sense of the divine goodness, mercy, and compassion, he was filled with deep joy, and reverence for God. "And he made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped."—*Signs of the Times*, June 3, 1880. '*Holy and reverend is His name*'

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, January 6th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 12***

January 6th

A Love Born of Mercy

I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 8:12

God’s love for the fallen race is a peculiar manifestation of love—a love born of mercy; for human beings are all undeserving. Mercy implies the imperfection of the object toward which it is shown. It was because of sin that mercy was brought into active exercise.

Sin is not the object of God’s love, but of His hatred. But He loves and pities the sinner. The erring sons and daughters of Adam are the children of His redemption. Through the gift of His Son He has revealed toward them His infinite love and mercy.

God proposes cooperation with His frail, erring creatures, whom He has placed on vantage ground. On the one side there are infinite wisdom, goodness, compassion, power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness, poverty, dependence.... Man is given the privilege of working with God in the saving of his own soul. He is to receive Christ as his personal Saviour and believe in Him. Receiving and believing is his part of the contract....

The plan of redemption was arranged in the counsels between the Father and the Son. Then Christ pledged Himself to render an account for man if he proved disloyal. He pledged Himself to make an atonement which would unite every believing soul to God. He who lays his sins upon the substitute and surety ... can unite with the apostle in saying: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.” “That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 2:7).

In His infinite love Christ devised the plan of salvation. This plan He stands ready to fulfill in behalf of all who will cooperate with Him. In their behalf He says to the Father, Do not impute their sins to them, but lay them on Me. Be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities remember no more. They have accepted My merits and made peace with Me.... My righteousness is theirs, and for My sake bless them with all spiritual blessings.

Daily Scripture

Monday, January 6th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 1

The King's Banquets

- Est 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this *is* Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, *over* an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)
- Est 1:2 *That* in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which *was* in Shushan the palace,
- Est 1:3 In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, *being* before him:
- Est 1:4 When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, *even* an hundred and fourscore days.
- Est 1:5 And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;
- Est 1:6 *Where were* white, green, and blue, *hangings*, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds *were of* gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.
- Est 1:7 And they gave *them* drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.
- Est 1:8 And the drinking *was* according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.
- Est 1:9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women *in* the royal house which *belonged* to king Ahasuerus.

Queen Vashti's Refusal

- Est 1:10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,
- Est 1:11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she *was* fair to look on.
- Est 1:12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by *his* chamberlains: therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.
- Est 1:13 Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so *was* the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:
- Est 1:14 And the next unto him *was* Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, *and* Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, *and* which sat the first in the kingdom;)
- Est 1:15 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?
- Est 1:16 And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that *are* in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.
- Est 1:17 For *this* deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.
- Est 1:18 *Likewise* shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus *shall there arise* too much contempt and wrath.

- Est 1:19 If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.
- Est 1:20 And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.
- Est 1:21 And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:
- Est 1:22 For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that *it* should be published according to the language of every people.

Tuesday – January 7th

1. How did the Psalmist speak of the name of the Lord?

➤ Psalm 111:9 —

NOTE : Reverence should be shown also for the name of God. Never should that name be spoken lightly or thoughtlessly. Even in prayer its frequent or needless repetition should be avoided. "Holy and reverend is His name." Psalm 111:9. Angels, as they speak it, veil their faces. With what reverence should we, who are fallen and sinful, take it upon our lips!—*Counsels for the Church*, page 252.

'If Christ were on earth today, surrounded by those who bear the title of "Reverend" or "Right Reverend," would He not repeat His saying, "Neither be ye called masters: for One is your Master, even Christ"? The Scripture declares of God, "Holy and reverend is His name." Psalm 111:9. To what human being is such a title befitting? How little does man reveal of the wisdom and righteousness it indicates! How many of those who assume this title are misrepresenting the name and character of God! Alas, how often have worldly ambition, despotism, and the basest sins been hidden under the brodered garments of a high and holy office!—*The Desire of Ages*, page 613.

2. How did Moses praise the name of the Lord?

➤ Deuteronomy 32:3-4 —

NOTE : The name of the Lord is mercy and grace and peace. This name put upon the soul, keeps it. The Lord says of the one who believes Him, and thus has the victory that has overcome the world, "I will write upon Him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, . . . and My new name." Revelation 3:12. So the trusting soul will be as safe as the New Jerusalem, and as God Himself. He says, "They that feared the Lord spoke one with another, and the Lord hearkened and heard and a book of remembrance was written before Him, for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Those who trust in the name have the name written upon them, and that shows to whom they belong. This is a pledge of safety, for the Lord will keep His own. His name upon us shows that we are His property, and He will defend us with His life against all adversaries. The devil knows the name of the Lord, and trembles at its power. He knows that God has put a hedge about every soul who trusts in His name. Though Satan goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, we are safe so long as we abide in the name of the Lord; and that name abides forever. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abides forever." Psalm 125:2. What a glorious promise, then, is the commandment that we shall never take the name of the Lord our God in vain!—*E. J. Waggoner: Present Truth*, April 18, 1901

3. Heaven's Hotline :



In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, January 7th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 13***

January 7th

Only One Redeemer

God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. Christ knew that He would have to suffer, yet He became man's substitute. As soon as Adam sinned, the Son of God presented Himself as surety for the human race.

Think of how much it cost Christ to leave the heavenly courts, and take His position at the head of humanity. Why did He do this? Because He was the only one who could redeem the fallen race. There was not a human being in the world who was without sin. The Son of God stepped down from His heavenly throne, laid off His royal robe and kingly crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity. He came to die for us, to lie in the tomb as human beings must, and to be raised for our justification. He came to become acquainted with all the temptations wherewith man is beset. He rose from the grave and proclaimed over the rent sepulchre of Joseph, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” One equal with God passed through death in our behalf. He tasted death for every man, that through Him every man might be a partaker of eternal life.

Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with Him into the heavenly courts, and through the eternal ages He will bear it as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God, the One who has pleaded before the Father, “I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.” The palms of His hands bear the marks of the wounds that He received. If we are wounded and bruised, if we meet with difficulties that are hard to manage, let us remember how much Christ suffered for us....

Our Saviour bore all that we are called upon to bear, so that no human being could say, “He does not know my suffering and my trials.” In all our afflictions He was afflicted....

Satan declared that human beings could not live without sin. Christ passed over the ground where Adam stumbled and fell, and by a sinless life placed the human race on vantage ground, that every one might stand before the Father, accepted in the Beloved.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, January 7th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 2

Esther Chosen Queen

- Est 2:1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.
- Est 2:2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:
- Est 2:3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given *them*:
- Est 2:4 And let the maiden which pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.
- Est 2:5 *Now* in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name *was* Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;
- Est 2:6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.
- Est 2:7 And he brought up Hadassah, that *is*, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid *was* fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.
- Est 2:8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.
- Est 2:9 And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, *which were* meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best *place* of the house of the women.
- Est 2:10 Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew *it*.
- Est 2:11 And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.
- Est 2:12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, *to wit*, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with *other* things for the purifying of the women;)
- Est 2:13 Then thus came *every* maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house.
- Est 2:14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.
- Est 2:15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.
- Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which *is* the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

- Est 2:17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.
- Est 2:18 Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, *even* Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.

Mordecai Discovers a Plot

- Est 2:19 And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate.
- Est 2:20 Esther had not *yet* shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him.
- Est 2:21 In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wrath, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.
- Est 2:22 And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told *it* unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king *thereof* in Mordecai's name.
- Est 2:23 And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.

Wednesday – January 8th

1. What aspect of God's name did Abraham understand?

- Genesis 22:14 —
- Genesis 22:8 —

NOTE : "Jehovah-jireh" means "The Lord will provide." "Let us inscribe upon our hearts "Jehovah-jireh," the Lord will provide. Abundant is the provision in heaven's store-house for all the needy. Let us seek and expect great blessings from on high.—*James White: Review & Herald, January 17, 1856.*

2. What aspect of God's name was revealed to Jeremiah?

- Jeremiah 23:5-6 —

NOTE: "The Lord Our Righteousness", as the marginal reference will show, is the name "Jehovah-Tsidkenu". "We have a living Saviour. He is not in Joseph's new tomb; He is risen from the dead and has ascended on high as a Substitute and Surety for every believing soul. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). The sinner is justified through the merits of Jesus, and this is God's acknowledgment of the perfection of the ransom paid for man. That Christ was obedient even unto the death of the cross is a pledge of the repenting sinner's acceptance with the Father. Then shall we permit ourselves to have a vacillating experience of doubting and believing, believing and doubting? Jesus is the pledge of our acceptance with God. We stand in favour before God, not because of any merit in ourselves, but because of our faith in "the Lord our righteousness."—*Faith & Works, page 107.*

"We know the Divine unity of the Father and the Son from the fact that both have the same Spirit. Paul, after saying that they that are in the flesh cannot please God, continues: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you, now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Romans 8:9. Here we find that the Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. Christ "is in the bosom of the Father;" being by nature of the very substance of God, and having life in Himself, He is properly called Jehovah, the self-existent One, and is thus styled in Jeremiah 23:5-6, where it is said that the righteous Branch, who shall execute judgment and justice in the earth, shall be known by the name of Jehovah-tsidkenu, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Let no one, therefore, who honours Christ at all, give Him less honour than He gives the Father, for this would be to dishonour the Father.—*E. J. Waggoner: Present Truth, January 9, 1896.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :



In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 14***

January 8th

The Most Exalted Theme

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

The plan of redemption, by which the merciful divine-human Redeemer rescued man from the thralldom of sin, is beyond the comprehension of men or of angels. It is indeed a mystery so surpassing, so grand, so sublime, that we can never hope fully to understand it.

Christ's sacrifice for fallen man has no parallel. It is the most exalted, sacred theme on which we can meditate. Every heart that is enlightened by the grace of God is constrained to bow with inexpressible gratitude and adoration before the Redeemer for His infinite sacrifice.

In His life Jesus of Nazareth differed from all other men.... He is the only true model of goodness and perfection. From the beginning of His ministry men began more clearly to comprehend the character of God.... Christ's mission on earth was to reveal to men that God was not a despot, but a heavenly Father, full of love and mercy for His children. He spoke of God by the endearing title of "My Father." ...

In all the sufferings and afflictions of man there is an Eye to pity, a Heart to love. "Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear him" (Psalm 103:13). God's tenderest care is exercised over us. He pities us in our weakness and in our sorrow. We may be despondent, even despairing; the heavy clouds of affliction may be over us; but there is light ahead. Beyond the gloom is a sympathetic, compassionate Friend, One who does not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men.

In the gracious blessings which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us we may discern innumerable evidences of a love that is infinite, and a tender pity surpassing a mother's yearning sympathy for her wayward child. When we study the divine character in the light of the cross we see mercy, tenderness, and forgiveness blended with equity and justice. In the language of John we exclaim: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 3

Haman Plots Against the Jews

- Est 3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that *were* with him.
- Est 3:2 And all the king's servants, that *were* in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence.
- Est 3:3 Then the king's servants, which *were* in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgress thou the king's commandment?
- Est 3:4 Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he *was* a Jew.
- Est 3:5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.
- Est 3:6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, *even* the people of Mordecai.
- Est 3:7 In the first month, that *is*, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, *to* the twelfth *month*, that *is*, the month Adar.
- Est 3:8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws *are* diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it *is* not for the king's profit to suffer them.
- Est 3:9 If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries.
- Est 3:10 And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.
- Est 3:11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver *is* given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to thee.
- Est 3:12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that *were* over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and *to* every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.
- Est 3:13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, *even* upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey.
- Est 3:14 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day.
- Est 3:15 The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.

Thursday – January 9th

1. What aspect of God's name was revealed to Gideon?

- Judges 6:24 —
- Romans 5:1-2 —
- Romans 8:7 —

NOTE : "Jehovah-shalom" means "The Lord send peace". 'Christ is "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6), and it is His mission to restore to earth and heaven the peace that sin has broken. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Whoever consents to renounce sin and open his heart to the love of Christ, becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace. There is no other ground of peace than this. The grace of Christ received into the heart, subdues enmity; it allays strife and fills the soul with love. He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmisings will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven and will diffuse its blessed influence on all around. The spirit of peace will rest like dew upon hearts weary and troubled with worldly strife. Christ's followers are sent to the world with the message of peace. Whoever, by the quiet, unconscious influence of a holy life, shall reveal the love of Christ; whoever, by word or deed, shall lead another to renounce sin and yield his heart to God, is a peacemaker. The spirit of peace is evidence of their connection with heaven. The sweet savour of Christ surrounds them. The fragrance of the life, the loveliness of the character, reveal to the world the fact that they are children of God. Men take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus.—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 320.

2. What name of God was revealed to Moses after the victory over the Amalekites? (Read chapter 17 to see why this name meant so much to Moses.)

- Exodus 17:15 —

NOTE : "Jehovah-nissi" means "The Lord my banner". 'He who serves under the bloodstained banner of Emmanuel often has that to do which calls for heroic effort and patient endurance. But the soldier of the cross stands unshrinking in the forefront of the battle. As the enemy presses the attack against him, he turns to the Stronghold for aid; and as he brings to the Lord the promises of the Word, he is strengthened for the duties of the hour. He realises his need of strength from above. The victories that he gains do not lead to self-exaltation, but cause him to lean more and more heavily on the Mighty One. Relying upon that power, he is enabled to present the message of salvation so forcibly that it awakens an answering chord in other minds.—*Gospel Workers*, page 16.

It was presented before me in the following manner: A large company of heathen idolaters bore a black banner, upon which were figures of the sun, moon, and stars. This company seemed to be very fierce and angry. I was then shown another company bearing a pure white banner, upon which was written, "Purity and holiness unto the Lord." Their countenances were marked with firmness and heavenly resignation. I saw the heathen idolaters approach them, and there was a great slaughter. The Christians melted away before them; and yet the Christian company pressed the more closely together, and held the banner more firmly. As many fell, others rallied around the banner and filled their places. I saw the company of idolaters consulting together. Failing to make the Christians yield, they agreed to another plan. I saw them lower their banner and then approach that firm Christian company and make propositions to them. At first their propositions were utterly refused. Then I saw the Christian company consulting together. Some said that they would lower the banner, accept the propositions, and save their lives, and at last they could gain strength to raise their banner among the heathen. A few, however, would not yield to this plan, but firmly chose to die holding their banner rather than to lower it. Then I saw many lower the banner and unite with the heathen; but the firm and steadfast would again seize it and bear it on high. I saw that persons were continually leaving the company of

those who bore the pure banner, and were uniting with the idolaters under the black banner, to persecute those bearing the white banner. Many were slain, yet the white banner was held high, and believers were raised up to rally around it.—*Early Writings, pages 211-212.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :



In Heavenly Places

Thursday, January 9th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 15***

January 9th

Righteousness Through Christ

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

The God of justice did not spare His Son.... The whole debt for the transgression of God's law was demanded from our Mediator. A full atonement was required. How appropriate are the words of Isaiah, "It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief." His soul was made "an offering for sin." "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:10, 5).

Jesus suffered the extreme penalty of the law for our transgression, and justice was fully satisfied. The law is not abrogated; it has not lost one jot of its force. Instead, it stands forth in holy dignity, Christ's death on the cross testifying to its immutability. Its demands have been met, its authority maintained.

God spared not His only-begotten Son. To show the depth of His love for man, He delivered Him up for us all. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Behold Him dying on the cross. Behold Him who was equal with God, mocked and derided by the mob. Behold Him in Gethsemane, bowed under the burden of the sins of the whole world.

Was the penalty remitted because He was the Son of God? Were the vials of wrath withheld from Him who was made sin for us? Without abatement the penalty fell upon our divine-human Substitute.

Hear His cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). He was treated as a sinner, that we might be treated as righteous, that God might be just, and yet the justifier of the sinner....

The love existing between the Father and His Son cannot be portrayed. It is measureless. In Christ, God saw the beauty and perfection of excellence that dwells in Himself. Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth, for God spared not His own Son, but gave Him up to be made sin for us, that those who believe may be made the righteousness of God in Him....

Language is too feeble for us to attempt to portray the love of God. We believe it, we rejoice in it, but we cannot comprehend it.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, January 9th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 4

Esther Agrees to Help the Jews

- Est 4:1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;
- Est 4:2 And came even before the king's gate: for none *might* enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.
- Est 4:3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, *there was* great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.
- Est 4:4 So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told *it* her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received *it* not.
- Est 4:5 Then called Esther for Hatach, *one* of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it *was*, and why it *was*.
- Est 4:6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which *was* before the king's gate.
- Est 4:7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.
- Est 4:8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew *it* unto Esther, and to declare *it* unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.
- Est 4:9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.
- Est 4:10 Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;
- Est 4:11 All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, *there is* one law of his to put *him* to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.
- Est 4:12 And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.
- Est 4:13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
- Est 4:14 For if thou altogether hold thy peace at this time, *then* shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knows whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?
- Est 4:15 Then Esther bade *them* return Mordecai *this answer*,
- Est 4:16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.
- Est 4:17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Preparation Day - January 10th

1. When the early human beings divided into two distinct groups, how did one group distinguish itself from the other?

➤ **Genesis 4:26** —

NOTE : The people of God, in the days of Enos, began to call upon, or, according to the margin, to call themselves by the name of the Lord; [Genesis 4:26,] thus distinguishing themselves from the rest of the world by an open and solemn profession. By faith in this promise, from time to time, in some manner and form, renewed and confirmed, the church of God was continued from generation to generation, to the days of Noah, and thence to the days of Abraham.—*James White: Review & Herald, October 25, 1853.*

2. Why is the name of the Lord so important?

➤ **Romans 10:13** —

➤ **Acts 4:12** —

➤ **Joel 2:32** —

NOTE : We are living in the last days, in a time when we may expect much from the Lord. These words should bring us to the throne of grace to claim great things of Him. Here the promise is given that on the men and women and on our sons and daughters the Holy Spirit is to come; and "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This brings to view a wonderful work to be done, for which we need the converting power of God in our hearts every day. It is our privilege to experience this. Heaven is full of blessings, and it is our privilege to claim the rich promises of God for our individual selves.

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, January 10th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 16***

January 10th

Not to Condemn But to Save

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 3:17

There are souls who are trembling in unbelief. They ask, “How can I know that God is reconciled to me? How can I be assured that He loves and pardons me?” It is not for you, dear youth, to make yourselves just with God. Jesus invites you to come to Him with all your burdens and perplexities.... Accept the promise and the provision that God has made.... Look away from self to Jesus; for in Christ the character of the Father is revealed.¹⁵

The blood of Christ in ever-abiding efficacy is our only hope, for through His merits alone we have pardon and peace.

The character of God as revealed by Christ invites our faith and love, for we have a Father whose mercy and compassion fail not. At every step of our journey heavenward He will be with us to guide in every perplexity, to give us help in every temptation.

Your reason and imagination should be touched with the life-giving power of Christ, that forms of beauty and truth may be impressed thereon. There are great and precious truths that demand your contemplation, in order that you may have a sound foundation for your faith by having a correct knowledge of God. O that the superficial, vain seeker for truth would learn that the world by wisdom, however much acquired, knew not God.

It is proper to seek to learn all that is possible from nature, but do not fail to look from nature to Christ for the complete representation of the character of the living God. By contemplation of Christ, by conformity to the divine likeness, your conceptions of the divine character will expand, and your mind and heart will be elevated, refined, and ennobled. Let the youth aim high, not relying upon human wisdom, but living day by day as seeing Him who is invisible, doing their work as in the sight of the intelligences of heaven....

He who constantly depends upon God through simple trust and prayerful confidence, will be surrounded by the angels of heaven. He who lives by faith in Christ, will be strengthened and upheld, able to fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold upon eternal life.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, January 10th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 5

Esther Prepares a Banquet

- Est 5:1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on *her* royal *apparel*, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
- Est 5:2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, *that* she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that *was* in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.
- Est 5:3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what *is* thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.
- Est 5:4 And Esther answered, If *it seem* good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.
- Est 5:5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.
- Est 5:6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.
- Est 5:7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request *is*;
- Est 5:8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said.

Haman Plans to Hang Mordecai

- Est 5:9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.
- Est 5:10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.
- Est 5:11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all *the things* wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.
- Est 5:12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.
- Est 5:13 Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.
- Est 5:14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

Adult Mission Story

Friday, January 10th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Elberel [El-ber-el] grew annoyed during the Covid-19 lockdown. He studied at Tusgal School, the only Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia, and it was among the first to go to online classes. He didn't enjoy sitting in front of the computer screen every day while children who went to public school were laughing and having fun.

He asked his mom if he could transfer to the public school.

Mom said she didn't mind, but Dad said no. He was an Adventist pastor, and he was studying far away from home at Andrews University in the United States. Dad told Mom, "I'm not in Mongolia to help you. But we can't risk our son's future by sending him to public school. He might pick up bad habits." So, Mom changed her mind and told Elberel that he had to stay at the Adventist school.

Elberel, however, didn't give up. He asked Dad, "What about next year instead?"

Father didn't relent.

Seeing it was useless to persist, Elberel didn't say anything more.

But then the public school also went to online classes, and Elberel no longer saw other children laughing and having fun. The feeling of urgency to change schools passed.

After the lockdown ended and all schools reopened, Elberel began to think about public school again. The problem was a girl in his class. She seemed to like to argue with him and to insult him.

After two months, Elberel had had enough. He thought it would be easier to change schools than to put up with the girl. He called his dad, who was still studying at Andrews University.

"This girl keeps insulting me," he said. "I want to transfer to public school."

Father tried to talk Elberel out of his plan.

“You can’t transfer for something as little as that,” he said. “Even more kids will insult you in public school.”

But Elberel didn’t give up, and Dad relented. “I’ll let you transfer next school year,” he said.

Over the summer, Dad changed his mind, but Elberel remained steadfast in his determination to go to public school. He had studied at the Adventist school since second grade, and he was sure that it would be a healthy challenge for him to study somewhere else. He pleaded with Mom to allow him to transfer. Finally, his parents agreed, but Dad cautioned him to be careful.

“Ignore the kids who have bad habits,” he said.

Elberel promised that he would.

The first day at public school came as a shock to Elberel. Many of the boys in his class seemed to be vaping all the time.

They also insulted each other constantly. After school, they hung out and drank alcohol. Elberel didn’t want those kind of friends.

Moreover, Elberel had a problem with lunch. At the Adventist school, the children received a vegetarian lunch in the cafeteria every day, but the public school didn’t have a cafeteria. Elberel had to look for a place to buy food on the street.

As the days passed, Elberel realized that he had another problem. The classwork wasn’t challenging. He already knew everything that was being taught.

After a month, Elberel had had enough. He wished that he had listened to Dad, but he felt embarrassed to admit that he had been wrong. He prayed, “God, what should I do? Should I stay in the public school, where I am surrounded by bad influences and not learning anything new? Or should I return to the Adventist school and have to deal with that girl?”

The next day, Mom asked Elberel about his classes. Hearing that he wasn’t learning anything new, she asked, “Would you like to go back to the Adventist school?”

The question was like music to Elberel’s ears. He sensed God was answering his prayer. “Yes,” he said. “I want to go back.”

When Dad heard the news, he was happy.

“It isn’t too late,” he said. “You still can go back.”

Elberel has to wait a few more days before he can transfer back to Tusgal School. He can’t wait — and he has a plan on how to deal with the girl. “I plan to ignore her,” he said. “My dad said she wouldn’t be as much of a problem if I just ignored her.”

Tusgal School, located in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, received part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to grow with new classrooms and a library. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter, which will help open a recreation center to introduce children to Jesus in Ulaanbaatar.

LESSON 3

“THY KINGDOM COME”

January 11 — January 17

MEMORY VERSE : *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say to you, ‘Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ ” [John 3:5]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 107-108

LESSON AIM : To study what the kingdom of God is.

INTRODUCTION : The kingdom of God's grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is to be given to "the people of the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:27. They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them "from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. And Christ will take to Himself His great power and will reign.—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 108*

Sabbath – January 11th

1. When Jesus began His ministry, what was the topic of His preaching?

➤ Mark 1:14 —

➤ Luke 9:1-2 —

NOTE : Christ sent forth His disciples with the message, "The kingdom of God is at hand." The proclamation of this message is our work. Jesus said, "This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Let us proclaim the message, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Thus we may hasten the coming of the Saviour. "Thy kingdom come." For ages this prayer has been ascending to God from contrite hearts. It will surely be answered. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. The heavenly gates are again to be lifted up, and with ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy ones, our Saviour will come forth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Jehovah Immanuel shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name shall be one. "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."—*Signs of the Times, October 28, 1903*

2. Heaven's Hotline :



E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, January 11th, 2025

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings

Chapter 5, p. 107-108

The LORD's Prayer

This name is hallowed by the angels of heaven, by the inhabitants of unfallen worlds. When you pray, "Hallowed be Thy name," you ask that it may be hallowed in this world, hallowed in you. God has acknowledged you before men and angels as His child; pray that you may do no dishonour to the "worthy name by which ye are called." James 2:7. God sends you into the world as His representative. In every act of life you are to make manifest the name of God. This petition calls upon you to possess His character. You cannot hallow His name, you cannot represent Him to the world, unless in life and character you represent the very life and character of God. This you can do only through the acceptance of the grace and righteousness of Christ.

"Thy kingdom come." [Matthew 6:10]

God is our Father, who loves and cares for us as His children; He is also the great King of the universe. The interests of His kingdom are our interests, and we are to work for its upbuilding.

The disciples of Christ were looking for the immediate coming of the kingdom of His glory, but in giving them this prayer Jesus taught that the kingdom was not then to be established. They were to pray for its coming as an event yet future. But this petition was also an assurance to them. While they were not to behold the coming of the kingdom in their day, the fact that Jesus bade them pray for it is evidence that in God's own time it will surely come.

The kingdom of God's grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven," is to be given to "the people of the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:27. They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them "from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34. And Christ will take to Himself His great power and will reign.

The heavenly gates are again to be lifted up, and with ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy ones, our Saviour will come forth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Jehovah Immanuel "shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one." "The tabernacle of God" shall be with men, "and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 21:3.

But before that coming, Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations." Matthew 24:14. His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Hence, as we give ourselves to God, and win other souls to Him, we hasten the coming of His kingdom. Only those who devote themselves to His service, saying, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8), to open blind eyes, to turn men "from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified" (Acts 26:18)--they alone pray in sincerity, "Thy kingdom come."

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." [Matthew 6:10]

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, January 11th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 17***

January 11th

Infinite Power

Who is this cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Isaiah 63:1

The only-begotten Son of God came to this world to redeem the fallen race. He has given us evidence of His great power. He will enable those who receive Him to build up characters free from all the tendencies that Satan reveals. We can resist the enemy and all his forces. The battle will be won, the victory gained, by him who chooses Christ as his leader, determined to do right because it is right.

Our divine Lord is equal to any emergency. With Him nothing is impossible. He has shown His great love for us by living a life of self-denial and sacrifice and by dying a death of agony. Come to Christ just as you are.... Cast yourself wholly on His mercy. There is no difficulty within or without that cannot be surmounted in His strength.

Some have stormy tempers; but He who calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee will say to the troubled heart, “Peace, be still.” There is no nature so rebellious that Christ cannot subdue it, no temper so stormy that He cannot quell it, if the heart is surrendered to His keeping.

He who commits his soul to Jesus need not despond. We have an all-powerful Saviour. Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith, you can say, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea” (Psalm 46:1, 2)....

Let us have more confidence in our Redeemer. Turn not from the waters of Lebanon to seek refreshment at broken cisterns, which can hold no water. Have faith in God. Trustful dependence on Jesus makes victory not only possible but certain. Though multitudes are pressing on in the wrong way, though the outlook be ever so discouraging, yet we may have full assurance in our Leader; for “I am God,” He declares, “and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22). He is infinite in power, and able to save all who come to Him. There is no other in whom we can safely trust.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, January 11th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 6

The King Honours Mordecai

- Est 6:1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.
- Est 6:2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.
- Est 6:3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.
- Est 6:4 And the king said, Who *is* in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
- Est 6:5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman stands in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.
- Est 6:6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delights to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?
- Est 6:7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delights to honour,
- Est 6:8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king *use* to wear, and the horse that the king rides upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:
- Est 6:9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man *withal* whom the king delights to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honour.
- Est 6:10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, *and* take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sits at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.
- Est 6:11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delights to honour.
- Est 6:12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.
- Est 6:13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends *everything* that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai *be* of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

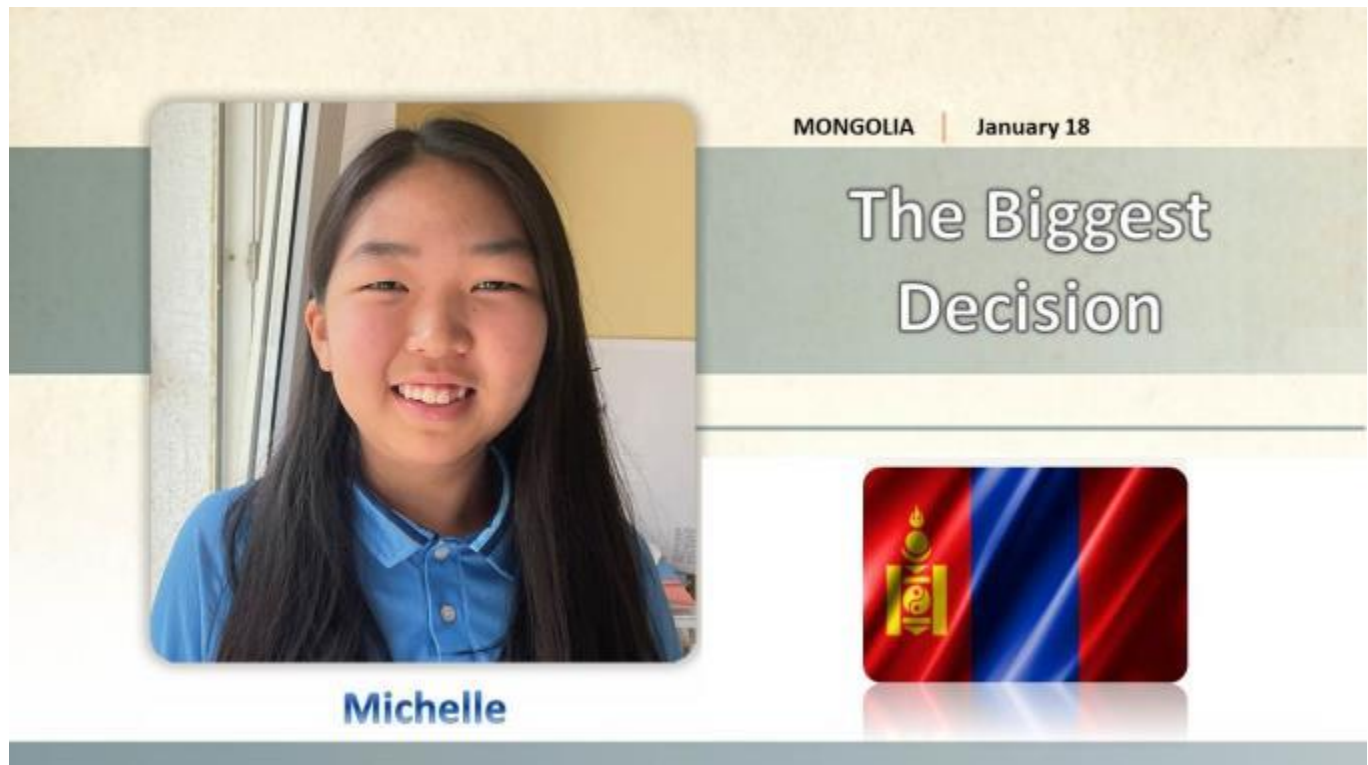
Esther Reveals Haman's Plot

- Est 6:14 And while they *were* yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, January 11th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Thirteen-year-old Michelle was talking with her best friend, Enkhjin, [INKH-zhin] at a Pathfinder club meeting, and Enkhjin told her that she planned to get baptized on Sabbath.

“Don’t you want to get baptized together?” she asked.

Michelle thought to herself, “Should I get baptized, or should I wait? Maybe I’ll ask Mom when I get home.”

Out loud, she said, “I don’t know.”

Enkhjin looked disappointed. The two girls had learned about Jesus in Pathfinders together. They had studied the Bible together. Now Enkhjin wanted to give her heart to Jesus in baptism, and she wanted Michelle to join her. She looked sad, but out loud she said only, “OK, OK.”

Michelle decided to talk with Mom.

When she returned home, she first went to her bedroom to change out of her Pathfinder uniform. In her bedroom was her older cousin, whose name was also Enkhjin.

“I’m going to get baptized on Sabbath,” Enkhjin said. “Why don’t we get baptized together?”

Michelle was so surprised! In one day, two girls named Enkhjin had told her that they planned to be baptized. In one day, two girls named Enkhjin had asked her to be baptized.

Now she really wanted to talk to Mom.

“I need to talk with Mom,” she said.

Enkhjin looked disappointed. They had studied the Bible together. That summer, they had gone to evangelistic meetings every night at their church together. Now she wanted to give her heart to Jesus in baptism, and she wanted Michelle to join her.

Michelle found Mom. She didn’t tell her about the conversations with Enkhjin or Enkhjin. She just asked, “Should I get baptized next Sabbath?”

Mom looked thoughtful. Dad was away from home for work, and she knew that he wouldn’t want to miss his daughter’s baptism. “Dad is away, so he wouldn’t be able to see it,” she said. “Why don’t you get baptized at the big Pathfinder camporee in South Korea instead?”

In a few weeks, Michelle planned to go to South Korea for a camporee of Pathfinders from all over Mongolia and other countries.

But Mom’s idea didn’t make sense to Michelle. Neither Dad nor Mom planned to go to the camporee. If she waited, neither of them would see her baptism. At that moment, she knew what decision she had to make. If she didn’t give her heart to Jesus next Sabbath, there would always be an excuse for waiting until later. She loved Jesus with all her heart, and she wanted to give it to Him. She told Mom, “I’d better get baptized here and now.”

Mom smiled. “Well, go ahead and get baptized then,” she said.

Michelle’s cousin Enkhjin was so happy when she heard that they would be baptized together. Michelle’s best friend, Enkhjin, was so happy when she heard that they would be baptized together.

On Sabbath, the girls got on a bus and rode to a river with other people who were going to be baptized.

Right before Michelle entered the river, a question popped into her head.

“Am I really ready?” she thought. “Is this really my decision?”

She remembered how her best friend had asked her to get baptized. She wondered, “Am I getting baptized because Enkhjin asked me?” She remembered how her cousin had asked her to get baptized. She wondered, “Am I getting baptized because the other Enkhjin asked me?” She remembered how Mom had suggested that she wait. Then she remembered how much she loved Jesus and how she wanted to live for Him today and forever. She got baptized with a happy smile.

Afterward, many people congratulated Michelle on her decision.

“You have made the most important decision of your life,” someone said.

Today, Michelle is so happy that she got baptized. She could have waited and kept saying, “Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow.” But instead, she decided to make the biggest decision of her life on that summer day.

“I always knew that I wanted to give my heart to Jesus, but I didn’t know when the right time was,” she said. “Now I know that the right time was not tomorrow but today.”

Michelle is a student at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help her school grow with new classrooms and a library. This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children’s recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, where more children will be able learn about God.

Sunday – January 12th

1. What did the Jews understand by the kingdom of God?

- Acts 1:6 —
- Luke 19:11 —
- John 6:15 —

NOTE : The Jewish nation . . . were also under bondage to the Romans, and required to pay tribute to them. The Jews were unreconciled to their bondage, and looked forward to the triumph of their nation through the Messiah, the powerful deliverer foretold in prophecy. Their views were narrow. They thought the Coming One would, at His appearing, assume kingly honours, and, by force of arms, subdue their oppressors, and take the throne of David. Had they, with humble minds and spiritual discernment, studied the prophecies, they would not have been found in so great error as to overlook the prophecies which pointed to His first advent in humility, and misapply those which spoke of His second coming with power and great glory. The Jewish people had been striving for power. They were ambitious for worldly honours. They were proud and corrupt, and could not discern sacred things. They could not distinguish between those prophecies which pointed to the first advent of Christ, and those that described His second, glorious appearing. The power and glory described by the prophets as attending His second advent, they looked for at His first advent. Their national glory was to them their greatest anxiety. Their ambitious desire was the establishment of a temporal kingdom, which they supposed would reduce the Romans to subjection, and exalt themselves with authority and power to reign over them. They had made the proud boast to those to whom they were in subjection, that they were not to oppress them long; for their reign would soon commence, which would be more exalted and glorious than even that of Solomon.—*Spirit of Prophecy, volume 2, page 14.*

2. How did Christ's preaching concerning the kingdom of God differ from that of the Jews?

- Luke 17:20-21 —

NOTE : Some of the Pharisees had come to Jesus demanding "when the kingdom of God should come." More than three years had passed since John the Baptist gave the message that like a trumpet call had sounded through the land, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2. And as yet these Pharisees saw no indication of the establishment of the kingdom. Many of those who rejected John, and at every step had opposed Jesus, were insinuating that His mission had failed. Jesus answered, "The kingdom of God cometh not with outward show; [margin]: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The kingdom of God begins in the heart. Look not here or there for manifestations of earthly power to mark its coming.—*The Desire of Ages, page 506.*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 18***

January 12th

Christ the Revelation of God

For the Father himself loves you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

John 16:27

In viewing the holiness and glory of the God of the universe, we are terrified, for we know that His justice will not permit Him to clear the guilty. But we need not remain in terror; for Christ came to the world to reveal the character of God, to make plain to us His paternal love toward His adopted children. We are not to estimate the character of God by the stupendous works of nature alone, but by the simple, lovely life of Jesus, who presented Jehovah as more merciful, more compassionate, more tender, than our earthly parents.

Jesus presented the Father as one to whom we could give our confidence and present our wants. When we are in terror of God, and overwhelmed with the thought of His glory and majesty, the Father points us to Christ as His representative. What you see revealed in Jesus, of tenderness, compassion, and love, is the reflection of the attributes of the Father. The cross of Calvary reveals to man the love of God. Christ represents the Sovereign of the universe as a God of love. By the mouth of the prophet He said, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3).

We have access to God through the merits of the name of Christ, and God invites us to bring to Him our trials and temptations; for He understands them all. He would not have us pour out our woes to human ears. Through the blood of Christ we may come to the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need. We may come with assurance, saying, “My acceptance is in the Beloved.” “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him” (Ephesians 2:18; Ephesians 3:12).

As an earthly parent encourages his child to come to him at all times, so the Lord encourages us to lay before Him our wants and perplexities, our gratitude and love. Every promise is sure. Jesus is our Surety and Mediator, and has placed at our command every resource, that we may have a perfect character.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

Esther
Chapter 7

- Est 7:1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.
- Est 7:2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What *is* thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what *is* thy request? and it shall be performed, *even* to the half of the kingdom.
- Est 7:3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:
- Est 7:4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.
- Est 7:5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?
- Est 7:6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

Haman Is Hanged

- Est 7:7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath *went* into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.
- Est 7:8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther *was*. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- Est 7:9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, stands in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.
- Est 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Monday – January 13th

1. In what way did Jesus illustrate the truth that the kingdom of God is within?

➤ **Matthew 13:33** —

NOTE : "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." . . . Man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change can be effected. The leaven, something wholly from without, must be put into the meal before the desired change can be wrought in it. So the grace of God must be received by the sinner before he can be fitted for the kingdom of glory. All the culture and education which the world can give will fail of making a degraded child of sin a child of heaven. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. All who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power. As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 96-97.

2. How does one become part of the kingdom of God?

➤ **John 3:3, 5** —

NOTE : The great truth of the conversion of the heart by the Holy Spirit is presented in Christ's words to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind blows where it lists, and thou hears the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth. So is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:3-8, margin. . . . The leaven hidden in the flour works invisibly to bring the whole mass under its leavening process; so the leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up, the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are roused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened. We are endowed with traits of character that enable us to do service for God.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 98

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, January 13th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 19***

January 13th

A Mutual Contract

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12

Salvation is secured by a mutual contract. “As many as *received him*, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.” Will you, with all your heart and mind and soul, enter into this contract?

Look to your Redeemer in faith and loving trust, for power and wisdom to do the work of character building. He sits as a refiner, to purify the gold and silver from all dross. Then look continually unto Him, and no cheap or worthless material will be brought into the structure of your character building.

By faith you may accept the merits of the blood of the Son of God, which He has shed that the sinner might not perish, but have everlasting life. God has laid upon Him all power, that He may impart help to everyone who will break with Satan and acknowledge Christ as his only hope.... When you are ready to cooperate with Him who can keep you from falling, your resolutions will be of some value. Christ, the chief Healer, will make you whole. He works mightily with everyone who is in earnest. He will give strength and victory. All the mean and wicked traits of character can be taken away by the One who has purchased you as His property....

Make a break with the enemy. Cast yourselves loose from the prince of the power of the air and from the legion of his associates.

Satan will resist the efforts of those who choose to stand on the Lord’s side. He will resort to every kind of deception to frustrate their efforts. But God has given His Son to bear the sins of those who seek His truth and righteousness. He stands ready to impart grace to everyone who looks to Him in faith....

The exercise of faith and manly courage will enlarge the comprehension of what it means to be a Christian. We are to seek for that faith which works by love and purifies the soul. We shall have severe conflicts with our hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil. There must be a firm dependence upon the Captain of our salvation. He will not fail to do His part.

Daily Scripture

Monday, January 13th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 8

Esther Saves the Jews

- Est 8:1 On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he *was* unto her.
- Est 8:2 And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.
- Est 8:3 And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.
- Est 8:4 Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,
- Est 8:5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing *seem* right before the king, and I *be* pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which *are* in all the king's provinces:
- Est 8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?
- Est 8:7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.
- Est 8:8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it likens you, in the king's name, and seal *it* with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse.
- Est 8:9 Then were the king's scribes called at that time in the third month, that *is*, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth *day* thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which *are* from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.
- Est 8:10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed *it* with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, *and* riders on mules, camels, *and* young dromedaries:
- Est 8:11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which *were* in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, *both* little ones and women, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey,
- Est 8:12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, *namely*, upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which *is* the month Adar.
- Est 8:13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province *was* published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
- Est 8:14 *So* the posts that rode upon mules *and* camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.
- Est 8:15 And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.
- Est 8:16 The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour.
- Est 8:17 And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.

Tuesday – January 14th

1. What does it mean to be born again?

➤ **Romans 12:1-2** —

NOTE : There is nothing that can keep you away from God but a rebellious will. The will is the governing power in the nature of man. If the will is set right, all the rest of the being will come under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the choice, the deciding power, the kingly power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or to disobedience. You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises and your faith are of no account until you put your will on the right side. If you will fight the fight of faith with your will power, there is no doubt that you will conquer. Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you. You can never be successful in elevating yourself, unless your will is on the side of Christ, co-operating with the Spirit of God. Do not feel that you cannot; but say, "I can, I will." And God has pledged His Holy Spirit to help you in every decided effort.—*My Life Today*, page 318.

2. How did Jesus convey the value we should place upon the kingdom of heaven?

➤ **Matthew 13:45-46** —

NOTE : When Christ compared the kingdom of heaven to a pearl of great price He desired to lead every soul to appreciate that pearl above all else. The possession of the pearl, which means the possession of Christ as a personal Saviour, is a symbol of the highest riches. It is a treasure above every earthly treasure. There are some who are seeking, always seeking, for the goodly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They never know what it is to have peace and harmony in the soul; for without entire self-surrender there is no rest, no joy. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved means to be not almost but wholly lost. In the parable the merchantman is represented as selling all that he had to gain possession of one pearl of great price. This is a beautiful representation of those who appreciate the truth so highly that they give up all they have to come into possession of it. They lay hold by faith of the salvation provided for man at the sacrifice of the only-begotten Son of God. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no guilt, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious truths of God's Word. They are not a mixture of truth and error. They are without a flaw.—*In Heavenly Places*, page 49

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 20***

January 14th

A Change of Heart

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 3:19

In order to be saved, we must know by experience the meaning of true conversion. It is a fearful mistake for men and women to go on day by day professing to be Christians yet having no right to the name. In God's sight profession is nothing, position is nothing. He asks, Is the life in harmony with My precepts? There are many who suppose that they are converted but who are not able to bear the test of character presented in the Word of God....

Conversion is a change of heart, a turning from unrighteousness to righteousness. Relying upon the merits of Christ, exercising true faith in Him, the repentant sinner receives pardon for sin. As he ceases to do evil and learns to do well, he grows in grace and in the knowledge of God. He sees that in order to follow Jesus he must separate from the world, and after counting the cost, he looks upon all as loss if he may but win Christ. He enlists in His army and bravely and cheerfully engages in the warfare, fighting against natural inclinations and selfish desires and bringing the will into subjection to the will of Christ. Daily he seeks the Lord for grace, and he is strengthened and helped. Self once reigned in his heart, and worldly pleasure was his delight. Now self is dethroned, and God reigns supreme. His life reveals the fruit of righteousness. The sins he once loved he now hates. Firmly and resolutely he follows in the path of holiness. This is genuine conversion....

Let us not forget that in his conversion and sanctification man must cooperate with God. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” the Word declares. “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12, 13). Man cannot transform himself by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change may be affected. The renewing energy must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. He who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working of this power.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 9

The Jews Destroy Their Enemies

- Est 9:1 Now in the twelfth month, that *is*, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;)
- Est 9:2 The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.
- Est 9:3 And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.
- Est 9:4 For Mordecai *was* great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.
- Est 9:5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.
- Est 9:6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.
- Est 9:7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,
- Est 9:8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,
- Est 9:9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,
- Est 9:10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.
- Est 9:11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.
- Est 9:12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what *is* thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what *is* thy request further? and it shall be done.
- Est 9:13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which *are* in Shushan to do to morrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.
- Est 9:14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.
- Est 9:15 For the Jews that *were* in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.
- Est 9:16 But the other Jews that *were* in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,
- Est 9:17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- Est 9:18 But the Jews that *were* at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth *day* thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth *day* of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- Est 9:19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwall'd towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar *a day of* gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

The Feast of Purim Inaugurated

- Est 9:20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that *were* in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, *both* nigh and far,
- Est 9:21 To stablish *this* among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,
- Est 9:22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.
- Est 9:23 And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;
- Est 9:24 Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that *is*, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;
- Est 9:25 But when *Esther* came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.
- Est 9:26 Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and *of that* which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,
- Est 9:27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their *appointed* time every year;
- Est 9:28 And *that* these days *should be* remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and *that* these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.
- Est 9:29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.
- Est 9:30 And he sent the letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty and seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, *with* words of peace and truth,
- Est 9:31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times *appointed*, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.
- Est 9:32 And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

Wednesday – January 15th

1. What further illustration did Christ give of the sacrifice required to gain the kingdom of heaven?

➤ **Matthew 13:44** —

NOTE : A man hires land to cultivate, and as the oxen plough the soil, buried treasure is unearthed. As the man discovers this treasure, he sees that a fortune is within his reach. Restoring the gold to its hiding place, he returns to his home and sells all that he has, in order to purchase the field containing the treasure. His family and his neighbours think that he is acting like a madman. Looking on the field, they see no value in the neglected soil. But the man knows what he is doing; and when he has a title to the field, he searches every part of it to find the treasure that he has secured. This parable illustrates the value of the heavenly treasure, and the effort that should be made to secure it. The finder of the treasure in the field was ready to part with all that he had, ready to put forth untiring labour, in order to secure the hidden riches. So the finder of heavenly treasure will count no labour too great and no sacrifice too dear, in order to gain the treasures of truth.—*Christ's Object Lessons, page 104*

2. What sort of person will inhabit the kingdom of heaven?

➤ **Matthew 5:3** —

➤ **Matthew 18:1-4** —

NOTE : The sense of need, the recognition of our poverty and sin, is the very first condition of acceptance with God. "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3.' Christ's Object Lessons, page 152. 'Before honour is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who, like John the Baptist, takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labour for God. The heavenly intelligences can co-operate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls. He who feels most deeply his need of divine aid will plead for it; and the Holy Spirit will give to him glimpses of Jesus that will strengthen and uplift the soul. From communion with Christ he will go forth to work for those who are perishing in their sins. He is anointed for his mission; and he succeeds where many of the learned and intellectually wise would fail. But when men exalt themselves, feeling that they are a necessity for the success of God's great plan, the Lord causes them to be set aside. It is made evident that the Lord is not dependent upon them. The work does not stop because of their removal from it, but goes forward with greater power. It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with its principles. Calling a little child to Him, Jesus set him in the midst of them; then tenderly folding the little one in His arms He said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness, and the confiding love of a little child are the attributes that Heaven values. These are the characteristics of real greatness.—*The Desire of Ages, pages 436-437*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 21***

January 15th

God’s Grace Transforms the Life

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:7

The great truth of the conversion of the heart by the Holy Spirit is presented in Christ’s words to Nicodemus: “Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born from above [margin], he cannot see the kingdom of God.... That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:3-6).

It is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this bad habit or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart....

The leaven of truth works secretly, silently, steadily, to transform the soul. The natural inclinations are softened and subdued. New thoughts, new feelings, new motives, are implanted. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. The mind is changed; the faculties are aroused to action in new lines. Man is not endowed with new faculties, but the faculties he has are sanctified. The conscience is awakened.

The Scriptures are the great agency in this transformation of character. Christ prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). If studied and obeyed, the Word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us, body, soul, and spirit, to His will.

A man sees his danger. He sees that he needs a change of character, a change of heart. He is stirred; his fears are aroused. The Spirit of God is working in him, and with fear and trembling he works for himself, seeking to find out his defects of character and to see what he can do to bring about the needed change in his life.... He confesses his sins to God, and if he has injured anyone, he confesses the wrong to the one he has injured.... He acts in harmony with the Spirit’s working, and his conversion is genuine.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025

Esther

Chapter 10

The Greatness of Mordecai

- Est 10:1 And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and *upon* the isles of the sea.
- Est 10:2 And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?
- Est 10:3 For Mordecai the Jew *was* next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.

Thursday – January 16th

1. What must be the priority in the lives of those who wish to enter the kingdom of God?

➤ **Matthew 6:33** —

NOTE : The people who listened to the words of Christ were still anxiously watching for some announcement of the earthly kingdom. While Jesus was opening to them the treasures of heaven, the question uppermost in many minds was: How will a connection with Him advance our prospects in the world? Jesus shows that in making the things of the world their supreme anxiety they were like the heathen nations about them. "All these things," said Jesus, "do the nations of the world seek after" (Luke 12:30). I have come to open to you the kingdom of love and righteousness and peace. Open your hearts to receive this kingdom, and make its service your highest interest. Though it is a spiritual kingdom, fear not that your needs for this life will be uncared for. Jesus does not release us from the necessity of effort, but He teaches that we are to make Him first and last and best in everything. We are to engage in no business, follow no pursuit, seek no pleasure, that would hinder the outworking of His righteousness in our character and life. Whatever we do is to be done heartily, as unto the Lord. — *God's Amazing Grace, page 21.*

2. What work has Christ entrusted to His Church in order to bring about the establishment of the kingdom of God?

➤ **Matthew 24:14** —

NOTE : His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Hence, as we give ourselves to God, and win other souls to Him, we hasten the coming of His kingdom. Only those who devote themselves to His service, saying, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8), to open blind eyes, to turn men "from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified" (Acts 26:18), they alone pray in sincerity, "Thy kingdom come."—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 108*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 22***

January 16th

A Mighty Unseen Power

The wind blows where it lists, and thou hears the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:8

The Holy Spirit strives with every man. It is the voice of God speaking to the soul.

No human reasoning of the most learned man can define the operations of the Holy Spirit upon human minds and characters, yet they can see the effects upon the life and actions....

Though we cannot see the Spirit of God, we know that men who have been dead in trespasses and sins become convicted and converted under its operations. The thoughtless and wayward become serious. The hardened repent of their sins, and the faithless believe. The gambler, the drunkard, the licentious, become steady, sober, and pure. The rebellious and obstinate become meek and Christlike.

When we see these changes in the character, we may be assured that the converting power of God has transformed the entire man. We saw not the Holy Spirit, but we saw the evidence of its work on the changed character of those who were hardened and obdurate sinners. As the wind moves in its force upon the lofty trees and brings them down, so the Holy Spirit can work upon human hearts, and no finite man can circumscribe the work of God....

You cannot see the operating agency, but you can see its effects.

Those who not only hear but do the words of Christ, make manifest in character the operation of the Holy Spirit. The result of the internal operation of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated in the outward conduct. The life of the Christian is hid with Christ in God, and God acknowledges those who are His, declaring, “Ye are my witnesses.” They testify that divine power is influencing their hearts and shaping their conduct. Their works give evidence that the Spirit is moving upon the inward man; those who are associated with them are convinced that they are making Jesus Christ their pattern.

Those who are in connection with God are channels for the power of the Holy Spirit.... The inner life of the soul will reveal itself in the outward conduct.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, January 16th, 2025

Job

Chapter 1

Job's Character and Wealth

- Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.
- Job 1:2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.
- Job 1:3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.
- Job 1:4 And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, everyone his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.
- Job 1:5 And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings *according* to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Satan Allowed to Test Job

- Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.
- Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence come thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.
- Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews evil?
- Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
- Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.
- Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Satan Takes Job's Property and Children

- Job 1:13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:
- Job 1:14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were ploughing, and the asses feeding beside them:
- Job 1:15 And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
- Job 1:16 While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
- Job 1:17 While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.
- Job 1:18 While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:
- Job 1:19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

- Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,
- Job 1:21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.
- Job 1:22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Preparation Day – January 17th

1. How was the coming kingdom of God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar?

➤ **Daniel 2:44-45** —

NOTE : "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel 2:44. This kingdom was seen in the dream as "a stone cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces;" and they "became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors, and the wind carried them away, and no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth." Verses 34, 35. This is God's plan for making Christ the King of this earth. It is the gospel plan. And any attempt to make Christ the King of this world, by any of those means through which earthly power is gained and exercised, is only the wildest folly. The motive may be worthy enough, but the effort is absolutely without knowledge. When Christ's kingdom comes, then, as He has taught us, God's will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This means that the earth will then be perfect, without sin or sinner. And that will be the new earth; for the present one is "reserved unto fire, against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." [2 Peter 3:7] It is the preaching of the gospel, and that alone, which can hasten the kingdom of Christ.—A. T. Jones: *The American Sentinel*, October 24, 1895

2. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, January 17th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 23***

January 17th

Sure Remedy for Sin

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:18

That which should cause us the deepest joy is the fact that God forgives sin. If we take Him at His word and forsake our sins, He is ready and willing to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He will give us a pure heart and the abiding presence of His Spirit, for Jesus lives to intercede for us. But ... spiritual things are spiritually discerned. It is a living, active, abiding faith that discerns the will of God, that appropriates the promises, and profits by the truths of His word. It is not because we are righteous, but because we are dependent, faulty, erring, and helpless ourselves, that we must rely upon Christ's righteousness, and not upon our own.

When you receive the words of Christ as if they were addressed to you personally, when each applies the truth to himself as if he were the only sinner on the face of the earth for whom Christ died, you will learn to claim by faith the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour....

Many feel that their faults of character make it impossible for them to meet the standard that Christ has erected, but all that such ones have to do is to humble themselves at every step under the mighty hand of God. Christ does not estimate the man by the amount of work he does, but by the spirit in which the work is performed.

When He sees men lifting the burdens, trying to carry them in lowliness of mind, with distrust of self and with reliance upon Him, He adds to their work His perfection and sufficiency, and it is accepted of the Father. We are accepted in the Beloved. The sinner's defects are covered by the perfection and fullness of the Lord our Righteousness. Those who with sincere will, with contrite heart, are putting forth humble efforts to live up to the requirements of God, are looked upon by the Father with pitying, tender love; He regards such as obedient children, and the righteousness of Christ is imputed unto them.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, January 17th, 2025

Job

Chapter 2

Satan Attacks Job's Health

- Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.
- Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence come thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.
- Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews evil? and still he holds fast his integrity, although thou moved me against him, to destroy him without cause.
- Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.
- Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine hand; but save his life.
- Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.
- Job 2:8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.
- Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Do thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.
- Job 2:10 But he said unto her, Thou speak as one of the foolish women speak. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job's Three Friends

- Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came everyone from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.
- Job 2:12 And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent everyone his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven.
- Job 2:13 So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that *his* grief was very great.

Adult Mission Story

Friday, April 18th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Mom was upset when her 22-year-old daughter, Debbie, started going to the Seventh-day Adventist church in Mongolia.

“Don’t go to the Americans’ meetings,” she said. “They’re spies.”

It was September 1992, and Mongolia was in a state of post-Communist transition.

Mom’s ire grew when Debbie decided to give her heart to Jesus in baptism in 1993. Debbie was the first Adventist convert in Mongolia after the Communist collapse.

“Americans are bad people,” Mom said.

“They’re spies, and they’re going to ruin our country by winning our hearts and then using us.”

Christianity was not the traditional religion in Mongolia, but Mom thought all religion was bad. She was a staunch atheist who had actively supported communism. Through her influence, many people became Party members. For her work, she had been awarded a special pin of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, and she wore it proudly.

There seemed to be no way that Mom would ever change her mind about God.

Debbie left Mongolia for two years to study at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines. When she returned home, she invited Mom to a small Bible study group that she had formed. At the time,

Mongolia’s fledgling Adventist Church consisted mostly of young people, and the small Bible study group was aimed at

older people. The group’s first five members were Mom, two of her sisters, the mother of the first Mongolian pastor, and the mother of another church member.

Mom was very cautious about the small Bible study group, but she also was curious. She had seen a change in Debbie. Once proud, Debbie had become mild. Once bossy, she had become obedient to her mother and respectful of her sister.

“She has changed,” Mom thought. “What caused her to change?”

Then Debbie’s sister, who once had fiercely opposed Christianity, was herself baptized. Mom saw that she also had changed.

That was enough. In 2000, Mom decided to give her allegiance to the God of heaven. She was baptized and joined the Adventist Church at the age of 53. In fact, all five members of the small Bible study group ended up getting baptized.

Once an active recruiter for Lenin, Mother became an ardent witness for God. Once a seeker of members for the Party, she became a seeker of lost sheep for the Kingdom. Through her influence, many people gave their hearts to Jesus.

Mom was faithful until her death. She not only loved God, but she also loved to give to God. When she grew so weak that she could no longer go to church, a house church was organized in her home. She said that a worship service was not complete without the offering so, at her request, a collection box was brought to her bed so she could personally give an offering.

Mom died of gallbladder cancer at the age of 74 in 2020. But she remained a witness even after her death.

A traditional Mongolian funeral usually involves many expensive rituals. But, at her request, she was buried at a simple Christian funeral. Her funeral was so different from the usual funerals that her relatives were amazed. They realized that something was different about Christianity.

“Wow, what a peaceful funeral,” said one. “I would like my funeral to be like that,” said another.

But Mom’s witness didn’t end there. She continues to preach from her tombstone in the cemetery. Her tombstone contains the promise of Isaiah 30:18, “Blessed are all those who wait for Him” (NKJV).

Shortly before she died, she told Debbie, “My hope is in Christ. I want to sleep until He comes.”

Now Mom is waiting on the Lord to raise her up on that glorious morning.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will continue the missionary work of Mom — whose name is Tserenjav Danzan [CZAR-en-jav DAN-za] — and other faithful Seventh-day Adventists who are now resting in their graves in Mongolia. Part of this quarter’s offering on March 29 will help open a recreation center that will teach children and their parents about Jesus in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar

LESSON 4

“THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN”

January 25 - January 31

MEMORY VERSE : *“And the world passes away, and the lusts thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever.” [1 John 2:17]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ God's Amazing Grace, page 348

LESSON AIM : To study what it means to do the will of God.

INTRODUCTION : The will of God is expressed in the precepts of His holy law, and the principles of this law are the principles of heaven. The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers. But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy. So in every soul wherein Christ, the hope of glory, dwells, His words are re-echoed, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. The petition, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," is a prayer that the reign of evil on this earth may be ended, that sin may be forever destroyed, and the kingdom of righteousness be established. Then in earth as in heaven will be fulfilled "all the good pleasure of His goodness." [2 Thessalonians 1:11]—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 109-110*

Sabbath – January 18th

1. How did the Lord express His will for mankind?

➤ Exodus 20:1-17 —

NOTE : We are not only to say, "I believe," but to practise the truth. It is by conformity to the will of God in our words, our deportment, our character, that we prove our connection with Him. Whenever one renounces sin, which is the transgression of the law, his life will be brought into conformity to the law, into perfect obedience. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. The light of the Word carefully studied, the voice of conscience, the strivings of the Spirit, produce in the heart genuine love for Christ, who gave Himself a whole sacrifice to redeem the whole person, body, soul, and spirit. And love is manifested in obedience. The line of demarcation will be plain and distinct between those who love God and keep His commandments, and those who love Him not and disregard His precepts.—*Counsels for the Church, page 295.*

2. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, January 18th, 2025

God’s Amazing Grace

Chapter 12, p. 348 “The Kingdom of Glory”

“Why Not Now?”

December 6th

For they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:34

Jesus said, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matthew 24:14). His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace have been carried to all the earth. Hence, as we give ourselves to God, and win other souls to Him, we hasten the coming of His Kingdom. Only those who devote themselves to His service ... pray in sincerity, “Thy kingdom come.” ...

The petition, “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,” is a prayer that the reign of evil on this earth may be ended, that sin may be forever destroyed, and the kingdom of righteousness be established. Then in earth as in heaven will be fulfilled “all the good pleasure of his goodness” (2 Thessalonians 1:11).¹⁰

Christ will not be satisfied until the victory is complete, and “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied” (Isaiah 53:11). All the nations of the earth shall hear the gospel of His grace. Not all will receive His grace; but “a seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation” (Psalm 22:30). “The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High,” and the “earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” “So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun” (Daniel 7:27; Isaiah 11:9; 59:19).

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace; that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigns! ... Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places: ... for the Lord hath comforted his people.... The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:7-10).

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, January 18th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 24***

January 18th

A New Creation

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Let your cry be to God, Convert my inmost soul. Plead with God for the transforming power of His grace. Hold fast to your Saviour as did Jacob, until God shall not only reveal to you yourself but shall reveal to you Himself and you shall see in Jesus a strength and support, a brightness and power, you have never sensed and realized. Your soul's salvation is in great peril, and now do not, I plead with you, deceive your own soul. If your faith perseveringly grasps the promises, you will prevail. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

As long as you are true to yourself, no adverse power of earth or hell will be able to destroy your peace or interrupt your communion with God. If you fear God you need not walk in uncertainty. If you please Him you will secure everything which your soul requires. The language of an eminent Christian was, “There is nothing in the universe I fear but that I shall not know all my duty, or shall fail to do it.” ...

Stand up for Jesus, though it may require any sacrifice, any self-denial. Stand up for Jesus; anywhere, anywhere, stand up for Jesus. Do all your work as though you could see through the veil and God's eye were directed full upon you, taking cognizance of every action. He hath purchased you with His own blood, and when you need His help, call upon Him and you will have it. It is then Jesus will stand up for you.

Let your short, uncertain life be a continual preparation for the future immortal life. Temptation is allowed to come upon us to discover the character we possess and to improve our defects. There are continual solicitations to sin which are disguised to deceive and allure the soul to ruin. Satan will transform himself into an angel of light, and he is constantly plotting to rob God of His glory in the destruction of souls. I beseech of you for your soul's sake to resist the devil that he may flee from you. Hang your helpless soul on God.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, January 18th, 2025

Job

Chapter 3

Job Laments His Birth

- Job 3:1 After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.
- Job 3:2 And Job spake, and said,
- Job 3:3 Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night *in which* it was said, There is a man child conceived.
- Job 3:4 Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.
- Job 3:5 Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.
- Job 3:6 As *for* that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months.
- Job 3:7 Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein.
- Job 3:8 Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.
- Job 3:9 Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but *have* none; neither let it see the dawning of the day:
- Job 3:10 Because it shut not up the doors of my *mother's* womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.
- Job 3:11 Why died I not from the womb? *why* did I *not* give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?
- Job 3:12 Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck?
- Job 3:13 For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest,
- Job 3:14 With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves;
- Job 3:15 Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver:
- Job 3:16 Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants *which* never saw light.
- Job 3:17 There the wicked cease *from* troubling; and there the weary be at rest.
- Job 3:18 *There* the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.
- Job 3:19 The small and great are there; and the servant *is* free from his master.
- Job 3:20 Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter *in* soul;
- Job 3:21 Which long for death, but it *cometh* not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;
- Job 3:22 Which rejoice exceedingly, *and* are glad, when they can find the grave?
- Job 3:23 *Why is light given* to a man whose way is hid, and whom God hath hedged in?
- Job 3:24 For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.
- Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.
- Job 3:26 I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, January 18th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



When Ninjin [nin-GIN] was 8, she and her parents moved far away from their home in Mongolia to live as missionaries in a foreign land.

Ninjin was excited to move. She couldn’t wait to make new friends. But the first day at her new school was hard. She didn’t understand a word that anyone said. She just sat at her desk and was quiet. The next day, Ninjin decided to make new friends. She introduced herself to the other children by pointing to herself and saying her name, “Ninjin, Ninjin.” A month passed, and Ninjin was able to talk a little bit with the other children. But it seemed like the other children didn’t really want to talk with her.

One day, the teacher told all the children to take turns reading out loud from a textbook.

When Ninjin began to read, the girl in front of her turned around with an angry face.

“You’re talking too loud,” she said. “Shh!”

The other children giggled.

Ninjin didn’t understand what the girl said. When it was her turn to read again, she read just as loudly as the first time.

The girl again scowled and hissed, “Shh!” The other children giggled. Ninjin didn’t understand and kept on reading.

Then the girl picked up a stick of glue and threw it at Ninjin. The glue hit her on the head, and the children laughed. The angry girl stood up and hit Ninjin.

Ninjin was shocked. She looked over at the teacher, who was sitting at her desk. The teacher was looking at the textbook and didn't seem to notice anything.

When Ninjin went home, she told Mom what had happened. Mom went to school and spoke with the teacher, but the teacher didn't believe Ninjin's story. She said that the girl sitting in front of Ninjin would never act unkindly to anyone.

“She's a very sweet girl,” she said.

Ninjin realized that the teacher wouldn't help her, but she was sure God would help her. She decided to pray.

A few days later, Ninjin was changing out of her school clothes after school and found glue all over the back of her skirt. The skirt was ruined. She wondered how the glue had gotten there. When she went to school the next day, she found dried glue smeared on her chair. She realized that someone must have poured glue on her chair and that was how it got onto her skirt.

She told Mom, and Mom spoke with the school principal. A security camera in Ninjin's classroom had recorded the whole thing. Ninjin watched the video recording. It showed Ninjin leaving the classroom to go to the restroom. It showed several girls rubbing glue all over her chair. Ninjin could see their faces and at that moment, Ninjin felt very lonely. It was hard being a missionary kid in a country where she didn't know the language and no one seemed to want to be her friend. She missed Mongolia.

After that, Ninjin didn't want to go to school anymore. But she had to go. There was no other school. Ninjin prayed.

Two months later, Mom said they were moving back to Mongolia. The family couldn't get new visas, allowing them to stay. The missionaries had no choice but to leave.

“This must be God's will,” Dad said.

Today, Ninjin is 12 years old, and she has forgiven the kids who bullied her.

“At first, I couldn't forgive them,” she said.

But then she remembered what Jesus teaches about forgiveness. He said, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14, 15; NKJV). That means Jesus cannot forgive the sins of anyone who refuses to forgive others.

“After talking to God several times, I remembered that He has forgiven me for all my sins,” Ninjin said. “So, I realized that I have to forgive those bullies, too.”

She is glad that she had the bad experience. She is more sensitive to kids who are picked on for being weaker or not knowing the language. She gently confronts unkind children, saying, “That kid you're picking on has feelings, too. Please be kind.”

“I'm really thankful that God blessed me with this school and this country and the experience that He gave me as a missionary kid,” she said. “I just thank Him that I have Him beside me.”

Ninjin studies at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped her school grow with new classrooms and a library. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help open a children's recreation center in Ulaanbaatar.

Sunday – January 19th

1. How did Christ explain that obedience to God's will is of crucial importance, rather than a mere profession of faith?

➤ **Matthew 7:21-23** —

NOTE : The gifts of [God's] grace through Christ are free to all. There is no election but one's own by which any may perish. God has set forth in His word the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life, obedience to His commandments, through faith in Christ. God has elected a character in harmony with His law, and anyone who shall reach the standard of His requirement will have an entrance into the kingdom of glory. Christ Himself said, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life." John 3:36. "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21. And in the Revelation He declares, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14. As regards man's final salvation, this is the only election brought to view in the word of God.—*Patriarchs & Prophets, page 207*

2. How did Christ give us an example of doing the will of God?

➤ **John 4:34** —

➤ **John 5:30** —

➤ **John 6:38** —

NOTE : As the head of humanity, Christ lived on this earth a perfect, consistent life, in conformity with the will of His heavenly Father. Always uppermost in His mind and heart was the thought "Not My human will, but Thy will, be done."—*Christ Triumphant, page 227*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Sunday, January 19th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 25***

January 19th

The Shepherd's Tender Care

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:7

The beautiful parable that Christ gave of the one lost sheep, of the shepherd that left the ninety and nine to go in search of that which was lost, illustrates the care of the great Shepherd. He did not look carelessly over the sheep of the fold, and say, “I have ninety and nine, and it will cost me too much trouble to go in search of the straying one; let him come back, and I will open the door of the sheepfold and let him in; but I cannot go after him.” No.... He counts and recounts the flock, and when he is certain that one sheep is lost, he slumbers not. He leaves the ninety and nine within the fold; however dark and tempestuous the night, however perilous and unpleasant the way, however long and tedious the search, he does not weary, he does not falter, until the lost is found.

But when it is found, does he act indifferently? Does he call the sheep, and command the straying one to follow him? Does he threaten and beat it, or drive it before him, recounting the bitterness and discomfiture and anxiety that he has had on its account? No; he lays the weary, exhausted, wandering sheep on his shoulder, and ... returns it to the fold. His gratitude finds expression in melodious songs of rejoicing, and heavenly choirs respond to the shepherd's note of joy.... For “joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.” Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine” (John 10:14). Just as a shepherd of earth knows his sheep, so does the chief Shepherd know His flock that are scattered throughout the whole world.... “And ye, my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God” (Ezekiel 34:31).

However lowly, however elevated we may be, whether we are in the shadow of adversity or in the sunshine of prosperity, we are His sheep, the flock of His pasture, and under the care of the chief Shepherd.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, January 19th, 2025

Job

Chapter 4

Eliphaz Speaks: The Innocent Prosper

- Job 4:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,
Job 4:2 *If* we assay to commune with thee, wilt thou be grieved? but who can withhold himself from speaking?
Job 4:3 Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.
Job 4:4 Thy words have upheld him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.
Job 4:5 But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it touches thee, and thou art troubled.
Job 4:6 *Is* not *this* thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?
Job 4:7 Remember, I pray thee, whoever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off?
Job 4:8 Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.
Job 4:9 By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.
Job 4:10 The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken.
Job 4:11 The old lion perishes for lack of prey, and the stout lion's whelps are scattered abroad.
Job 4:12 Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.
Job 4:13 In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men,
Job 4:14 Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake.
Job 4:15 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:
Job 4:16 It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image *was* before mine eyes, *there was* silence, and I heard a voice, *saying*,
Job 4:17 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?
Job 4:18 Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:
Job 4:19 How much less *in* them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation *is* in the dust, *which* are crushed before the moth?
Job 4:20 They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding *it*.
Job 4:21 Doth not their excellency *which is* in them go away? they die, even without wisdom.

Monday – January 20th

1. What supreme example of obedience to God's will did Christ show?

➤ **Matthew 26:39-44** —

NOTE : The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour. He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonised soul. The awful moment had come, that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. He might say, Let the transgressor receive the penalty of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony? Will the innocent suffer the consequences of the curse of sin, to save the guilty? The words fall tremblingly from the pale lips of Jesus, "O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." Three times has He uttered that prayer.—*A Call to Stand Apart, page 33*

2. With what spirit are we to do the will of God?

➤ **Psalms 40:8** —

NOTE : The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely, because he is required to do so, will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right, because right doing is pleasing to God.—*Christ's Object Lessons, page 97*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, January 20th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 26***

January 20th

God Has Chosen Me

God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. 2

Thessalonians 2:13

In this text the two agencies in the salvation of man are revealed—the divine influence, the strong, living faith of those who follow Christ....

Sanctification is the work, not of a day or of a year, but of a lifetime. The struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a lifelong struggle.... Paul’s sanctification was the result of a constant conflict with self. He said, “I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31).... It is by unceasing endeavour that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy, and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose.

There is a science of Christianity to be mastered—a science as much deeper, broader, higher, than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for we are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Our hearts must be educated to become steadfast in God. We are to form habits of thought that will enable us to resist temptation. By a life of holy endeavour and firm adherence to the right the children of God are to seal their destiny....

The word that was spoken to Jesus at the Jordan embraces humanity. God spoke to Jesus as our representative. With all our sins and weaknesses, we are not cast aside as worthless. “He hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:6). The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer—how the human voice may reach the ear of God and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven.... The light which fell from the open portals upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation. The voice which spoke to Jesus says to every believing soul, “This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased.”

Daily Scripture

Monday, January 20th, 2025

Job

Chapter 5

- Job 5:1 Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn?
- Job 5:2 For wrath kills the foolish man, and envy slays the silly one.
- Job 5:3 I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation.
- Job 5:4 His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither *is there* any to deliver *them*.
- Job 5:5 Whose harvest the hungry eats up, and taketh it even out of the thorns, and the robber swallows up their substance.
- Job 5:6 Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;
- Job 5:7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.
- Job 5:8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:
- Job 5:9 Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:
- Job 5:10 Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sends waters upon the fields:
- Job 5:11 To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.
- Job 5:12 He disappoints the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform *their* enterprise.
- Job 5:13 He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong.
- Job 5:14 They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night.
- Job 5:15 But he saves the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty.
- Job 5:16 So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stops her mouth.
- Job 5:17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:
- Job 5:18 For he makes sore, and binds up: he wounds, and his hands make whole.
- Job 5:19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.
- Job 5:20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.
- Job 5:21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.
- Job 5:22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.
- Job 5:23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.
- Job 5:24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle *shall be* in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.
- Job 5:25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed *shall be* great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.
- Job 5:26 Thou shalt come to *thy* grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.
- Job 5:27 Lo this, we have searched it, so it *is*; hear it, and know thou *it* for thy good.

Tuesday – January 21st

1. How did John explain what loving God really means?

➤ **1 John 5:2-3** —

NOTE : There are those who profess holiness, who declare that they are wholly the Lord's, who claim a right to the promises of God, while refusing to render obedience to His commandments. These transgressors of the law claim everything that is promised to the children of God; but this is presumption on their part, for John tells us that true love for God will be revealed in obedience to all His commandments. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth, to make a profession of faith in Christ, to believe that Jesus is no impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. "He that saith, I know Him, and keeps not His commandments," John wrote, "is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him." "He that keeps His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him." 1 John 2:4, 5; 3:24.—*Acts of the Apostles, page 562. 'From the heart*

2. How does Paul emphasise the difference between true obedience and its counterfeit?

➤ **Ephesians 6:6-7** —

NOTE : Let no one say, "I cannot overcome my defects of character"; for if this is your decision, then you cannot have eternal life. The impossibility is all in your will. If you will not, that constitutes the cannot. The real difficulty is the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the will of God. When there is a determined purpose born in your heart to overcome, you will have a disposition to overcome, and will cultivate those traits of character that are desirable, and will engage in the conflict with steady, persevering effort. You will exercise a ceaseless watchfulness over your defects of character, and will cultivate right practices in little things. The difficulty of overcoming will be lessened in proportion as the heart is sanctified by the grace of Christ. What a work might have been done for us as individuals, if our proud and stubborn wills had been wholly submerged in the will of God, and our souls lifted up from earthliness to a higher, purer atmosphere! Self-will and pride are evils that turned angels into demons and barred the gates of heaven against them. You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, but you can control the will, and you can make an entire change in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God, and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from God that will hold you fast to His strength; and a new light, even the light of living faith, will be possible to you. There will be in you a power, an earnestness, and a simplicity that will make you a polished instrument in the hands of God.—*Sons & Daughters of God, page 115*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 27***

January 21st

Cooperating With Heaven

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12, 13

Man, in the work of saving of the soul, is wholly dependent upon God. He cannot of himself move one step toward Christ unless the Spirit of God draws him, and this drawing is ever, and will continue until man grieves the Holy Ghost by his persistent refusal....

The Spirit is constantly showing to the soul glimpses of the things of God, and then a divine presence seems to hover near, and if the mind responds, if the door of the heart is opened, Jesus abides with the human agent....

The Spirit of God does not propose to do our part, either in the willing or the doing.... As soon as we incline our will to harmonize with God's will, the grace of Christ stands ready to cooperate with the human agent; but it will not be the substitute to do our work independent of our resolving and decidedly acting. Therefore it is not the abundance of light, and evidence piled upon evidence, that will convert the soul. It is only the human agent accepting the light, arousing the energies of the will, realizing and acknowledging that which he knows is righteousness and truth, and thus cooperating with the heavenly ministrations appointed of God in the saving of the soul.

If the sinner or the backslider settles himself in disobedience and sin, the light may flash from heaven all about him, ... without breaking the bewitching power of falsehood and the spell of the world's deception....

Obey not the voice of the deceiver, which is in harmony with the unsanctified will, but obey the impulse that God has given.... Everything is at stake. Will the human agent cooperate with the divine “to will and to do”? If man places his will on God's side, fully surrendering self to God's will, the high and holy endeavour of the human agent takes down the obstruction he himself has erected, the rubbish is cleared away from the door of the heart, the defiance barricading the soul is broken down. The door of the heart is opened and Jesus enters, to abide as a welcome guest.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

Job

Chapter 6

Job Replies: My Complaint Is Just

- Job 6:1 But Job answered and said,
Job 6:2 Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together!
Job 6:3 For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.
Job 6:4 For the arrows of the Almighty *are* within me, the poison whereof drinks up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.
Job 6:5 Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or lows the ox over his fodder?
Job 6:6 Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there *any* taste in the white of an egg?
Job 6:7 The things *that* my soul refused to touch *are* as my sorrowful meat.
Job 6:8 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant *me* the thing that I long for!
Job 6:9 Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!
Job 6:10 Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.
Job 6:11 What *is* my strength, that I should hope? and what *is* mine end, that I should prolong my life?
Job 6:12 *Is* my strength the strength of stones? or *is* my flesh of brass?
Job 6:13 *Is* not my help in me? and is wisdom driven quite from me?
Job 6:14 To him that is afflicted pity *should be shewed* from his friend; but he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.
Job 6:15 My brethren have dealt deceitfully as a brook, *and* as the stream of brooks they pass away;
Job 6:16 Which are blackish by reason of the ice, *and* wherein the snow is hid:
Job 6:17 What time they wax warm, they vanish: when it is hot, they are consumed out of their place.
Job 6:18 The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.
Job 6:19 The troops of Tema looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them.
Job 6:20 They were confounded because they had hoped; they came thither, and were ashamed.
Job 6:21 For now ye are nothing; ye see *my* casting down, and are afraid.
Job 6:22 Did I say, Bring unto me? or, Give a reward for me of your substance?
Job 6:23 Or, Deliver me from the enemy's hand? or, Redeem me from the hand of the mighty?
Job 6:24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.
Job 6:25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?
Job 6:26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, *which are* as wind?
Job 6:27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig *a pit* for your friend.
Job 6:28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for *it is* evident unto you if I lie.
Job 6:29 Return, I pray you, let it not be iniquity; yea, return again, my righteousness *is* in it.
Job 6:30 Is there iniquity in my tongue? cannot my taste discern perverse things?

Wednesday – January 22nd

1. What prayer could we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ?

➤ Colossians 4:12 —

2. Who was Epaphras?

➤ Philemon 1:23 —

NOTE : The truth of God revealed in His word is to be a living, abiding principle. It is not to be looked upon as an influence among many others. It will exercise a power over the life and conduct until the whole being is assimilated to the image of the perfect pattern, and the human agent is complete in Jesus Christ. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him, rooted and built up," not in self, not after man's ideas, but in Him; established "in the faith as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Your greatest danger will be that you will not see the need of contemplating the character of Christ with a set purpose to imitate His life, and conform your character to His character. You are to show a marked difference between your character and that of the world. "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power." "Epaphras who is one of you, a servant of Christ, salutes you always labouring for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."—*Paulson Collection, page 391*

3. What particular aspect of the will of God did Jesus fulfil?

➤ Galatians 1:3-4 —

NOTE : When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin. It is His will to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. Christ "gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Galatians 1:4. And "this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." 1 John 5:14, 15. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.—*The Desire of Ages, page 266*

4. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 28***

January 22nd

In the Hands of the Potter

But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Isaiah 64:8

In His Word God compares Himself to a potter and His people to the clay. His work is to mold and fashion them after His own similitude. The lesson they are to learn is the lesson of submission. Self is not to be made prominent. If due attention is given to the divine instruction, if self is surrendered to the divine will, the hand of the Potter will produce a shapely vessel.

The excellence of a genuine connection with Christ comes with obedience to the words, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me....” The worker who has this experience has an intense longing to know the fullness of the love that passes knowledge. His capacity to enjoy the love of God constantly increases. Learning daily in the school of Christ he has a constantly increasing capacity to grasp the meaning of the sublime truths that are as far-reaching as eternity....

He realizes that he is material with which God is working, and that he must be passive in the Master’s hands. Trials come to him, for unless tested by trial and disappointment he would never know his lack of wisdom and experience.

If he seeks the Lord with humility and trust, every trial will work for his good. He may sometimes seem to fail, but his supposed failure to reach the place where he hoped to stand may be God’s way of bringing his advancement. He thinks that he has failed, but his supposed failure means a better knowledge of himself and a firmer trust in God.... He may make mistakes, but he learns not to repeat these mistakes. United with Christ, the True Vine, he is enabled to bear fruit to the glory of God....

The Lord desires us to be meek and lowly and contrite, yet filled with the assurance that comes from a knowledge of the will of God. He “hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.... Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace ...” (2 Timothy 1:7-9).

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

Job

Chapter 7

Job Continues: My Life Has No Hope

- Job 7:1 *Is there* not an appointed time to man upon earth? *are not* his days also like the days of an hireling?
- Job 7:2 As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looks for *the reward of* his work:
- Job 7:3 So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.
- Job 7:4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossing to and fro unto the dawning of the day.
- Job 7:5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.
- Job 7:6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.
- Job 7:7 O remember that my life *is* wind: mine eye shall no more see good.
- Job 7:8 The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no *more*: thine eyes *are* upon me, and I *am* not.
- Job 7:9 *As* the cloud is consumed and vanishes away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no *more*.
- Job 7:10 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him anymore.
- Job 7:11 Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.
- Job 7:12 *Am* I a sea, or a whale, that thou sets a watch over me?
- Job 7:13 When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;
- Job 7:14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifies me through visions:
- Job 7:15 So that my soul chooses strangling, *and* death rather than my life.
- Job 7:16 I loathe *it*; I would not live always: let me alone; for my days *are* vanity.
- Job 7:17 What *is* man, that thou should magnify him? and that thou should set thine heart upon him?
- Job 7:18 And *that* thou should visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment?
- Job 7:19 How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?
- Job 7:20 I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?
- Job 7:21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I *shall* not *be*.

Thursday – January 23rd

1. How did Paul explain the ultimate purpose of God's will for us?

➤ 1 Thessalonians 4:3 —

➤ Revelation 14:8 —

NOTE : "This is the will of God," the apostle Paul wrote, "even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. The sanctification of the church is God's object in all His dealings with His people. He has chosen them from eternity, that they might be holy. He gave His Son to die for them, that they might be sanctified through obedience to the truth, divested of all the littleness of self. From them He requires a personal work, a personal surrender. God can be honoured by those who profess to believe in Him, only as they are conformed to His image and controlled by His Spirit. Then, as witnesses for the Saviour, they may make known what divine grace has done for them.—*Acts of the Apostles, page 559*

2. What prayer of David should be ours also?

➤ Psalm 143:10 —

➤ Psalm 32:8 —

NOTE : It is not the mere letter of the words which gives the light and the understanding, but the Word is in a special manner written upon the heart, applied by the Holy Spirit. To the mind and heart consecrated to God, an increased measure of understanding is given as the light is communicated to others. The more room one shall give for the entrance of the Word of God, the more he is enriched intellectually as well as spiritually. He will have a clearer and less biased judgment and his views will be more comprehensive. His estimates of spiritual things will be more correct. His understanding, under the working power of the Holy Spirit, is exercised to digest the truth by making it a personal benefit by the strengthening of the soul to do self-denying works. Oh, I thank the Lord with heart and soul and voice that the Lord can, by the entrance of the Word into the heart, enlarge our faculties of understanding distinctly and clearly, not only spiritual things but the temporal things with which we are connected. The sanctifying grace of God upon the human mind sanctifies the reasoning powers. This will be kept before the mind, Will this action that I propose to enter into glorify God? There will be an humble spirit of deep humility, and less dependence will be placed upon human wisdom and far more confidence to reach out after God with the humble prayer, Teach me Thy way and Thy will. And the Lord will create a train of thought that will be safe to follow. Past experiences will be revived, and the safe way will be fastened in the mind. The divine power co-operates with the human.—*In Heavenly Places, page 139*

3. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 29***

January 23rd

The Heavenly Election

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

2 Peter 1:10

This is the only election regarding which the Bible speaks. Fallen in sin, we may become partakers of the divine nature and attain to a knowledge far in advance of any scientific learning. By partaking of the flesh and the blood of our crucified Lord, we shall gain life eternal. In the sixth of John we read: “Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, hath eternal life” (John 6:54). “It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (verse 63).

None need lose eternal life. Everyone who chooses daily to learn of the heavenly Teacher will make his calling and election sure. Let us humble our hearts before God and follow on to know Him whom to know aright is life eternal.

“Give diligence to make your calling and election *sure*: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10, 11).

Here are your life-insurance papers. This is not an insurance policy the value of which someone else will receive after your death; it is a policy that assures *you* a *life* measuring with the life of God—even eternal life. O what an assurance! what a hope! Let us ever reveal to the world that we are seeking for a better country, even a heavenly. Heaven has been made for us, and we want a part in it. We cannot afford to allow anything to separate us from God and heaven. In this life we must be partakers of the divine nature. Brethren and sisters, you have only one life to live. O let it be a life of virtue, a life hid with Christ in God!

Unitedly we are to help one another gain perfection of character. To this end, we are to cease all criticism. Onward and still onward we may advance toward perfection, until at last there will be ministered unto us an abundant entrance into the heavenly kingdom.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025

Job

Chapter 8

Bildad Speaks: Job Should Repent

- Job 8:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
Job 8:2 How long wilt thou speak these *things*? and *how long shall* the words of thy mouth *be like* a strong wind?
Job 8:3 Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?
Job 8:4 If thy children have sinned against him, and he have cast them away for their transgression;
Job 8:5 If thou would seek unto God betimes, and make thy supplication to the Almighty;
Job 8:6 If thou *wert* pure and upright; surely now he would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous.
Job 8:7 Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.
Job 8:8 For enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers:
Job 8:9 (For we *are but of* yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth *are* a shadow:)
Job 8:10 Shall not they teach thee, *and* tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?
Job 8:11 Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water?
Job 8:12 Whilst it *is* yet in his greenness, *and* not cut down, it withers before any *other* herb.
Job 8:13 So *are* the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish:
Job 8:14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust *shall be* a spider's web.
Job 8:15 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.
Job 8:16 He *is* green before the sun, and his branch shoots forth in his garden.
Job 8:17 His roots are wrapped about the heap, *and* sees the place of stones.
Job 8:18 If he destroy him from his place, then *it* shall deny him, *saying*, I have not seen thee.
Job 8:19 Behold, this *is* the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.
Job 8:20 Behold, God will not cast away a perfect *man*, neither will he help the evil doers:
Job 8:21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.
Job 8:22 They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

Preparation Day – January 24th

1. What promise can we rely on in times of perplexity?

➤ **Isaiah 30:21** —

NOTE : Human beings suffer much because they step out of the path that God has chosen for them to follow. They walk in the sparks of the fire they have kindled themselves, and the sure result is affliction, unrest, and sorrow, which they might have avoided if they had submitted their will to God and had permitted Him to control their ways. God sees that it is necessary to oppose our will and our way, and bring our human will into subjection. Whatever path God chooses for us, whatever way He ordains for our feet, that is the only path of safety. We are daily to cherish a spirit of childlike submission, and pray that our eyes may be anointed with the heavenly eye salve in order that we may discern the indications of the divine will, lest we become confused in our ideas, because our will seems to be all-controlling. With the eye of faith, with childlike submission as obedient children, we must look to God, to follow His guidance, and difficulties will clear away. The promise is, "I will instruct thee and teach thee . . . : I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalm 32:8). If we come to God in a humble and teachable spirit, not with our plans all formed before we ask Him, and shaped according to our own will, but in submission, in willingness to be taught, in faith, it is our privilege to claim the promise every hour of the day. We may distrust ourselves, and we need to guard against our own inclinations and strong tendencies lest we shall follow our mind and plans and think it is the way of the Lord. Our heavenly Father is our Ruler, and we must submit to His discipline. We are members of His family. He has a right to our service, and if one of the members of His family would persist in having his own way, persist in doing just that which he pleased, that spirit would bring about a disordered and perplexing state of things. We must not study to have our own way, but God's way and God's will.—
That I May Know Him, page 249

2. Heaven's Hotline :

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, January 24th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 31***

January 24th

A Little Heaven Here

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

Zephaniah 2:3

In view of what is soon to come upon the earth, I entreat you, brethren and sisters, to walk before God in all meekness and lowliness of mind, remembering the care that Jesus has for you. All the meek of the earth are exhorted to seek Him.... Let self break in pieces before God. It is hard to do this; but we are warned to fall upon the Rock and be broken, else it will fall upon us, and grind us to powder. It is to the humble in heart that Jesus speaks; His everlasting arms encircle them, and He will not leave them to perish by the hands of the wicked.

What is it to be a Christian? It is to be Christlike; it is to do the works of Christ. Some fail on one point, some on another. Some are naturally impatient. Satan understands their weakness and manages to overcome them again and again. But let none be discouraged by this. Whenever little annoyances and trials arise, ask God in silent prayer to give you strength and grace to bear them patiently. There is a power in silence; do not speak a word until you have sent up your petition to the God of heaven. If you will always do this, you will soon overcome your hasty temper, and you will have a little heaven here to go to heaven in.

God wants His people to cleanse their hands and purify their hearts. Will it make them unhappy to do this? Will it bring unhappiness into their families if they are kind and patient, courteous and forbearing? Far from it. The kindness they manifest toward their families will be reflected upon themselves. This is the work that should be carried forward in the home. If the members of a family are not prepared to dwell in peace here, they are not prepared to dwell in the family that shall gather around the great white throne....

We must seek to separate sin from us, relying upon the merits of the blood of Christ; and then in the day of affliction, when the enemy presses us, we shall walk among the angels. They will be like a wall of fire about us, and we shall one day walk with them in the city of God.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, January 24th, 2025

Job

Chapter 9

Job Replies: There Is No Arbiter

- Job 9:1 Then Job answered and said,
 Job 9:2 I know *it is* so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?
 Job 9:3 If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand.
 Job 9:4 *He is* wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened *himself* against him, and hath prospered?
 Job 9:5 Which removes the mountains, and they know not: which overturns them in his anger.
 Job 9:6 Which shakes the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.
 Job 9:7 Which commands the sun, and it rises not; and seals up the stars.
 Job 9:8 Which alone spreads out the heavens, and treads upon the waves of the sea.
 Job 9:9 Which makes Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.
 Job 9:10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.
 Job 9:11 Lo, he goeth by me, and I see *him* not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not.
 Job 9:12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What do thou?
 Job 9:13 *If* God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him.
 Job 9:14 How much less shall I answer him, *and* choose out my words *to reason* with him?
 Job 9:15 Whom, though I were righteous, *yet* would I not answer, *but* I would make supplication to my judge.
 Job 9:16 If I had called, and he had answered me; *yet* would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice.
 Job 9:17 For he breaks me with a tempest, and multiplies my wounds without cause.
 Job 9:18 He will not suffer me to take my breath, but fills me with bitterness.
 Job 9:19 *If I speak* of strength, lo, *he is* strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time *to plead*?
 Job 9:20 If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: *if I say*, I *am* perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.
 Job 9:21 *Though I were* perfect, *yet* would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.
 Job 9:22 This *is* one *thing*, therefore I said *it*, He destroys the perfect and the wicked.
 Job 9:23 If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.
 Job 9:24 The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covers the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, *and* who *is* he?
 Job 9:25 Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.
 Job 9:26 They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle *that* hastes to the prey.
 Job 9:27 If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort *myself*:
 Job 9:28 I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.
 Job 9:29 *If* I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?
 Job 9:30 If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;
 Job 9:31 Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.
 Job 9:32 For *he is* not a man, as I *am*, *that* I should answer him, *and* we should come together in judgment.
 Job 9:33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, *that* might lay his hand upon us both.
 Job 9:34 Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:
 Job 9:35 *Then* would I speak, and not fear him; but *it is* not so with me.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, January 24th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Editor's note: This is the story of how Bold Batsukh, Mongolia's first Seventh-day Adventist pastor, gave his heart to God in the early 1990's.

Whenever Bold had a question, he ran to his dad in Mongolia.

"I'm scared of the dark," he said. "Why am I scared of the dark?"

"It's all in your imagination," Dad said.

Then the boy heard someone talking about God and the devil. He ran to Dad.

"Is there such a thing as the devil and God?" he asked.

"It's all in your imagination," Dad said.

Bold trusted his dad. He had seen Dad read many books, so he knew that he had stored up a lot of knowledge.

But he remained scared of the dark. He also wasn't so sure that God didn't exist. He didn't understand why, but he felt that God must be alive somewhere in the universe.

Although Bold was young, he was very serious. He thought seriously about his future. When he thought about his future, he thought about death. Death scared him.

"Why do we die?" he wondered. "What happens after death? Is that it?"

One day, Dad fell ill. He was in and out of the hospital for treatment for several months. During one hospitalization, Bold noticed marks on Dad’s back from injections given by the nurses.

“Why do they have to give you so many shots?” he asked.

“I’m sick, so I have to get shots,” Dad said.

Bold felt sorry for his father.

Dad grew weaker and weaker. Finally, he couldn’t eat on his own, and his food was pureed like baby food and mixed with water. Someone fed him with a spoon, massaging his throat to help him swallow.

One afternoon, a friend ran up as Bold was playing outside his home.

“Your father’s dead! Your father’s dead!” the boy shouted.

Bold thought the boy was trying to make a joke, and he became indignant.

“Why do you have to joke like that?” he said.

“It’s the truth,” the boy said. “They’re looking for you.”

Bold ran home. An ambulance stood outside the building. No one would let him inside to see his father. Bold realized that Dad had died. He was only 45 years old. Bold was 13.

The boy cried and asked, “Why? Why?”

He heard no answer.

For the first time he spoke to the God whom his father had said didn’t exist.

He said, “I don’t see any reason for this happening.”

He heard no answer.

Bold had been close to Dad, and he couldn’t imagine life without him. He wondered, “If everyone is going to die, what’s the point of living?”

He heard no answer.

Bold had been scared of the dark. But now his fears grew as, in the darkness of the night, he had disturbing dreams

about his father. In his dreams, he asked his dad, “Why did you leave us?”

He heard no answer. How he wished that Dad was around to answer his questions.

Dad had been the family’s sole breadwinner. Without him, times were tough. Bold also felt resentment. He thought, “Dad might be alive if only he had taken better care of himself and gone to the hospital earlier.”

Mom also missed Dad terribly. She also had questions. She started to visit a teacher from a traditional Mongolian religion who claimed to have answers.

Bold noticed that Mom seemed to be happier after each visit. He was curious to find out if the teacher could answer his questions.

“Can I go and see him?” he asked.

“Let’s go together,” Mother replied.

Pray for the people of Mongolia who, like Bold, are looking for answers. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for other children who have unanswered questions. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 5

“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”

January 25 - January 31

📖 MEMORY VERSE : *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” [Philippians 4:19]*

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Lift Him Up, page 131

🔗 LESSON AIM : To study the promises of God to supply our needs, physical and spiritual.

🗨 INTRODUCTION : The more our faith fastens to Christ in perfect trust, the more peace we shall have. Faith will grow by exercise. God's rule is, One day at a time. Day by day do the work for each day as if you are conscious that you are working in the sight of the angels, cherubim and seraphim, and God and Christ. You are *"a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men"* (1 Corinthians 4:9). *"Give us this day our daily bread"* (Matthew 6:11). *"As thy days, so shall thy strength be"* (Deuteronomy 33:25). *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2). Living thus, the Holy Spirit helps our memory, sanctifies every faculty, and keeps us reminded of our daily and hourly dependence upon our heavenly Father's care, and unceasing love.—*That I May Know Him, page 231*

Sabbath – January 25th

1. What promises concerning our daily bread can we rely on?

- Psalm 23:1 —
- Psalm 34:8-9 —
- Psalm 37:25 —

NOTE : Every promise in the Word of God furnishes us with subject matter for prayer, presenting the pledged word of Jehovah as our assurance. Whatever spiritual blessing we need, it is our privilege to claim through Jesus. We may tell the Lord, with the simplicity of a child, exactly what we need. We may state to Him our temporal matters, asking Him for bread and raiment as well as for the bread of life and the robe of Christ's righteousness. Your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things, and you are invited to ask Him concerning them. It is through the name of Jesus that every favour is received. God will honour that name, and will supply your necessities from the riches of His liberality.—*Lift Him Up, page 107*

2. Heaven's Hotline :



E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, January 25th, 2025

Lift Him Up,

Chapter 4, p. 131

“Lift Him Up as the Bread of Life”

“Daily Bread Assured”

April 27th

Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

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.” 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.” David says, “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

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.” “They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” “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?”

He who lightened the cares and anxieties of His widowed mother, and helped to provide for the household of Nazareth, sympathizes with every mother in her struggle to provide her children food. He who had compassion on the multitude because they “fainted, and were scattered abroad” still has compassion on the suffering poor. His hand is stretched out toward them in blessing and in the very prayer which He gave His disciples, He teaches us to remember the poor,—*The Signs of the Times*, November 4, 1903

The prayer for daily bread includes not only food to sustain the body, but that spiritual bread which will nourish the soul unto life everlasting. Jesus bids us, “Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life” (John 6:27). He says, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever” (verse 51). Our Saviour is the bread of life, and it is by beholding His love, by receiving it into the soul, that we feed upon the bread which came down from heaven.

We receive Christ through His Word, and the Holy Spirit is given to open the Word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His Word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day's need.

In teaching us to ask every day for what we need—both temporal and spiritual blessings—God has a purpose to accomplish for our good. He would have us realize our dependence upon His constant care, for He is seeking to draw us into communion with Himself. In this communion with Christ, through prayer and the study of the great and precious truths of His Word, we shall as hungry souls be fed; as those that thirst, we shall be refreshed at the fountain of life.—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 112, 113

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, January 25th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 31***

January 25th

Building for Eternity

That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Colossians 4:12

The Infinite One—He who alone was able to bring order and beauty out of the chaos and confusion of nature’s darkness—is able to subdue the rebellious heart of man and bring his life into conformity to the divine will. His Spirit can quell man’s rebellious temper....

Day by day we are building characters, and we are building for eternity. God desires us in our lives to give the people of the world an example of what they should be and of what they can be through obedience to the gospel of Christ. Let us place ourselves in God’s hands, to be dealt with as He sees best.... “Ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). If we build in cooperation with Him, the structure that we rear will day by day grow more beautiful and more symmetrical under the hand of the Master Builder, and through all eternity it will endure.

Sanctification is a progressive work. It is a continuous work, leading human beings higher and still higher. It does not leave love behind, but brings it into the life as the very essence of Christianity.

Christ says to us, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). He is our example. During His life on earth He was ever kind and gentle. His influence was ever fragrant, for in Him dwelt perfect love. He was never sour and unapproachable, and He never compromised with wrong to obtain favour. If we have His righteousness, we shall be like Him in gentleness, in forbearance, in unselfish love. Shall we not, by dwelling in the sunshine of His presence, become mellowed by His grace?

Let us honour our profession of faith. Let us adorn our lives with beautiful traits of character. Harshness of speech and action is not of Christ, but of Satan. Shall we, by clinging to our imperfections and deformities, make Christ ashamed of us? His grace is promised to us. If we will receive it, it will beautify our lives.... Deformity will be exchanged for goodness, perfection. Our lives will be adorned with the graces that made Christ’s life so beautiful.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, January 25th, 2025

Job

Chapter 10

Job Continues: A Plea to God

- Job 10:1 My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.
- Job 10:2 I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contends with me.
- Job 10:3 *Is it* good unto thee that thou should oppress, that thou should despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked?
- Job 10:4 Hast thou eyes of flesh? or sees thou as man sees?
- Job 10:5 *Are* thy days as the days of man? *are* thy years as man's days,
- Job 10:6 That thou enquires after mine iniquity, and searches after my sin?
- Job 10:7 Thou knows that I am not wicked; and *there is* none that can deliver out of thine hand.
- Job 10:8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me.
- Job 10:9 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again?
- Job 10:10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese?
- Job 10:11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.
- Job 10:12 Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.
- Job 10:13 And these *things* hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this *is* with thee.
- Job 10:14 If I sin, then thou marks me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.
- Job 10:15 If I be wicked, woe unto me; and *if* I be righteous, *yet* will I not lift up my head. *I am* full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;
- Job 10:16 For it increases. Thou hunts me as a fierce lion: and again thou shows thyself marvellous upon me.
- Job 10:17 Thou renews thy witnesses against me, and increases thine indignation upon me; changes and war *are* against me.
- Job 10:18 Wherefore then hast thou brought me forth out of the womb? Oh that I had given up the ghost, and no eye had seen me!
- Job 10:19 I should have been as though I had not been; I should have been carried from the womb to the grave.
- Job 10:20 *Are* not my days few? cease *then, and* let me alone, that I may take comfort a little,
- Job 10:21 Before I go *whence* I shall not return, *even* to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;
- Job 10:22 A land of darkness, as darkness *itself; and* of the shadow of death, without any order, and *where* the light *is* as darkness.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, January 25th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Javkhaa’s [JAV-khaa] ears stuck out. His ears stuck out really far. He didn’t think anything about his ears until other boys began to tease him — and he didn’t like it.

Now there was nothing wrong with Javkhaa’s ears. Many boys have ears that stick out, but not at Javkhaa’s school in Mongolia. The other boys began teasing the 8-year-old boy.

When school finished every day, he knew that he had to go straight home. Mom didn’t want him hanging out with the other boys because they used bad words and did naughty things.

Javkhaa didn’t have many friends, and he wanted the other boys to like him. He wanted them to be his friends. So, one day he ignored Mom’s instructions and followed five big boys instead of going home.

The boys didn’t want to be Javkhaa’s friends. Instead of being happy that he was with them, they began to tease him about his ears.

Javkhaa was sad. He wondered if he was ugly. Then one of the boys called him a bad name. He didn’t like that at all. He raised his fist and hit the boy.

The five boys jumped on him, like five angry bears pouncing on a small lamb. They hit him and kicked him and ran away.

Javkhaa lay on the ground and cried. He wished that he had obeyed Mom and gone home straight from school.

Standing up, he walked over to a nearby bench and sat down. Then he remembered God. He bent over on the bench, one hand clutching his stomach, which hurt. He closed his eyes and prayed, “Our dear Lord, thank You for

always being with me. Thank You for always hearing me. Please hear me now. Help me to have friends who don't tease me. Help me to have friends who are a good influence. Amen.”

Getting up, he ran home as fast as he could. When he got near the house, he dusted off his clothes so Mom wouldn't see that he had been in a fight. He tried to look happy as he walked into the house.

Mom didn't notice anything wrong. “Wash your hands, and eat your supper,” she said.

After eating, Javkhaa went to his bedroom and changed his clothes. He thought about the day. “Why did they beat me up?” he wondered.

Javkhaa didn't talk to those boys for the next week, and they didn't talk to him. Then, one by one, the boys came to him to say that they were sorry.

Javkhaa forgave them, but he didn't hang out with them after school anymore. He realized that Mom was right. The boys used bad words and did naughty things. When he was with them, he also wanted to use bad words and do naughty things. They were a bad influence. He wanted friends who were a good influence. He prayed for friends.

Two years later, Javkhaa's family moved from their small town in the Gobi Desert to Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. Javkhaa started studying at the Seventh-day Adventist school in the city. He was so happy!

No-one made fun of his ears. Instead, his new classmates spoke kind words and did good things. They were a good influence on him, and he could be a good influence on them. He made many good friends.

“God gave me friends just as I prayed,” Javkhaa said. “I think one of the biggest blessings in my life is to go to this school.”

Today, Javkhaa is 14 and studies at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped his school grow with new classrooms and a library. This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children's recreation center where children will learn to speak kind words and do good things in Ulaanbaatar. Thank you for your support.

Sunday – January 26th

1. What promise has been given especially to those who live through the final time of tribulation?

➤ **Isaiah 33:14-17** —

NOTE : 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. That God who cared for Elijah will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head will care for them, and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous and supply their wants. To him that "walks righteously" is the promise: "Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue fails for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them." Isaiah 33:15, 16; 41:17.—*Darkness Before Dawn, page 44*

2. What example of God's providence is recorded for our assurance?

➤ **Exodus 16:14-15** —

NOTE : Christ has given us no promise of help in bearing today the burdens of tomorrow. He has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee"; but, like the manna given in the wilderness, His grace is bestowed daily, for the day's need. Like the hosts of Israel in their pilgrim life, we may find morning by morning the bread of heaven for the day's supply. One day alone is ours, and during this day we are to live for God. For this one day we are to place in the hand of Christ, in solemn service, all our purposes and plans, casting all our care upon Him, for He cares for us. "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil."—*Sons & Daughters of God, page 119*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, January 26th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 32***

**January 26th
In Right Relation to God**

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:23

Consider the familiar relation Christ here brings to view as existing between the Father and His children. His presence and guardianship are an abiding thing. While we trust in Christ's saving power, all the arts and wiles of the fallen host can do nothing to harm us. Heavenly angels are constantly with us, guiding and protecting. God has ordained that we shall have His saving power with us, to enable us to do all His will. Let us grasp the promises and cherish them moment by moment. Let us believe that God means just what He says.

There is a possibility of the believer in Christ obtaining an experience that will be wholly sufficient to place him in right relation to God. Every promise that is in God's Book holds out to us the encouragement that we may be partakers of the divine nature. This is the possibility—to rely upon God, to believe His Word, to work His works; and this we can do when we lay hold of the divinity of Christ.

This possibility is worth more to us than all the riches in the world. There is nothing on earth that can compare with it. As we lay hold of the power thus placed within our reach, we receive a hope so strong that we can rely wholly upon God's promises; and laying hold of the possibilities there are in Christ, we become the sons and daughters of God.

There are high attainments for the Christian. He may ever be rising to higher attainments. John had an elevated idea of the privilege of a Christian. He says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1). It is not possible for humanity to rise to a higher dignity than is here implied. To man is granted the privilege of becoming an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. To those who have been thus exalted, are unfolded the unsearchable riches of Christ, which are of a thousandfold more value than the wealth of the world. Thus, through the merits of Jesus Christ, finite man is elevated to fellowship with God and with His dear Son.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, January 26th, 2025

Job

Chapter 11

Zophar Speaks: You Deserve Worse

- Job 11:1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,
Job 11:2 Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified?
Job 11:3 Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mocks, shall no man make thee ashamed?
Job 11:4 For thou hast said, My doctrine *is* pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.
Job 11:5 But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee;
Job 11:6 And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that *they are* double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacts of thee *less* than thine iniquity *deserves*.
Job 11:7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?
Job 11:8 *It is* as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?
Job 11:9 The measure thereof *is* longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.
Job 11:10 If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, then who can hinder him?
Job 11:11 For he knows vain men: he sees wickedness also; will he not then consider *it*?
Job 11:12 For vain man would be wise, though man be born *like* a wild ass's colt.
Job 11:13 If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;
Job 11:14 If iniquity *be* in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.
Job 11:15 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear:
Job 11:16 Because thou shalt forget *thy* misery, *and* remember *it* as waters *that* pass away:
Job 11:17 And *thine* age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.
Job 11:18 And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig *about thee*, *and* thou shalt take thy rest in safety.
Job 11:19 Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make *thee* afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee.
Job 11:20 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.

Monday – January 27th

1. What other examples are we given of God providing for the needs of His faithful servants?

- **1 Kings 17:1-6** —
- **1 Kings 17:10-16** —
- **2 Kings 4:1-7** —
- **Matthew 14:16-21** —

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.—*Counsels for the Church*, page 281

2. When we are brought into needy circumstances, what is necessary for God to fulfil His promises?

- **Matthew 16:7-10** —

NOTE : Here is the reward for those who sacrifice for God. They receive an hundredfold in this life, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many, I saw, that are first, shall be last, and the last shall be first. I was shown those who receive the truth, but do not live it. They cling to their possessions, and are not willing to distribute of their substance to advance the cause of God. They have no faith to venture and trust God. Their love of this world swallows up their faith. God has called for a portion of their substance, but they heed it not. They reason thus, that they have laboured hard to obtain what they have, and they cannot lend it to the Lord, for they may come to want. "O, ye of little faith!" That God who cared for Elijah in the time of famine, will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He that has numbered the hairs of their heads, 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. Those who will still cling to their earthly treasure, and will not make a right disposition of that which is lent them of God, will lose their treasure in heaven, lose everlasting life.—*Spiritual Gifts*, volume 2, page 243

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, January 27th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 33***

January 27th

Fellowship With Christ

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

The true Christian keeps the windows of the soul open heavenward. He lives in fellowship with Christ. His will is conformed to the will of Christ. His highest desire is to become more and more Christlike, that he may say with Paul: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me ...” (Galatians 2:20).

Earnestly and untiringly we are to strive to reach God’s ideal for us. Not as a penance are we to do this, but as the only means of gaining true happiness. The only way to gain peace and joy is to have a living connection with Him who gave His life for us, who died that we might live, and who lives to unite His power with the efforts of those who are striving to overcome.

Holiness is constant agreement with God. Shall we not strive to be that which Christ so greatly desires us to be—Christians in deed and in truth—that the world may see in our lives a revelation of the saving power of truth? This world is our preparatory school. While here we shall meet with trials and difficulties. Continually the enemy of God will seek to draw us away from our allegiance. But while we cleave to Him who gave Himself for us we are safe.

The whole world was gathered into the embrace of Christ. He died on the cross to destroy him who had the power of death and to take away the sin of every believing soul. He calls upon us to offer ourselves on the altar of service, a living, consuming sacrifice. We are to make an unreserved consecration to God of all that we have and are.

In this lower school of earth we are to learn the lessons that will prepare us to enter the higher school, where our education will continue under the personal instruction of Christ. Then He will open to us the meaning of His word. Shall we not, in the few days of probation remaining to us, act like men and women who are seeking for life in the kingdom of God, even an eternity of bliss? We cannot afford to miss the privilege of seeing Christ face to face and of hearing from His lips the story of redemption.

Daily Scripture

Monday, January 27th, 2025

Job

Chapter 12

Job Replies: The Lord Has Done This

- Job 12:1 And Job answered and said,
Job 12:2 No doubt but ye *are* the people, and wisdom shall die with you.
Job 12:3 But I have understanding as well as you; I *am* not inferior to you: yea, who knows not such things as these?
Job 12:4 I am *as* one mocked of his neighbour, who calls upon God, and he answers him: the just upright *man is* laughed to scorn.
Job 12:5 He that is ready to slip with *his* feet *is as* a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.
Job 12:6 The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God brings *abundantly*.
Job 12:7 But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:
Job 12:8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.
Job 12:9 Who knows not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?
Job 12:10 In whose hand *is* the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.
Job 12:11 Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?
Job 12:12 With the ancient *is* wisdom; and in length of days understanding.
Job 12:13 With him *is* wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.
Job 12:14 Behold, he breaks down, and it cannot be built again: he shuts up a man, and there can be no opening.
Job 12:15 Behold, he withholds the waters, and they dry up: also he sends them out, and they overturn the earth.
Job 12:16 With him *is* strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver *are* his.
Job 12:17 He leads counsellors away spoiled, and makes the judges fools.
Job 12:18 He looses the bond of kings, and girds their loins with a girdle.
Job 12:19 He leads princes away spoiled, and overthrows the mighty.
Job 12:20 He removes away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.
Job 12:21 He pours contempt upon princes, and weakens the strength of the mighty.
Job 12:22 He discovers deep things out of darkness, and brings out to light the shadow of death.
Job 12:23 He increases the nations, and destroys them: he enlarges the nations, and straitens them *again*.
Job 12:24 He taketh away the heart of the chief of the people of the earth, and causes them to wander in a wilderness *where there is* no way.
Job 12:25 They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them to stagger like *a* drunken *man*.

Tuesday – January 28th

1. How did David link faith with God supplying our needs?

➤ **Psalm 37:1-9** —

NOTE : "Trust in the Lord." Each day has its burdens, its cares, and perplexities; and when we meet, how ready we are to talk of our difficulties and trials. So many borrowed troubles intrude, so many fears are indulged, such a weight of anxiety is expressed, that one might almost suppose that we had no pitying, loving Saviour, ready to hear all our requests, and to be to us a present help in every time of need. Some are always fearing and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded by the tokens of God's love, every day they are enjoying the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these present blessings. Their minds are continually dwelling upon something disagreeable which they fear may come: or some difficulty may really exist, which, though small, blinds their eyes to the many things which demand gratitude. The difficulties which they encounter, instead of driving them to God, the only source of help, separate them from Him, because they awaken unrest and repining. Brethren and sisters, do we well to be thus unbelieving? Why should we be ungrateful and distrustful? Jesus is our friend. All heaven is interested in our welfare; and our anxiety and fear grieve the Holy Spirit of God. We should not indulge in a solicitude which only frets and wears us, but does not help us to bear trials. No place should be given to that distrust of God which leads us to make a preparation against future want the chief pursuit of life, as though our happiness consisted in these earthly things, and we could gain them while ignoring the fact that God controls all things.—*Our Father Cares*, page 227

2. How did Jesus show that He supplies our spiritual needs as well as our physical wants?

➤ **John 6:27** —

➤ **John 6:30-35** —

NOTE : The prayer for daily bread includes not only food to sustain the body, but that spiritual bread which will nourish the soul unto life everlasting. Jesus bids us, "Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life" (John 6:27). He says, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever" (verse 51). Our Saviour is the bread of life, and it is by beholding His love, by receiving it into the soul, that we feed upon the bread which came down from heaven.—*Lift Him Up*, page 131

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 34***

January 28th

Amazing Grace!

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:2

“Grace be to you.” We owe everything to God’s free grace. Grace in the covenant ordained our adoption. Grace in the Saviour effected our redemption, our regeneration, and our exaltation to heirship with Christ. Not because we first loved Him did God love us; but “while we were yet sinners,” Christ died for us.... Although by our disobedience we have merited God’s displeasure and condemnation, yet He has not forsaken us, leaving us to grapple with the power of the enemy. Heavenly angels fight our battles for us, and cooperating with them, we may be victorious over the powers of evil.

We should never have learned the meaning of this word “grace” had we not fallen. God loves the sinless angels, who do His service and are obedient to all His commands, but He does not give them grace. These heavenly beings know nought of grace; they have never needed it, for they have never sinned. Grace is an attribute of God shown to undeserving human beings. We ourselves did not seek after it, but it was sent out in search of us. God rejoices to bestow this grace upon all who hunger for it, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our need is the qualification which gives us the assurance that we shall receive this gift.

God’s supply of grace is waiting the demand of every sin sick soul. It will heal every spiritual disease. By it hearts may be cleansed from all defilement. It is the gospel remedy for everyone who believes.

We may make daily progress in the upward path to holiness and yet we find still greater heights to be reached; but every stretch of the spiritual muscles, every taxation of heart and brain, brings to light the abundance of the supply of grace essential for us as we advance.

The more we contemplate these riches, the more we will come into possession of them, and the more we shall reveal the merits of Christ’s sacrifice, the protection of His righteousness, His inexpressible love, the fullness of His wisdom, and His power to present us before the Father without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

Job

Chapter 13

Job Continues: Still I Will Hope in God

- Job 13:1 Lo, mine eye hath seen all *this*, mine ear hath heard and understood it.
- Job 13:2 What ye know, *the same* do I know also: I *am* not inferior unto you.
- Job 13:3 Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.
- Job 13:4 But ye *are* forgers of lies, ye *are* all physicians of no value.
- Job 13:5 O that ye would altogether hold your peace! and it should be your wisdom.
- Job 13:6 Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips.
- Job 13:7 Will ye speak wickedly for God? and talk deceitfully for him?
- Job 13:8 Will ye accept his person? will ye contend for God?
- Job 13:9 Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocks another, do ye *so* mock him?
- Job 13:10 He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons.
- Job 13:11 Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you?
- Job 13:12 Your remembrances *are* like unto ashes, your bodies to bodies of clay.
- Job 13:13 Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what *will*.
- Job 13:14 Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?
- Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.
- Job 13:16 He also *shall be* my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.
- Job 13:17 Hear diligently my speech, and my declaration with your ears.
- Job 13:18 Behold now, I have ordered *my* cause; I know that I shall be justified.
- Job 13:19 Who *is* he *that* will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.
- Job 13:20 Only do not two *things* unto me: then will I not hide myself from thee.
- Job 13:21 Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.
- Job 13:22 Then call thou, and I will answer: or let me speak, and answer thou me.
- Job 13:23 How many *are* mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin.
- Job 13:24 Wherefore hides thou thy face, and holds me for thine enemy?
- Job 13:25 Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?
- Job 13:26 For thou writes bitter things against me, and makes me to possess the iniquities of my youth.
- Job 13:27 Thou puts my feet also in the stocks, and looks narrowly unto all my paths; thou sets a print upon the heels of my feet.
- Job 13:28 And he, as a rotten thing, consumes, as a garment that is moth eaten.

Wednesday – January 29th

1. What did Jesus go on to say that turned many Jews away from Him?

➤ **John 6:47-51**—

➤ **John 6:53-57** —

➤ **John 6:66** —

NOTE : Jesus explained what He meant by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. He meant that His disciples were to partake of His word. He said, "It is the Spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The Word of Christ is the bread of life that is furnished for every soul that lives. To refuse to eat this bread is death. He that neglects to partake of the word of God shall not see life. Receiving the Word is believing the Word, and this is eating Christ's flesh, drinking His blood. To dwell and abide in Christ, is to dwell and abide in His Word; it is to bring heart and character into conformity to His commands.—*Review & Herald, January 14, 1896*

2. How had this lesson been taught even in the time of Moses?

➤ **Deuteronomy 8:3** —

➤ **Matthew 4:4** —

➤ **Luke 4:4** —

NOTE : When Christ said to the tempter, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God," He repeated the words that, more than fourteen hundred years before, He had spoken to Israel. And the same words are written for our admonition.—*Christ Triumphant, page 193*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 35***

January 29th

The Gift of Peace

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to control the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul. However fierce the tempest, those who turn to Jesus with the cry, “Lord, save us,” will find deliverance. His grace, which reconciles the soul to God, quiets the strife of human passion, and in His love the heart is at rest.... “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). “The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever” (Isaiah 32:17).

Whoever consents to renounce sin and open his heart to the love of Christ, becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace. There is no other ground of peace than this. The grace of Christ, received into the heart, subdues enmity; it allays strife and fills the soul with love. He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmisings will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven and will diffuse its blessed influence on all around. The spirit of peace will rest like dew upon hearts weary and troubled with worldly strife.

Christ’s followers are sent to the world with the message of peace. Whoever, by the quiet, unconscious influence of a holy life, shall reveal the love of Christ; whoever, by word or deed, shall lead another to renounce sin and yield his heart to God is a peacemaker.

And “blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9). The spirit of peace is evidence of their connection with heaven. The sweet savour of Christ surrounds them. The fragrance of the life, the loveliness of the character, reveal to the world the fact that they are children of God. Men take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

Job

Chapter 14

Job Continues: Death Comes Soon to All

- Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.
- Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he flees also as a shadow, and continues not.
- Job 14:3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and brings me into judgment with thee?
- Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? not one.
- Job 14:5 Seeing his days *are* determined, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;
- Job 14:6 Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.
- Job 14:7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.
- Job 14:8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;
- Job 14:9 *Yet* through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.
- Job 14:10 But man dies, and wastes away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where *is* he?
- Job 14:11 *As* the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decays and dries up:
- Job 14:12 So man lies down, and rises not: till the heavens *be* no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.
- Job 14:13 O that thou would hide me in the grave, that thou would keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
- Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.
- Job 14:15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.
- Job 14:16 For now thou numbers my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?
- Job 14:17 My transgression *is* sealed up in a bag, and thou sews up mine iniquity.
- Job 14:18 And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place.
- Job 14:19 The waters wear the stones: thou washes away the things which grow *out* of the dust of the earth; and thou destroys the hope of man.
- Job 14:20 Thou prevails for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changes his countenance, and sends him away.
- Job 14:21 His sons come to honour, and he knows *it* not; and they are brought low, but he perceives *it* not of them.
- Job 14:22 But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.

Thursday – January 30th

1. How did Jeremiah express this same truth?

➤ Jeremiah 15:16 —

NOTE : The figure which Christ used was a familiar one to the Jews. Moses, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had said, "Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." And the prophet Jeremiah had written, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Deuteronomy 8:3; Jeremiah 15:16. The rabbis themselves had a saying, that the eating of bread, in its spiritual significance, was the study of the law and the practice of good works; and it was often said that at the Messiah's coming all Israel would be fed. The teaching of the prophets made plain the deep spiritual lesson in the miracle of the loaves. This lesson Christ was seeking to open to His hearers in the synagogue. Had they understood the Scriptures, they would have understood His words when He said, "I am the bread of life." Only the day before, the great multitude, when faint and weary, had been fed by the bread which He had given. As from that bread they had received physical strength and refreshment, so from Christ they might receive spiritual strength unto eternal life. "He that cometh to Me," He said, "shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." But He added, "Ye also have seen Me, and believe not."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 386

2. How did Job express the importance of heeding the words of God?

➤ Job 23:12 —

NOTE : Only those who read the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to them are true learners. They tremble at the Word of God, for to them it is a living reality. They study, they search for the hidden treasure. They open their understanding and heart to receive, and they pray for heavenly grace, that they may obtain a preparation for the future, immortal life.—*This Day With God*, page 169

3. Heaven's Hotline:



In Heavenly Places

Thursday, January 30th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 36***

January 30th

From Despair to Hope and Joy

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:13

If Jesus had not died our sacrifice and risen again, we should never have known peace, never have felt joy, but only experienced the horrors of darkness and the miseries of despair. Then let only praise and gratitude be the language of our hearts. All our lives we have been partakers of His heavenly benefits, recipients of the blessings of His priceless atonement. Therefore it is impossible for us to conceive the low and helpless state ... from which Christ has raised us. When we feel the pains, the sorrows and bereavements to which we are subject, let not one murmuring thought dishonour our Redeemer.... We cannot determine how much less we suffer than our sins deserve....

Can we look upon Him whom our sins have pierced and not be willing also to drink of the cup of humiliation? Our sins mingled the bitter cup which He removed from our lips and drank Himself, that in its place He might put to our lips the cup of blessing....

The language of the soul should be that of joy and gratitude. If any have dark chapters in their experience let them bury them. Let this history not be kept bright by repetition.... Cultivate only those thoughts and those feelings which will produce gratitude and praise....

I entreat of you never to utter one word of complaint, but to cherish feelings of gratitude and thankfulness. By so doing you will be learning to make melody in your hearts. Weave into your experience the warp and woof, the golden threads, of gratitude. Contemplate the better land, where tears are never shed, where temptations and trials are never experienced, where losses and reproaches are never known, where all is peace and joy and happiness. Here your imagination may have full scope. These thoughts will make you more heavenly-minded, will endue you with heavenly vigour, will satisfy your thirsty soul with rivers of living waters, and will set upon your heart the seal of the divine image. They will fill you with joy and hope in believing and will abide with you as a comforter forever.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, January 30th, 2025

Job

Chapter 15

Eliphaz Accuses: Job Does Not Fear God

- Job 15:1 Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,
- Job 15:2 Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?
- Job 15:3 Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?
- Job 15:4 Yea, thou casts off fear, and restrains prayer before God.
- Job 15:5 For thy mouth utters thine iniquity, and thou chooses the tongue of the crafty.
- Job 15:6 Thine own mouth condemns thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.
- Job 15:7 *Art* thou the first man *that* was born? or wast thou made before the hills?
- Job 15:8 Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?
- Job 15:9 What knows thou, that we know not? *what* understands thou, which *is* not in us?
- Job 15:10 With us *are* both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father.
- Job 15:11 *Are* the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?
- Job 15:12 Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,
- Job 15:13 That thou turns thy spirit against God, and lets *such* words go out of thy mouth?
- Job 15:14 What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous?
- Job 15:15 Behold, he puts no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.
- Job 15:16 How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinks iniquity like water?
- Job 15:17 I will shew thee, hear me; and that *which* I have seen I will declare;
- Job 15:18 Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid *it*:
- Job 15:19 Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.
- Job 15:20 The wicked man travailes with pain all *his* days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.
- Job 15:21 A dreadful sound *is* in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.
- Job 15:22 He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.
- Job 15:23 He wanders abroad for bread, *saying*, Where *is it*? he knows that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.
- Job 15:24 Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.
- Job 15:25 For he stretches out his hand against God, and strengthens himself against the Almighty.
- Job 15:26 He runs upon him, *even* on *his* neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers:
- Job 15:27 Because he covers his face with his fatness, and makes collops of fat on *his* flanks.
- Job 15:28 And he dwelleth in desolate cities, *and* in houses which no man inhabits, which are ready to become heaps.
- Job 15:29 He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.
- Job 15:30 He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.
- Job 15:31 Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompense.
- Job 15:32 It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.
- Job 15:33 He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.
- Job 15:34 For the congregation of hypocrites *shall be* desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.
- Job 15:35 They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepares deceit.

Preparation Day – January 31st

1. How did Jesus explain the importance of His words?

➤ **John 5:24** —

NOTE : The Word of God is quick and powerful. "Quick" signifies "living." The word of God is living. Is it that to you? When you and I receive that Word so that it is in us, we have life. Only so much of the Word of God as you get in you will do you any good. Christ lived by the Word of God. The Word of God is living and powerful. So then if you find yourself weak, and ready to fall, what is the matter? You lack the Word of God. "I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." —A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, August 29, 1899

But how can we get into Christ and Christ in us? We read again in Ephesians 3:17, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." How can we get faith? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17. Then if we hear God's Word and receive it "not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God," it will effectually work in us that believe, because it brings Jesus with His Holy Spirit of power into our hearts. Thus, "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3, 4. Then do we not need the Word, the bread of life, more than we need our necessary food? Can we hope to grow in the spiritual life and have strength to overcome and keep out these deadly foes without daily partaking of this heavenly bread? We are apt to think that when we once put on Christ, we have nothing more to do, when we once take a full meal of this heavenly bread and a full draught of this living water, we shall for ever be satisfied and never more be weak or faint. But we cannot eat enough of this in one day to last us all the rest of our lives, any more than we can eat enough physical food to last us the remainder of our lives. We must continually, daily, feast upon His words of life, and then the promise is that we shall grow thereby, grow stronger and stronger. We need not worry about how it is done, or how we are going to meet these foes when they assail us. But if we lay hold of fresh supplies of strength every day, the victory will finally be ours, not because of our strength, but because of Christ the Mighty One who has lived in us. He is the "captain of our salvation," and He is our "armour of light" that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. With such a Captain and such an armour can we not with courage engage in this great war? —E. J. Waggoner: *Present Truth*, August 24, 1893

2. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, January 31st, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 1, p. 37***

January 31st

The Peril of Neglect

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?

Hebrews 2:3

No greater gift can be bestowed upon man than that which is comprehended in Christ.... A neglect to lay hold of the priceless treasure of salvation means the eternal ruin of your soul. The peril of indifference to God and neglect of His gift is measured by the greatness of salvation. God has done to the uttermost of His almighty power. The resources of infinite love have been exhausted in devising and executing the plan of redemption for man. God has revealed His character in the goodness, the mercy, compassion, and love manifested to save a race of guilty rebels. What could be done that has not been done in the provisions of the plan of salvation? If the sinner remains indifferent to the manifestation of the goodness of God, if he neglects so great a salvation, ... what can be done to touch his hard heart?

What importance, what magnitude, it gives to the theme of redemption, that He who has undertaken the salvation of man was the brightness of the Father's glory, the express image of His person! How, then, can Heaven regard those who neglect so great a salvation, wrought out for man at such infinite cost? To neglect to lay hold on the rich blessings of Heaven is to refuse, to set at nought, Him who was equal with the Father, the only One who could save fallen man. Oh, shall we through neglect of Christ throw away our one chance for eternal life? ...

What love, what wonderful love, was displayed by the Son of God! The death we deserved was suffered to come upon Him that immortality might be given to us, who could never merit such a reward. Is not salvation great in its simplicity and wonderful in its comprehensiveness? ... Contemplating the fullness of the provision that God has made whereby every son and daughter of Adam may be saved, we are led to exclaim with John, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1).... The plan of redemption provides for every emergency and for every want of the soul.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, January 31st, 2025

Job

Chapter 16

Job Replies: Miserable Comforters Are You

- Job 16:1 Then Job answered and said,
Job 16:2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters *are* ye all.
Job 16:3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldens thee that thou answers?
Job 16:4 I also could speak as ye *do*: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.
Job 16:5 *But* I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuages *your* grief.
Job 16:6 Though I speak, my grief is not assuaged: and *though* I forbear, what am I eased?
Job 16:7 But now he hath made me weary: thou hast made desolate all my company.
Job 16:8 And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, *which* is a witness *against me*: and my leanness rising up in me bears witness to my face.
Job 16:9 He tears *me* in his wrath, who hates me: he gnashes upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpens his eyes upon me.
Job 16:10 They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me.
Job 16:11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.
Job 16:12 I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken *me* by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.
Job 16:13 His archers compass me round about, he cleaves my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he pours out my gall upon the ground.
Job 16:14 He breaks me with breach upon breach, he runs upon me like a giant.
Job 16:15 I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin, and defiled my horn in the dust.
Job 16:16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids *is* the shadow of death;
Job 16:17 Not for *any* injustice in mine hands: also my prayer *is* pure.
Job 16:18 O earth, cover not thou my blood, and let my cry have no place.
Job 16:19 Also now, behold, my witness *is* in heaven, and my record *is* on high.
Job 16:20 My friends scorn me: *but* mine eye pours out *tears* unto God.
Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleads* for his neighbour!
Job 16:22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way *whence* I shall not return.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, January 31st, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Editor's note: This is the story of how Bold Batsukh, Mongolia's first Seventh-day Adventist pastor, gave his heart to God in the early 1990's. The story picks up with 13-year old Bold bitterly seeking answers to why his father died unexpectedly. He noticed that his mother was finding answers to her own questions from a teacher from a traditional Mongolian religion. Mother agreed to take the boy to meet the teacher.

People crowded outside the teacher's house every day to ask for advice on how to solve their problems in Mongolia. People sat and waited to be called into the house.

When someone entered the house, the teacher asked, "What's your problem?"

Then he listened for a long time. After that, he opened his sacred writings and chanted something from it in the Tibetan language.

No one understood what he said because no one spoke Tibetan, but people left the house looking happy.

The teacher couldn't tell Bold why his father had died, but the boy was impressed by him and his sacred writings. Bold thought, "If I could help him, I could spend more time with him, and it would be a good way to get out of going to school!"

Back at home, he told Mom, "Maybe I'll become a teacher, too. Could you ask your teacher if he would train me?"

Mother was reluctant, but she agreed to ask.

A few days later, she returned home from the teacher's house with a big smile.

“The teacher was so happy when I told him your request,” she said. “He said that he has wanted to mentor a boy for a long time.”

Bold went to live with the teacher.

At 6 o’clock every morning, the teacher poked Bold with a wooden stick to wake him up. Then Bold sat for hours, learning the Tibetan language and memorizing texts from the sacred writings. He also had many chores, cooking for the teacher and cleaning his house.

Bold lived with the teacher for two years. He memorized all the texts that the teacher told him to memorize. He did everything that the teacher told him to do. When he was 15, the teacher took him to a monastery where he could be trained to become a teacher, too.

The head teacher at the monastery quizzed Bold. “What have you learned?” he asked. “Can you chant this text? Can you chant that text?”

Bold, the boy who once had asked many questions, was now able to give many answers from the sacred writings.

The head teacher was impressed.

“He is well trained,” he told Bold’s teacher.

“But we have just accepted some other boys, and we don’t have any space left. If you come back next year, we will take him first.”

It was a turning point. If Bold couldn’t train to become a teacher, he wanted to go back to regular school. He moved back home to Mom and his sister, who was his twin.

He hadn’t gone to school for two years, and he was far behind his former classmates. But he wanted to study with them again.

Mom spoke with the school principal, and he agreed to allow Bold to study with his old classmates for two months. If he could keep up with them, he could stay in the class.

Bold sat in the front row. Unlike before, when he was 13, he now was eager to learn.

To his surprise, the schoolwork was easy, and he quickly rose to the top of his class. His classmates couldn’t understand why he was doing so well. He had missed two years of school while they had been studying. Bold only realized later that two years of memorizing texts had cleared and disciplined his mind, enabling him to easily complete his school assignments.

After graduating from high school, Bold decided to learn English and become an English teacher. He already spoke Mongolian and Russian, and he thought that a third language wouldn’t be too difficult.

But after a few days of university classes, he was failing. English was much harder than he had expected. He wondered what to do. His twin sister had an idea. She had met some Americans, and they were teaching her English. “Come meet the Americans,” she said.

Bold wasn’t interested. Later, his sister showed him a New Testament in the Mongolian language.

“The Americans are Christians,” she said. “They’re talking about Christ.” Bold was alarmed. “Don’t go to them anymore,” he said. “We have our own traditional religion in Mongolia.”

But his sister wouldn't listen. “These people are really nice,” she said.

Bold continued to struggle with his English classes. One day, as he laboured over his homework, he remembered the Americans. He thought, “Maybe they could help me with my English.” He promised himself that if the Americans spoke about Christianity, he would show them that their religion was utterly unacceptable for Mongolians. He asked his sister if he could meet them.

The sister told the Americans about her brother. One of them replied, “Bring him to our house church this Sabbath.”

Pray for the people of Mongolia who, like Bold, are looking for answers. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children's recreation center to share the gospel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 6

“FORGIVE US OUR SINS”

February 1 — February 7

MEMORY VERSE : *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy to all them that call upon You.” [Psalm 86:5]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ Steps to Christ, page 37

LESSON AIM : To study the willingness of God to forgive us

INTRODUCTION : How grievous to the Lord has been our continual transgression. Think how entirely dependent we are upon Him, the continual recipients of His beneficence and mercy, and yet doing continually those things that are not pleasing in His sight. But does He cast us off? No, He bears with our perversity, and is ever ready to forgive us when we see our mistakes and errors, when we repent and humble ourselves before Him. Should the Lord keep a reckoning with us, what a debt would appear against us! But we can say every day, “Thy gentleness hath made me great.” We cannot trust at all to our own goodness, but hope only in the abounding mercy of Jesus. The Lord forgives our transgressions; He pardons our sins; and when we realise the greatness of His mercy, the boundlessness of His love, we become partakers of the divine nature, and manifest the same tender spirit, compassionate forbearance, mercy, and love, and are ready to forgive others.—*Manuscript Releases volume 13, pages 75-76*

Sabbath – February 1st

1. What truth must we first understand about sin?

➤ Psalm 51:4, first part.

NOTE : When David sinned against Uriah and his wife, he pleaded before God for forgiveness. He declares: “Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight.” All wrong done to others reaches back from the injured one to God. Therefore David seeks for pardon, not from a priest, but from the Creator of man. He prays: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.”—*Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 639*

2. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, February 1st, 2025

Steps to Christ Chapter 4, p. 37

“Confession”

"He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."
[Proverbs 28:13]

The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but he that confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy.

The apostle says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. If you have given offense to your friend or neighbour, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God, because the brother you have wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer. The case is brought before the only true Mediator, our great High Priest, who "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," and who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," and is able to cleanse from every stain of iniquity. [Hebrews 4:15]

Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to be repented of, and have not with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit confessed our sins, abhorring our iniquity, we have never truly sought for the forgiveness of sin; and if we have never sought, we have never found the peace of God. The only reason why we do not have remission of sins that are past is that we are not willing to humble our hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth. Explicit instruction is given concerning this matter. Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity. The psalmist says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite spirit." [Psalm 34:18]

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, February 1st, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 38

February 1st

Christ Exemplified God's Law

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalm 40:7, 8

In the councils of heaven it was determined that there must be given to mankind a living exemplification of the law. Having decided to make this great sacrifice, God left nothing obscure, nothing indefinite, in regard to the salvation of the human race. He gave to mankind a standard by which to form character. With an audible voice and in awful grandeur He spoke His law from Mount Sinai. Distinctly He stated what we must do in order to render acceptable obedience to Him and ... remain loyal to His law. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

So deep was the Lord's interest in the beings He had created, so great His love for the world, that He “gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Christ came to bring moral power to man, to elevate, ennoble, and strengthen him, enabling him to be a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. He proved to the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds and to human beings that the law can be kept. While possessing the nature of man, He obeyed the law of God, vindicating God's justice in demanding that it be obeyed. In the judgment His life will be an unanswerable argument in favour of God's law.

All who possess the faculty of reason may learn the measure of their duty. Christ is our pattern. In humanity He lived a spotless life. He was merciful, compassionate, obedient—full of goodness and truth. By His life of obedience He gave a true representation of the law. By uniting with Christ, fallen, sinful human beings may conform the life to the divine precepts. By keeping the commandments of God, they become labourers together with Him who came to the world to represent the Father by keeping all His commandments.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, February 1st, 2025

Job

Chapter 17

Job Continues: Where Then Is My Hope?

- Job 17:1 My breath is corrupt, my days are extinct, the graves *are ready* for me.
- Job 17:2 *Are there* not mockers with me? and doth not mine eye continue in their provocation?
- Job 17:3 Lay down now, put me in a surety with thee; who *is* he *that* will strike hands with me?
- Job 17:4 For thou hast hid their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt *them*.
- Job 17:5 He that speaks flattery to *his* friends, even the eyes of his children shall fail.
- Job 17:6 He hath made me also a byword of the people; and aforetime I was as a tabret.
- Job 17:7 Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members *are* as a shadow.
- Job 17:8 Upright *men* shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite.
- Job 17:9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.
- Job 17:10 But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find *one* wise *man* among you.
- Job 17:11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, *even* the thoughts of my heart.
- Job 17:12 They change the night into day: the light *is* short because of darkness.
- Job 17:13 If I wait, the grave *is* mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.
- Job 17:14 I have said to corruption, Thou *art* my father: to the worm, *Thou art* my mother, and my sister.
- Job 17:15 And where *is* now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?
- Job 17:16 They shall go down to the bars of the pit, when *our* rest together *is* in the dust.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, February 1st, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



When Anar was old enough for first grade, he started going to the Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar. His family wasn’t Adventist, but his mom decided that Tusgal School was the best place for him. Then Mom and Dad moved to the United States to work and left Anar with an aunt.

Anar liked the Adventist school and his classmates. The teachers enjoyed teaching, and the children enjoyed learning and playing. He finished first grade. Then he finished second grade, third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade. He enjoyed everything about the school. Everyone treated him kindly.

Then a new boy showed up in the seventh grade. The new boy was named Batu, and he didn’t treat Anar kindly. Batu made fun of the way that Anar walked. He made fun of the way that Anar talked.

Now Anar didn’t walk and talk like the other boys and girls at the school. For him, it was difficult to put one foot in front of the other. He has cerebral palsy. Part of his brain didn’t grow normally while he was still a baby inside his mother. As a result, when he walked, he sometimes stumbled. He also didn’t talk as quickly as his classmates. When he spoke, the words came out very slowly.

Batu liked to tease Anar. Even though Anar asked him to stop, he didn’t.

Anar spoke with his teacher, and the teacher spoke with Batu. After that, everything was fine for a while, but then Batu started to tease again.

After a while, the school social worker got involved, and Batu stopped his teasing, but only for a while.

One day, Batu called Anar a bad name, Anar tried to hit him. But Batu was bigger, faster, and stronger, and he won the fight.

Afterward, the school organized a meeting between Batu’s parents and Anar’s aunt.

But Anar had had enough. He told his aunt that he wanted to transfer to another school.

Anar liked his first day in public school. No one spoke unkindly to him.

But on the second day, the other boys began to notice that he didn’t walk and talk like them. They began to tease him, and some of them even hit him.

Anar talked to a teacher, but she didn’t do anything. He talked to another teacher, and she also didn’t do anything. The teachers didn’t seem to care.

The other children also didn’t seem to care about anything. They didn’t care about their teachers, they didn’t care about their studies, and they didn’t care about each other or Anar. During class time, they stood up and walked around the room, and Anar couldn’t do his lessons.

A week passed. Anar realized that moving to a new school hadn’t solved anything. Batu had teased him at his old school, but he had been only one boy. Now the whole class was teasing him. Anar remembered the teachers at his old school. They had cared about him and his studies. He missed his old school.

After two weeks, Anar had had enough. He asked his aunt to send him back to the Adventist school. But before he returned, he prayed. He prayed for Batu to stop teasing him.

On his first day back at the Adventist school, Anar was surprised to find that Batu wasn’t the same boy. It was like Batu knew that Anar had left because of his teasing. He didn’t tease Anar that day, or the next. He treated Anar with kindness and respect. Anar began to like him. Today, the two boys are good friends.

Anar said that God answered his prayer for the teasing to stop.

“I didn’t realize that I was going to a good school until I spent two weeks in public school,” he said. “I prayed to God about the situation, and I think God helped me.”

Today, Anar is 14 and is happy to study in the ninth grade at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped his school grow with new classrooms and a library. This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children’s recreation center where more children in Ulaanbaatar will learn to pray to the God of heaven. Thank you for your support.

Sunday – February 2nd

1. Does this mean that we should not also seek forgiveness from the one we have wronged?

➤ **James 5:16** —

NOTE : “Says the apostle: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” This scripture has been interpreted to sustain the practice of going to the priest for absolution; but it has no such application. Confess your sins to God, who only can forgive them, and your faults to one another. If you have given offence to your friend or neighbour, you are to acknowledge your wrong, and it is his duty freely to forgive you. Then you are to seek the forgiveness of God because the brother whom you wounded is the property of God, and in injuring him you sinned against his Creator and Redeemer.”—*Testimonies, volume 5, page 639*

2. Who alone can forgive sins?

➤ **Mark 2:7** —

NOTE : “Remission of sins can be obtained only through the merits of Christ. On no man, priest or pope, but on God alone, rests the power to forgive sins. “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” “As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.” “If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. . . . But whoso keeps His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected.” This is the message that is to be borne. On this basis Christians are free. Give encouragement of sins remitted. “If we walk in the light, as He in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. . . . If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” “These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” ”—*Review & Herald, June 13, 1899*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 39

February 2nd

Our Link With Heaven

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3:17

After Christ was baptized of John in Jordan, He came up out of the water, and bowing upon the banks of the river He prayed with fervency to His heavenly Father for strength to endure the conflict with the prince of darkness in which He was about to engage. The heavens were opened to His prayer, and the light of God's glory, brighter than the sun at noonday, came from the throne of the Eternal, and assuming the form of a dove with the appearance of burnished gold, encircled the Son of God, while the clear voice from the excellent glory was heard in terrible majesty, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Here was the assurance to the Son of God that His Father accepted the fallen race through their representative and that He had granted them a second trial. The communication between heaven and earth, between God and man, which had been broken by the fall of Adam, was resumed. He who knew no sin became sin for the race, that His righteousness might be imputed to man. Through the perfection of Christ's character, man was elevated in the scale of moral value with God; and through the merits of Christ, finite man was linked to the Infinite. Thus the gulf which sin had made was bridged by the world's Redeemer.

But few have a true sense of the great privileges which Christ gained for man by thus opening heaven before him. The Son of God was then the representative of our race; and the special power and glory which the Majesty of heaven conferred upon Him, and His words of approval, are the surest pledge of His love and good will to man. As Christ's intercessions in our behalf were heard, the evidence was given to man that God will accept our prayers in our own behalf through the name of Jesus. The continued, earnest prayer of faith will bring us light and strength to withstand the fiercest assaults of Satan.... The life of a living Christian is a life of living prayer.... Our great Leader points us to the open heavens as the only source of light and strength.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

Job

Chapter 18

Bildad Speaks: God Punishes the Wicked

- Job 18:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
Job 18:2 How long *will it be ere* ye make an end of words? mark, and afterwards we will speak.
Job 18:3 Wherefore are we counted as beasts, *and* reputed vile in your sight?
Job 18:4 He tears himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?
Job 18:5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.
Job 18:6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.
Job 18:7 The steps of his strength shall be straightened, and his own counsel shall cast him down.
Job 18:8 For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks upon a snare.
Job 18:9 The gin shall take *him* by the heel, *and* the robber shall prevail against him.
Job 18:10 The snare *is* laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way.
Job 18:11 Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet.
Job 18:12 His strength shall be hungerbitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side.
Job 18:13 It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength.
Job 18:14 His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors.
Job 18:15 It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation.
Job 18:16 His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off.
Job 18:17 His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.
Job 18:18 He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world.
Job 18:19 He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings.
Job 18:20 They that come after *him* shall be astonished at his day, as they that went before were affrighted.
Job 18:21 Surely such *are* the dwellings of the wicked, and this *is* the place *of him that* knows not God.

Monday – February 3rd

1. How was Isaiah shown the truth that it is God who forgives our sins?

➤ **Isaiah 43:25** —

NOTE: “Satan will come to you saying, You are a sinner. But do not let him fill your mind with the thought that, because you are sinful, God has cast you off. Say to him, Yes; I am a sinner, and for that reason I need a Saviour. I need forgiveness and pardon, and Christ says that if I come to Him, I shall not perish. In His letter to me I read, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). I will believe the word He has left for me. . . . Today the Lord says to you, Be not discouraged, but cast your burdens upon Me. You cannot carry your own sins. I will take them all. If you will trust in Me, you will not want any good thing. Never has a soul that trusts in Jesus been left to perish. ‘I, even I, am He,’ the Lord declares, ‘that blots out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.’ ”—*In Heavenly Places, page 116*

2. How complete is God's forgiveness?

➤ **Isaiah 44:22** —

➤ **Micah 7:18-19** —

NOTE : “God does not deal with us as finite men deal with one another. His thoughts are thoughts of mercy, love, and tenderest compassion. ‘He will abundantly pardon.’ He says, ‘I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions.’ ”—*Our Father Cares, page 91*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, February 3rd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 40

February 3rd

Wonderful Condescension!

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

We visited the buildings which were formerly the palaces of kings when France was under kingly rule.... My thoughts were first upon the kings who had once traversed these grand halls and figured in these galleries. Where is their human greatness now? ...

Then we remember Jesus, who came to our world with His blessed purpose of love, divesting Himself of His royal robe, His royal crown, stepping down from the royal throne, clothing His divinity with humanity, and coming to our world to be a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We see Him among the poor, blessing the afflicted, healing the sick, soothing the infirmities of age, reaching with His divine pity the very depths of human woe and misery. He even noticed the sorrows and needs of little children....

Angels have been sent as messengers of mercy to the distressed, to the suffering. These angels from the world of light, from the infinite glory of God before the throne, are on missions of love, of care, of mercy for the suffering ones of humanity. But there is a picture of greater condescension than this: the Lord, the Son of the Infinite Father, ... the Prince of the kings of the earth....

What is the work of angels in comparison with His condescension? His throne is from everlasting. He has reared every arch and pillar in nature's great temple. Behold Him, the beginning of the creation of God, who numbers the stars, who created the worlds—among which this earth is but a small speck, and would scarcely be missed from the many worlds more than a tiny leaf from the forest trees. The nations before Him are but “as a drop of a bucket,” and “as the small dust of the balance” ... (Isaiah 40:15).

Contemplate Him, the Lord, the all-glorious Redeemer, an inhabitant of the world He has created, and yet unacknowledged by the very ones He manifested so great interest to bless and save.... What condescension to the fallen men of earth! What wondrous love!

Daily Scripture

Monday, February 3rd, 2025

Job

Chapter 19

Job Replies: My Redeemer Lives

- Job 19:1 Then Job answered and said,
Job 19:2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?
Job 19:3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed *that* ye make yourselves strange to me.
Job 19:4 And be it indeed *that* I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself.
Job 19:5 If indeed ye will magnify *yourselves* against me, and plead against me my reproach:
Job 19:6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.
Job 19:7 Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but *there is* no judgment.
Job 19:8 He hath fenced up my way that I cannot pass, and he hath set darkness in my paths.
Job 19:9 He hath stripped me of my glory, and taken the crown *from* my head.
Job 19:10 He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.
Job 19:11 He hath also kindled his wrath against me, and he counted me unto him as *one of* his enemies.
Job 19:12 His troops come together, and raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle.
Job 19:13 He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.
Job 19:14 My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me.
Job 19:15 They that dwell in mine house, and my maids, count me for a stranger: I am an alien in their sight.
Job 19:16 I called my servant, and he gave *me* no answer; I entreated him with my mouth.
Job 19:17 My breath is strange to my wife, though I entreated for the children's *sake* of mine own body.
Job 19:18 Yea, young children despised me; I arose, and they spake against me.
Job 19:19 All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me.
Job 19:20 My bone cleaves to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.
Job 19:21 Have pity upon me, have pity upon me, O ye my friends; for the hand of God hath touched me.
Job 19:22 Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?
Job 19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!
Job 19:24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!
Job 19:25 For I know *that* my redeemer lives, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:
Job 19:26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:
Job 19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.
Job 19:28 But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?
Job 19:29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath *brings* the punishments of the sword, that ye may know *there is* a judgment.

Tuesday – February 4th

1. What are we told about God's attitude towards sinners who seek His forgiveness?

➤ **Psalm 86:5** —

NOTE : “Should you become alarmed for your own souls, should you seek God diligently, He will be found of you; but He will accept no half-hearted repentance. If you will forsake your sins, He is ever ready to forgive. Will you just now surrender to Him? Will you look to Calvary and inquire: "Did Jesus make this sacrifice for me? Did He endure humiliation, shame, and reproach, and suffer the cruel death of the cross because He desired to save me from the sufferings of guilt and the horror of despair, and make me unspeakably happy in His kingdom?" Look upon Him whom your sins have pierced, and resolve: "The Lord shall have the service of my life. I will no longer unite with His enemies; I will no longer lend my influence to the rebels against His government. All I have and am is too little to devote to Him who so loved me that He gave His life for me, His whole divine self for one so sinful and erring." Separate from the world, be wholly on the Lord's side, press the battle to the gates, and you will win glorious victories.”—*Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 438*

2. What condition did John explain as necessary for forgiveness?

➤ **1 John 1:9** —

➤ **Psalm 32:5** —

NOTE : “Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. If we have not experienced that repentance which is not to be repented of and have not confessed our sin with true humiliation of soul and brokenness of spirit, abhorring our iniquity, we have never sought truly for the forgiveness of sin; and if we have never sought, we have never found the peace of God. The only reason why we may not have remission of sins that are past is that we are not willing to humble our proud hearts and comply with the conditions of the word of truth.' Mind, Character & Personality, volume 2, page 456. 'True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.’—*The Faith I Live By, page 128*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 41

February 4th

Mystery of All Mysteries

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:6-8

Christ was Himself without spot or stain of sin, but having taken the nature of man, He was exposed to the fiercest assaults of the enemy, to his sharpest temptations, to the keenest of sorrow. He suffered being tempted. He was made like unto His brethren, that He might show that through the grace given, humanity could overcome the temptations of the enemy.... Listen to His words, “Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:7, 8). Who is it that thus announces His purpose of coming to this earth? Isaiah tells us: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:1-3, 14)....

“Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 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.” “... Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature” (1 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:14, 15).

The incarnation of Christ is the mystery of all mysteries.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

Job

Chapter 20

Zophar Speaks: The Wicked Will Suffer

- Job 20:1 Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,
Job 20:2 Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for *this* I make haste.
Job 20:3 I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.
Job 20:4 Knows thou *not* this of old, since man was placed upon earth,
Job 20:5 That the triumphing of the wicked *is* short, and the joy of the hypocrite *but* for a moment?
Job 20:6 Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;
Job 20:7 *Yet* he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where *is* he?
Job 20:8 He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.
Job 20:9 The eye also *which* saw him shall *see him* no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.
Job 20:10 His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.
Job 20:11 His bones are full *of the sin* of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.
Job 20:12 Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, *though* he hide it under his tongue;
Job 20:13 *Though* he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:
Job 20:14 *Yet* his meat in his bowels is turned, *it is* the gall of asps within him.
Job 20:15 He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.
Job 20:16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.
Job 20:17 He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.
Job 20:18 That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow *it* down: according to *his* substance *shall* the restitution *be*, and he shall not rejoice *therein*.
Job 20:19 Because he hath oppressed *and* hath forsaken the poor; *because* he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;
Job 20:20 Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.
Job 20:21 There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.
Job 20:22 In the fullness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.
Job 20:23 *When* he is about to fill his belly, *God* shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain *it* upon him while he is eating.
Job 20:24 He shall flee from the iron weapon, *and* the bow of steel shall strike him through.
Job 20:25 It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors *are* upon him.
Job 20:26 All darkness *shall be* hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.
Job 20:27 The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.
Job 20:28 The increase of his house shall depart, *and his goods* shall flow away in the day of his wrath.
Job 20:29 This *is* the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.

Wednesday, February 5th

1. What example of confession are we shown by Daniel and how was his prayer answered?

➤ **Daniel 9:4-21** —

NOTE : “What a prayer was that which came forth from the lips of Daniel! What humbling of soul it reveals! The warmth of heavenly fire was recognised in the words that were going upward to God. Heaven responded to that prayer by sending its messenger to Daniel. In this our day, prayers offered in like manner will prevail with God. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” As in ancient times, when prayer was offered, fire descended from heaven, and consumed the sacrifice upon the altar, so in answer to our prayers, the heavenly fire will come into our souls. The light and power of the Holy Spirit will be ours.”—*Conflict & Courage, page 256*

2. What other example of confession is recorded for us in the Word of God?

➤ **Psalms 51:1-12** —

NOTE : “David was pardoned of his transgression because he humbled his heart before God in repentance and contrition of soul and believed that God's promise to forgive would be fulfilled. He confessed his sin, repented, and was reconverted. In the rapture of the assurance of forgiveness he exclaimed, “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.” The blessing comes because of pardon; pardon comes through faith that the sin, confessed and repented of, is borne by the great Sin-bearer. Thus from Christ cometh all our blessings. His death is an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He is the great medium through whom we receive the mercy and favour of God. He, then, is indeed the Originator, the Author, as well as the Finisher, of our faith.”—*Christ Triumphant, page 150*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 42

February 5th

Christ Our Sacrifice and Surety

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:24

If for some crime that you had committed you were incarcerated within prison walls, with the sentence of death passed upon you, and a friend should come to you and say, “I will take your place, and you may go free,” would not your heart be filled with gratitude for such unselfish love? Christ has done infinitely more than this for us. We were lost; the sentence of death had been passed upon us; and Christ died for us, and thus set us free. He said, “I will take upon Myself the guilt of the sinner, that he may have another trial. I will put within his reach power that will enable him to overcome in the struggle with evil.”

This is where human beings stand today. Christ has bought us with His life, and we belong to Him. All our powers, physical, mental, and spiritual, belong to Him; and to withhold from Him that which is His own is robbery.

Imagine, if possible, the nature and degree of Christ’s sufferings. This suffering in humanity was to prevent the outpouring of the wrath of God upon the whole of those for whom Christ died. Yea, for the church this great sacrifice will be efficacious throughout eternity. Can we compute the amount of her transgression in figures? Impossible. Then who can approach unto a conception of what Christ has endured when standing in the place of surety for His church ...? ... [He was] the only One who could bear the strokes in behalf of the sinner and because of His innocence not be consumed.... In the sacrifice of God’s only-begotten Son is demonstrated the awful glory of divine justice and holiness.

By pledging His own life Christ has made Himself responsible for every man and woman on the earth. He stands in the presence of God, saying, “Father, I take upon Myself the guilt of that soul. It means death to him if he is left to bear it. If he repents he shall be forgiven. My blood shall cleanse him from all sin. I gave My life for the sins of the world.”

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

Job

Chapter 21

Job Replies: The Wicked Do Prosper

- Job 21:1 But Job answered and said,
Job 21:2 Hear diligently my speech, and let this be your consolations.
Job 21:3 Suffer me that I may speak; and after that I have spoken, mock on.
Job 21:4 As for me, *is* my complaint to man? and if *it were so*, why should not my spirit be troubled?
Job 21:5 Mark me, and be astonished, and lay *your* hand upon *your* mouth.
Job 21:6 Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.
Job 21:7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?
Job 21:8 Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.
Job 21:9 Their houses *are* safe from fear, neither *is* the rod of God upon them.
Job 21:10 Their bull genders, and fails not; their cow calves, and casts not her calf.
Job 21:11 They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance.
Job 21:12 They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.
Job 21:13 They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.
Job 21:14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.
Job 21:15 What *is* the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?
Job 21:16 Lo, their good *is* not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
Job 21:17 How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and *how oft* cometh their destruction upon them! *God* distributes sorrows in his anger.
Job 21:18 They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carries away.
Job 21:19 God lays up his iniquity for his children: he rewards him, and he shall know *it*.
Job 21:20 His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty.
Job 21:21 For what pleasure *hath* he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?
Job 21:22 Shall *any* teach God knowledge? seeing he judges those that are high.
Job 21:23 One dies in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet.
Job 21:24 His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow.
Job 21:25 And another dies in the bitterness of his soul, and never eats with pleasure.
Job 21:26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.
Job 21:27 Behold, I know your thoughts, and the devices *which* ye wrongfully imagine against me.
Job 21:28 For ye say, Where *is* the house of the prince? and where *are* the dwelling places of the wicked?
Job 21:29 Have ye not asked them that go by the way? and do ye not know their tokens,
Job 21:30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.
Job 21:31 Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him *what* he hath done?
Job 21:32 Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.
Job 21:33 The clods of the valley shall be sweet unto him, and every man shall draw after him, as *there are* innumerable before him.
Job 21:34 How then comfort ye me in vain, seeing in your answers there remaineth falsehood?

Thursday – February 6th

1. How did God bring home to David his guilt?

➤ **2 Samuel 12:1-9** —

NOTE : “The prophet Nathan's parable of the ewe lamb, given to King David, may be studied by all. The light was flashed sharply upon the king, while he was in utter darkness as to what was thought of his actions in regard to Uriah. While he was following his course of self-indulgence and commandment breaking, the parable of a rich man who took from a poor man his one ewe lamb was presented before him. But the king was so completely wrapped in his garments of sin, that he did not see that he was the sinner. He fell into the trap, and with great indignation, he passed his sentence upon another man, as he supposed, condemning him to death. When the application was made, and the facts brought home to him, when Nathan said, Thou art the man; unknowingly thou hast condemned thyself, David was overwhelmed. He had not one word to say in defence of his course of action.”—*SDA Bible Commentary, volume 2, page 1023*

2. What further condition does the Bible reveal as necessary for forgiveness?

➤ **Proverbs 28:13** —

NOTE : “The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. The Lord does not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful penances, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but he that confesses and forsakes his sin shall have mercy. 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.”—*The Faith I Live By, page 127*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Thursday, February 6th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 43

February 6th

A Voluntary Sacrifice

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:20

How earnestly Christ prosecuted the work of our salvation! What devotion His life revealed as He sought to give value to fallen man by imputing to every repenting, believing sinner the merits of His spotless righteousness! How untiringly He worked! In the Temple and the synagogue, in the streets of the cities, in the market place, in the workshop, by the seaside, among the hills, He preached the gospel and healed the sick. He gave all there was of Himself, that He might work out the plan of redeeming grace.

Christ was under no obligation to make this great sacrifice. Voluntarily He pledged Himself to bear the punishment due to the transgressor of His law. His love was His only obligation, and without a murmur He endured every pang and welcomed every indignity that was part of the plan of salvation.

The life of Christ was one of unselfish service, and His life is our lesson book. The work that He began we are to carry forward. With His life of toil and sacrifice before them, can those who profess His name hesitate to deny self, to lift the cross and follow Him? He humbled Himself to the lowest depths that we might be lifted to the heights of purity and holiness and completeness. He became poor that He might pour into our poverty-stricken souls the fullness of His riches. He endured the cross of shame, that He might give us peace and rest and joy and make us partakers of the glories of His throne....

Should we not give back to God all that He has redeemed, the affections He has purified, and the body that He has purchased, to be kept unto sanctification and holiness? ...

True Christianity diffuses love through the whole being. It touches every vital part—the brain, the heart, the helping hands, the feet—enabling men to stand firmly where God requires them to stand.... We can, *we can*, reveal the likeness of our divine Lord. We can know the science of spiritual life. We can glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which are His.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, February 6th, 2025

Job

Chapter 22

Eliphaz Speaks: Job's Wickedness Is Great

- Job 22:1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said,
Job 22:2 Can a man be profitable unto God, as he that is wise may be profitable unto himself?
Job 22:3 *Is it* any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or *is it* gain *to him*, that thou makes thy ways perfect?
Job 22:4 Will he reprove thee for fear of thee? will he enter with thee into judgment?
Job 22:5 *Is* not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?
Job 22:6 For thou hast taken a pledge from thy brother for nought, and stripped the naked of their clothing.
Job 22:7 Thou hast not given water to the weary to drink, and thou hast withhold bread from the hungry.
Job 22:8 But *as for* the mighty man, he had the earth; and the honourable man dwelt in it.
Job 22:9 Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.
Job 22:10 Therefore snares *are* round about thee, and sudden fear troubles thee;
Job 22:11 Or darkness, *that* thou canst not see; and abundance of waters cover thee.
Job 22:12 *Is* not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!
Job 22:13 And thou say, How doth God know? can he judge through the dark cloud?
Job 22:14 Thick clouds *are* a covering to him, that he sees not; and he walks in the circuit of heaven.
Job 22:15 Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?
Job 22:16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood:
Job 22:17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?
Job 22:18 Yet he filled their houses with good *things*: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me.
Job 22:19 The righteous see *it*, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn.
Job 22:20 Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumes.
Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.
Job 22:22 Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.
Job 22:23 If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles.
Job 22:24 Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the *gold* of Ophir as the stones of the brooks.
Job 22:25 Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.
Job 22:26 For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.
Job 22:27 Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.
Job 22:28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.
Job 22:29 When *men* are cast down, then thou shalt say, *There is* lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.
Job 22:30 He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

Preparation Day – February 7th

1. How was Isaiah shown that forsaking our sins is a condition for receiving God's mercy?

➤ **Isaiah 55:7** —

➤ **Ezekiel 18:30-32** —

NOTE : “True repentance includes more than sorrow for sin. It demands a resolute turning away from evil. We may profess to feel deep sorrow for our sins, we may weep over our wrong course; but if we make no change in that course, our sorrow will avail nothing.”—*Signs of the Times, June 2, 1881*

“Here is where thousands fail; they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor. Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul. None are so sinful that they cannot find strength, purity, and righteousness in Jesus, who died for them. He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes of righteousness; He bids them live and not die. With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner. As you read the promises, remember they are the expression of unutterable love and pity. The great heart of Infinite Love is drawn toward the sinner with boundless compassion. He wants to restore His moral image in man. As you draw near to Him with confession and repentance, He will draw near to you with mercy and forgiveness.”—*God's Amazing Grace page 82*

2. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, February 7th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 44

February 7th

Breaking the Power of Death

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction.

Hosea 13:14

Well might all heaven be astonished at the reception their loved Commander received in the world! ... He made the world, and yet the world knew Him not. Friends denied Him, forsook Him, and betrayed Him. He was assailed by temptation. Human agony convulsed His divine soul. He was lacerated with cruel scourgings. His hands were pierced with nails, His holy temples were crowned with thorns.... It was the working of Satan's machinations that made the life of Christ one dark series of afflictions and sadness; and at last he compassed Christ's death....

In the act of dying, Christ was destroying him who had the power of death. He carried out the plan, finished the work which from Adam's fall He had covenanted to undertake. By dying for the guilt of a sinful world, He reinstated fallen man, on condition of obedience to God's commandments, in the position from which he had fallen in consequence of disobedience. And when He broke the fetters of the tomb and rose triumphant from the dead He answered the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Christ made it possible that every child of Adam might, through a life of obedience, overcome sin and rise also from the grave to his heritage of immortality purchased by the blood of Christ.

Our salvation was wrought out by infinite suffering to the Son of God. His divine bosom received the anguish, the agony, the pain that the sinfulness of Adam brought upon the race. The heel of Christ was indeed bruised when His humanity suffered, and grief heavier than that which ever oppressed the beings He had created weighed down His soul as He was engaged in paying the vast debt which man owed to God.

The question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" has been answered.... God in human form has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. In dying, Christ secured eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, February 7th, 2025

Job

Chapter 23

Job Replies: Where Is God?

- Job 23:1 Then Job answered and said,
Job 23:2 Even today *is* my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.
Job 23:3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! *that* I might come *even* to his seat!
Job 23:4 I would order *my* cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.
Job 23:5 I would know the words *which* he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.
Job 23:6 Will he plead against me with *his* great power? No; but he would put *strength* in me.
Job 23:7 There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge.
Job 23:8 Behold, I go forward, but he *is* not *there*; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:
Job 23:9 On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold *him*: he hides himself on the right hand, that I cannot see *him*:
Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
Job 23:11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.
Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.
Job 23:13 But he *is* in one *mind*, and who can turn him? and *what* his soul desireth, even *that* he doeth.
Job 23:14 For he performs *the thing that is* appointed for me: and many such *things are* with him.
Job 23:15 Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him.
Job 23:16 For God makes my heart soft, and the Almighty troubles me:
Job 23:17 Because I was not cut off before the darkness, *neither* hath he covered the darkness from my face.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, February 7th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Editor's note: This is the story of how Bold Batsukh, Mongolia's first Seventh-day Adventist pastor, gave his heart to God in the early 1990's. The story picks up with Bold struggling to study English at a university in Mongolia. He asks his twin sister to introduce him to some Americans who are teaching her English and about God. He is determined to learn English from them and, if necessary, show them that Christianity has no place in Mongolia.

The Americans didn't meet in a church but in the living room of their house.

They greeted Bold kindly when he came with his twin sister to their house church in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar.

It was a most unusual experience for Bold. About 20 people were sitting in a circle on the floor, singing from songbooks. The words of the songs seemed so odd to Bold. He was confused and amused. He thought, "What do they mean by 'hosanna'? Why are they singing about a 'Lamb'?" He held a songbook over his face to hide his laughter.

After the song service, the Americans led a Sabbath School class. They spoke about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2.

Bold was fascinated and had many questions. But he kept silent.

Then one of the Americans preached a short sermon. None of the words made sense to Bold. The preacher talked about an image in the book of Revelation that Bold didn't understand. The preacher spoke about Jesus coming back, and Bold wondered, "Where did He go, and why does He need to come back?"

After lunch, the house-church group went to an orphanage to do crafts with children.

When Bold returned home that night, he felt good. It had been a good day, and he had enjoyed helping the children. “I’ll have to give the Americans a chance,” he thought. “Maybe I should listen to their ideas.”

He eagerly waited for the next Sabbath.

After the Sabbath sermon, he sat down with the Americans and listened. What he heard was very different from what he had been taught. The Americans opened a Bible to Genesis and shared the Creation story. Bold was very interested. He had studied with a teacher from a traditional Mongolian religion for two years as a boy, but his teacher hadn’t been able to explain the origin of life.

The teacher had told a legend about dust coming together and forming the Earth. But the legend didn’t explain the origins of water, air, and living things. To those questions, the teacher had no answers. But the Bible had clear answers about all of those things.

Bold had many questions, and he began to ask them. The American missionaries answered his questions from the Bible. When they learned that he knew Russian, they gave him a Russian Bible. At the time, only the New Testament was available in the Mongolian language so, with the Russian Bible, Bold had access to the whole Word of God.

On his third Sabbath at the church, a missionary said, “Why don’t you teach Old Testament stories with children’s felts?”

Bold was surprised. He didn’t feel qualified to teach the Bible to anyone.

The missionary encouraged him to try. “Just go for it,” he said.

The challenge intrigued Bold, so he agreed.

That week, he carefully read the Russian Old Testament and took notes in Mongolian. On Friday, he went to the missionaries’ house and picked out the felts that he wanted to use the next day. On Sabbath, he told Old Testament stories in Mongolian to a rapt audience at the house church.

At home, Bold kept reading the Bible, and he found answers to all of his questions. He learned that God and the devil are real. He read in Genesis 3 that the devil, disguised as a snake, brought sin and death into the world. He also read in Genesis 3 that God put forth a plan to save humanity.

As a result, he learned, death is not the end, and people who believe in Jesus have eternal life. In John 3:16, he read, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (NKJV).

He gave his heart to Jesus.

Today, Bold is a leader of the Adventist Church in Mongolia. He holds the distinctions of being not only the first Mongolian Adventist pastor but also the first ordained Mongolian pastor. He also speaks fluent English.

“I learned in the Bible about a loving God who created us and, when we sinned, came to rescue us. That was more appealing than anything that I had been taught before. I gave the Bible a chance, and that’s why I’m an Adventist today.”

He said that even though he suffered after his father died, he found God as a result.

“Even though it was a tragedy in my life, it ended up being so good,” he said. “By coming to Christ, I found answers to all my questions. God was with me all that time.”

Pray for the people of Mongolia who, like Bold, are looking for answers. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a children’s recreation center to share the gospel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 7

*“IF YE FROM YOUR HEARTS FORGIVE NOT
EVERYONE HIS BROTHER THEIR TRESPASSES”*

February 8 - February 14

MEMORY VERSE : *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” [Matthew 6:14-15]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ Christ's Object Lessons, pages 243-247

LESSON AIM : To show God's principle that our behaviour towards others determines His response to us.

INTRODUCTION : “When we come to ask mercy and blessing from God, we should have a spirit of love and forgiveness in our own hearts. How can we pray, *“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,”* [Matthew 6:12] and yet indulge an unforgiving spirit? If we expect our own prayers to be heard, we must forgive others in the same manner and to the same extent as we hope to be forgiven.”—*A Call to Stand Apart*, page 27

Sabbath – February 8th

1. How did Christ show that our attitude to others determines God's attitude to us?

➤ Matthew 6:12 —

NOTE : “*“But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* [Matthew 6:15] Nothing can justify an unforgiving spirit. He who is unmerciful toward others shows that he himself is not a partaker of God's pardoning grace. In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul, and from him to the souls of others. The tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life will be seen in those who become sharers of His grace. But *“if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”* [Romans 8:9] He is alienated from God, fitted only for eternal separation from Him.”—Christ's Object Lessons, page 251

2. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, February 8th, 2025

Christ's Object Lessons Chapter 19, p. 243-247

“The Measure of Forgiveness”

Peter had come to Christ with the question, "How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" The rabbis limited the exercise of forgiveness to three offenses. Peter, carrying out, as he supposed, the teaching of Christ, thought to extend it to seven, the number signifying perfection. But Christ taught that we are never to become weary of forgiving. Not "Until seven times," He said, "but, Until seventy times seven."

Then He showed the true ground upon which forgiveness is to be granted and the danger of cherishing an unforgiving spirit. In a parable He told of a king's dealing with the officers who administered the affairs of his government. Some of these officers were in receipt of vast sums of money belonging to the state. As the king investigated their administration of this trust, there was brought before him one man whose account showed a debt to his lord for the immense sum of ten thousand talents. He had nothing to pay, and according to the custom, the king ordered him to be sold, with all that he had, that payment might be made. But the terrified man fell at his feet and besought him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

"But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence; and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owe. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not; but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: should not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wrath, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."

This parable presents details which are needed for the filling out of the picture but which have no counterpart in its spiritual significance. The attention should not be diverted to them. Certain great truths are illustrated, and to these our thought should be given.

The pardon granted by this king represents a divine forgiveness of all sin. Christ is represented by the king, who, moved with compassion, forgave the debt of his servant. Man was under the condemnation of the broken law. He could not save himself, and for this reason Christ came to this world, clothed His divinity with humanity, and gave His life, the just for the unjust. He gave Himself for our sins, and to every soul He freely offers the blood-bought pardon. "With the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption." Psalm 130:7.

Here is the ground upon which we should exercise compassion toward our fellow sinners. "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:11. "Freely ye have received," Christ says, "freely give." Matthew 10:8.

In the parable, when the debtor pleaded for delay, with the promise, "Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all," the sentence was revoked. The whole debt was cancelled. And he was soon given an opportunity to follow the example of the master who had forgiven him. Going out, he met a fellow servant who owed him a small sum. He had been forgiven ten thousand talents; the debtor owed him a hundred pence. But he who had been so mercifully treated, dealt with his fellow labourer in an altogether different manner. His debtor made an appeal similar to that which he himself had made to the king, but without a similar result. He who had so recently been forgiven was not tender-hearted and pitiful. The mercy shown him he did not exercise in dealing with his fellow servant. He heeded not the request to be patient. The small sum owed to him was all that the ungrateful servant would keep in mind.

He demanded all that he thought his due, and carried into effect a sentence similar to that which had been so graciously revoked for him.

How many are today manifesting the same spirit. When the debtor pleaded with his lord for mercy, he had no true sense of the greatness of his debt. He did not realize his helplessness. He hoped to deliver himself. "Have patience with me," he said, "and I will pay thee all." So there are many who hope by their own works to merit God's favour. They do not realize their helplessness. They do not accept the grace of God as a free gift, but are trying to build themselves up in self-righteousness. Their own hearts are not broken and humbled on account of sin, and they are exacting and unforgiving toward others. Their own sins against God, compared with their brother's sins against them, are as ten thousand talents to one hundred pence--nearly one million to one; yet they dare to be unforgiving.

In the parable the lord summoned the unmerciful debtor, and "said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me; should not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." "So likewise," said Jesus, "shall My Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses." He who refuses to forgive is thereby casting away his own hope of pardon.

But the teaching of this parable should not be misapplied. God's forgiveness toward us lessens in no wise our duty to obey Him. So the spirit of forgiveness toward our fellow men does not lessen the claim of just obligation. In the prayer which Christ taught His disciples He said, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matthew 6:12. By this He did not mean that in order to be forgiven our sins we must not require our just dues from our debtors. If they cannot pay, even though this may be the result of unwise management, they are not to be cast into prison, oppressed, or even treated harshly; but the parable does not teach us to encourage indolence. The word of God declares that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10.) The Lord does not require the hard-working man to support others in idleness. With many there is a waste of time, a lack of effort, which brings to poverty and want. If these faults are not corrected by those who indulge them, all that might be done in their behalf would be like putting treasure into a bag with holes. Yet there is an unavoidable poverty, and we are to manifest tenderness and compassion toward those who are unfortunate. We should treat others just as we ourselves, in like circumstances, would wish to be treated.

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, February 8th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 45

February 8th

A Friend in the Heavenly Court

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3, 4

Is there any reason why this lively hope should not give us as much confidence and joy at this time as it gave the disciples in the early church? Christ is not enclosed in Joseph's new tomb. He is risen, and has ascended up on high, and we are to act out our faith, that the world may see that we have a lively hope....

Our hope is not without foundation; our inheritance is not corruptible. It is not the subject of imagination.

We read in the Bible about the resurrection of Christ from the dead, but do we act as though we believed it? Do we believe that Jesus is a living Saviour, that He is not in Joseph's new tomb, with the great stone rolled before it, but that He has risen from the dead and ascended on high ...? He is there to plead our cases in the courts of heaven. He is there because we need a friend in the heavenly court, One who is to be our advocate and intercessor. Then let us rejoice in this. We have everything for which to praise God.

Many judge of their religious state by their emotions, but these are not a safe criterion. Our Christian life does not depend upon our feelings, but upon our having a right hold from above. We must believe the words of God just as He has spoken them; we must take Christ at His word, believe that He came to represent the Father, and that the Father, as is represented in Christ, is our friend, and that He desires not that we should perish, or He would never have given His Son to die our sacrifice. The cross of Calvary is an eternal pledge to every one of us that God wants us to be happy, not only in the future life but in this life.

The death of Christ brings to the rejector of His mercy the wrath and judgments of God, unmixed with mercy. This is the wrath of the Lamb. But the death of Christ is hope and eternal life to all who receive Him and believe in Him.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, February 8th, 2025

Job

Chapter 24

- Job 24:1 Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?
- Job 24:2 *Some* remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed *thereof*.
- Job 24:3 They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge.
- Job 24:4 They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide themselves together.
- Job 24:5 Behold, *as* wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness *yields* food for them *and* for *their* children.
- Job 24:6 They reap *everyone* his corn in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked.
- Job 24:7 They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that *they have* no covering in the cold.
- Job 24:8 They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for want of a shelter.
- Job 24:9 They pluck the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge of the poor.
- Job 24:10 They cause *him* to go naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaf *from* the hungry;
- Job 24:11 *Which* make oil within their walls, *and* tread *their* winepresses, and suffer thirst.
- Job 24:12 Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded cries out: yet God lays not folly *to them*.
- Job 24:13 They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.
- Job 24:14 The murderer rising with the light kills the poor and needy, and in the night is as a thief.
- Job 24:15 The eye also of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguises *his* face.
- Job 24:16 In the dark they dig through houses, *which* they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light.
- Job 24:17 For the morning *is* to them even as the shadow of death: if *one* know *them*, *they are in* the terrors of the shadow of death.
- Job 24:18 He *is* swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholds not the way of the vineyards.
- Job 24:19 Drought and heat consume the snow waters: *so doth* the grave *those which* have sinned.
- Job 24:20 The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.
- Job 24:21 He evil entreats the barren *that* bears not: and doeth not good to the widow.
- Job 24:22 He draws also the mighty with his power: he rises up, and no *man* is sure of life.
- Job 24:23 *Though* it be given him *to be* in safety, whereon he rests; yet his eyes *are* upon their ways.
- Job 24:24 They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all *other*, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn.
- Job 24:25 And if *it be* not *so* now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, February 8th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Eleven-year-old Tae-Hyung likes school, and he likes to get good grades in South Korea. But to get good grades, he has to know the correct answers. To know the correct answers, he carefully does all of his schoolwork.

One day, the teacher asked the children a hard question. “When did human beings start to wear clothes?” she asked.

Tae-Hyung’s hand shot up.

“I know!” he said.

“What is the right answer?” the teacher said. “When did human beings start to wear clothes?”

“When Adam and Eve sinned,” the boy said, confidently. “God gave them clothes made from animal skin.”

The teacher looked surprised. That was not the answer that she was expecting. The school textbook didn’t mention Adam or Eve. It also said didn’t mention sin or God.

The boy saw the startled expression on his teacher’s face. He knew that his answer did not come from the textbook. He had read the textbook. But he also had read the Bible at an afterschool program at the Seventh-day Adventist church. He believed that the Bible was more correct than his textbook. He spoke up again. “The Bible says God gave clothes to Adam and Eve when they sinned,” he said.

The teacher wasn’t sure what to say. For a long moment she looked at the other children. Then she looked at

Tae-Hyung. She refused to accept his answer as correct.

“There are many odd stories in the Bible,” she said. “Could someone else answer the question? When did human beings start to wear clothes?”

Another child raised his hand and provided the answer from the textbook. He said human beings began to wear clothes 170,000 years ago.

After school, Tae-Hyung went as usual to the Adventist church to participate in the afterschool program. He and many of the 45 children in the program did not come from Christian homes, but their parents were happy that they could learn about the Bible.

Tae-Hyung’s favourite part of the program was a Bible club with a teacher named Mr. Cho. In the club, Tae-Hyung had read in the Bible that God created a perfect world and everything in it, including Adam and Eve.

He had read that sin entered the perfect world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating forbidden fruit. He had read that Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves and then God gave them the first clothing. Genesis 3:21 says, “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them” (NIV).

That day, Tae-Hyung told the Bible club about what had happened at school. All of the other children agreed that he had given the correct answer. They expressed sadness that the schoolteacher had refused to accept his answer, and they said that she should have agreed with him.

The Bible club teacher was very proud of Tae-Hyung. By sharing the Bible in class, the boy had shown his faith that the Bible is the Word of God and that its stories are true. He had given the correct answer in front of his classmates and schoolteacher — and maybe one day they also would believe that the Bible has all the correct answers.

Pray for Tae-Hyung, his classmates, and schoolteacher to know God better. Pray for millions of people in South Korea and the rest of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division to know the correct answer about when human beings started to wear clothes. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to 14 after-school programs similar to Tae-Hyung’s in Japan. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

Sunday – February 9th

1. How did Christ apply this principle to other situations?

➤ **Matthew 7:1-2** —

➤ **Luke 6:37** —

NOTE : “In the sermon of Christ upon the mount He said: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Our Saviour reprov'd for rash judgement. "Why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye; . . . and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" It is frequently the case that while one is quick to discern the errors of his brethren, he may be in greater faults himself, but be blind to them. All who are followers of Christ should deal with one another exactly as we wish the Lord to deal with us in our errors and weaknesses, for we are all erring and need His pity and forgiveness.”—*Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, page 93*

2. How did Christ emphasise that forgiveness is not a mere form of words?

➤ **Matthew 18:35** —

NOTE : ““So likewise," said Jesus, "shall My Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses." He who refuses to forgive is thereby casting away his own hope of pardon.' Christ's Object Lessons, page 47. 'Let us cultivate a kind spirit, a spirit of forbearance, and tender, pitying love toward those, who, when under temptation, have done us grievous wrongs. If possible, let us heal these wounds, and close the door of temptation by removing every barrier the wrong-doer has erected between himself and us. Humble your heart before God, and come close to the one who would deal unjustly with you, and it may be that the difficulty may all be healed. The Lord delights to bestow His blessings upon those who will honour Him, who will acknowledge His mercy, and show that they appreciate His love to them by manifesting the same gracious characteristic to those around them. O may the youth be able to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us."’—*Youth's Instructor, June 1, 1893*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 46

February 9th

An Honoured Guest

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

All who will open their hearts to receive Him may have Jesus as an honoured guest.

Jesus is the perfect pattern. Instead of trying to please self and have our own way, let us seek to reflect His image. He was kind and courteous, compassionate and tender. Are we like Him in these respects? Do we seek to make our lives fragrant with good works? ...

It is not enough that we merely profess the faith; something more than a nominal assent is wanted. There must be a real knowledge, a genuine experience in the principles of the truth as it is in Jesus. The Holy Spirit must work within, bringing these principles into the strong light of distinct consciousness, that we may know their power and make them a living reality....

God has honoured His Son by making Him the model after which He molds the characters of all who believe on Him. He takes of the things of Christ and reveals them to us, that we may catch His temper and bear His likeness....

The obstacles, provocations, and hardships that we meet, may prove to us, not a curse, but the greatest blessings of our lives; for the grandest characters are built amid hardships and trials. But they must be received as practical lessons in the school of Christ. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. We have a better knowledge of the working of Satan, and of our own power to defeat him through divine grace.

Jesus was the light of the world.... It is our privilege to walk in the sunshine of His presence and to weave into the characters we are forming the golden threads of cheerfulness, gratitude, forbearance, and love. We may thus show the power of divine grace and reflect light from Heaven amid all the frets and irritations that come to us day by day.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

Job

Chapter 25

Bildad Speaks: Man Cannot Be Righteous

- Job 25:1 Then answered Bildad the Shuhite, and said,
Job 25:2 Dominion and fear *are* with him, he makes peace in his high places.
Job 25:3 Is there any number of his armies? and upon whom doth not his light arise?
Job 25:4 How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman?
Job 25:5 Behold even to the moon, and it shines not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.
Job 25:6 How much less man, *that is* a worm? and the son of man, *which is* a worm?

Monday – February 10th

1. How did Jesus show that, in forgiving others, we must trust their sincerity?

➤ **Luke 17:3-4** —

NOTE : “ “If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." Treat him and his errors as you wish God to treat you when you offend Him. You should not say, as some have said, who ought to know better, "I do not think he feels humble enough. I do not think he feels his confession." What right have you to judge him, as if you could read the heart? The word of God says, "If he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." ”—*The Home Missionary, January 1, 1892*

2. How did Jesus teach Peter the scope of forgiveness?

➤ **Matthew 18:21-22** —

NOTE : “If the Lord should deal with the human family as men deal with one another, we should have been consumed; but He is long-suffering, of tender pity, forgiving our transgressions and sins. When we seek Him with the whole heart, He will be found of us. Christ is our sin-bearer, one who constantly pardons iniquity and sin. Mercy, forbearance, long-suffering is the glory of His character. When Moses prayed to the Lord, saying, "Show me Thy glory," He said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass before thee." The question that Peter asked of Christ was suggested to him by the lessons that Christ had previously given in regard to church discipline. The Jewish precepts enjoined upon men the duty of forgiving five offences, and Peter thought that in suggesting seven times he had reached the limit of human patience. But Jesus would have him understand that those who have the divine mind, and were imbued with the divine spirit would exercise forgiveness without limit. The plan and ground of salvation, which is love, is the principle which must be carried out by the human family. Should Christ limit His mercy, compassion, and forgiveness by a certain number of sins, how few men would be saved! But the mercy of Christ in forgiving the iniquities of men teaches us that there must be free forgiveness of wrongs and sins that are committed against us by our fellow men. Christ gave this lesson to His disciples to correct the evils that were being taught and practised in the precepts and examples of those who were interpreting the Scriptures at that time.”—*The Upward Look, page 43*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, February 10th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 2, p. 47***

February 10th

Our Sure Foundation

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:11-13

As fire reveals the difference between gold, silver, and precious stones, and wood, hay, and stubble, so the day of judgment will test characters, showing the difference between characters formed after Christ's likeness and characters formed after the likeness of the selfish heart. All selfishness, all false religion, will then appear as it is. The worthless material will be consumed; but the gold of true, simple, humble faith will never lose its value. It can never be consumed; for it is imperishable.

Anyone can be just what he chooses to be. Character is not obtained by receiving an education. Character is not obtained by amassing wealth or by gaining worldly honour. Character is not obtained by having others fight the battle of life for us. It must be sought, worked for, fought for; and it requires a purpose, a will, a determination. To form a character which God will approve, requires persevering effort. It will take a continual resisting of the powers of darkness to ... have our names retained in the book of life. Is it not worth more to have our names registered in that book, have them immortalized among the heavenly angels, than to have them sounded in praise throughout the whole earth?

In the probationary time granted us here we are each building a structure that is to have the inspection of the Judge of all the earth. This work is the molding of our characters. Every act of our lives is a stone in that building, every faculty is a worker, every blow that is struck is for good or for evil. The words of inspiration warn us to take heed how we build, to see that our foundation is sure. If we build upon the solid rock, pure, noble, upright deeds, the structure will go up beautiful and symmetrical, a fit temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Daily Scripture

Monday, February 10th, 2025

Job

Chapter 26

Job Replies: God's Majesty Is Unsearchable

- Job 26:1 But Job answered and said,
Job 26:2 How hast thou helped *him that is* without power? *how* saves thou the arm *that hath* no strength?
Job 26:3 How hast thou counselled *him that hath* no wisdom? and *how* hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?
Job 26:4 To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?
Job 26:5 Dead *things* are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof.
Job 26:6 Hell *is* naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.
Job 26:7 He stretches out the north over the empty place, *and* hangs the earth upon nothing.
Job 26:8 He binds up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them.
Job 26:9 He holds back the face of his throne, *and* spreads his cloud upon it.
Job 26:10 He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end.
Job 26:11 The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof.
Job 26:12 He divides the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smites through the proud.
Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.
Job 26:14 Lo, these *are* parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

Tuesday – February 11th

1. What story did Jesus tell to illustrate the importance of forgiveness?

➤ **Matthew 18:23-35** —

NOTE : “Jesus then enforced the duty of forgiveness, by the parable of the two debtors. One was forgiven a debt of ten thousand talents, and then refused to show mercy to his fellow servant who owed him a hundred pence. The pardon granted to that hard-hearted servant was revoked, and he was delivered to the tormentors. Our Lord makes the application of the parable in these impressive words: "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses." ”—*Review & Herald, December 26, 1882*

2. How did Jesus show that forgiveness takes priority even over worship?

➤ **Mark 11:25-26** —

NOTE : “The lessons which Christ has given us are to be studied, and incorporated into our religious life every day. "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any." "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Parents should teach their children to be patient under injuries. Teach them that wonderful precept in the Lord's prayer, that we are to forgive others as we would be forgiven. When the believer, in view of all his transgressions, exercises faith in God, believes that he is pardoned, because Christ has died as his sacrifice, he will be so filled with gratitude to God that his tender sympathy will be reaching out to those who, like himself, have sinned and have need of pardon. Pride will find no place in his heart. Such faith as this will be a deathblow to a revengeful spirit.”—*The Home Missionary, February 1, 1892*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 48

February 11th

Under Which Standard?

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Every individual in our world will be arrayed under one of two banners—the chosen and loyal under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel, and all others under Satan’s standard....

There is to be no compromise with the powers of darkness. Individually we must take our stand. If we are not at enmity with the prince of darkness, the serpent, his folds encircle us and all our powers; his sting is in our hearts. All who range themselves under the blood-stained banner of the Prince of Life will henceforth count Satan as a foe, and will in God’s strength oppose him as a deadly enemy. They will take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And what will they do in order to hold vantage ground? “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance” (Ephesians 6:18)....

We should be quick to discern danger. We should see the hateful character of sin and should expel it from the soul. The doers of the Word know that in Jesus there is strength, which becomes their own by faith. They are clothed with righteousness that God will accept, for it is the righteousness of Christ. Clad in this armour of God, the panoply of heaven, they successfully resist the serpent’s wiles. Not one soul has a moment to lose.... The concerns of eternity are of sufficient importance to take precedence over every other enterprise. “What must I do to be saved?” should be the great and solemn question with us now.

I wish that all could appreciate the wonderful working of God in behalf of man. For fallen angels there has been no atonement; but for fallen man a full and ample offering has been made, to save to the uttermost all who shall come unto God by Him.

God beholds in all His children the image of His only-begotten Son. He looks upon them with a love greater than any language can express. He enfolds them in the arms of His love. The Lord rejoices over His people.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

Job

Chapter 27

Job Continues: I Will Maintain My Integrity

- Job 27:1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,
Job 27:2 *As* God lives, *who* hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, *who* hath vexed my soul;
Job 27:3 All the while my breath *is* in me, and the spirit of God *is* in my nostrils;
Job 27:4 My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.
Job 27:5 God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.
Job 27:6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach *me* so long as I live.
Job 27:7 Let mine enemy be as the wicked, and he that rises up against me as the unrighteous.
Job 27:8 For what *is* the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?
Job 27:9 Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?
Job 27:10 Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?
Job 27:11 I will teach you by the hand of God: *that* which *is* with the Almighty will I not conceal.
Job 27:12 Behold, all ye yourselves have seen *it*; why then are ye thus altogether vain?
Job 27:13 This *is* the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, *which* they shall receive of the Almighty.

Job 27:14 If his children be multiplied, *it is* for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.
Job 27:15 Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep.
Job 27:16 Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay;
Job 27:17 He may prepare *it*, but the just shall put *it* on, and the innocent shall divide the silver.
Job 27:18 He builds his house as a moth, and as a booth *that* the keeper makes.
Job 27:19 The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he opens his eyes, and he *is* not.
Job 27:20 Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest steals him away in the night.
Job 27:21 The east wind carries him away, and he departs: and as a storm hurls him out of his place.
Job 27:22 For *God* shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand.
Job 27:23 *Men* shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.

Wednesday – February 12th

1. How did Paul teach the importance of forgiveness among members of the church?

- **Ephesians 4:32** —
- **Colossians 3:12-13** —

NOTE : “Let the tenderness and mercy that Jesus has revealed in His own precious life be an example to us of the manner in which we should treat our fellow beings. . . . In all your transactions with your fellow men never forget that you are dealing with God's property. Be kind; be pitiful; be courteous. Respect God's purchased possession. Treat one another with tenderness and courtesy. If you have enmity, suspicion, envy, and jealousy in your hearts, you have a work to do to make these things right. Confess your sins; come into harmony with your brethren. Speak well of them. Throw out no unfavourable hints, no suggestions that will awaken distrust in the minds of others. Guard their reputation as sacredly as you would have them guard yours; love them as you would be loved of Jesus.”—*My Life Today*, page 235

2. What example of forgiveness did Joseph show?

- **Genesis 45:3-8** —

NOTE : “Seeing their confusion, he said kindly, "Come near to me, I pray you;" and as they came near, he continued, "I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life." Feeling that they had already suffered enough for their cruelty toward him, he nobly sought to banish their fears and lessen the bitterness of their self-reproach.”—*Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 230

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 49

February 12th

Inestimable Treasure

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchantman, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matthew 13:45, 46

When Christ compared the kingdom of heaven to a pearl of great price He desired to lead every soul to appreciate that pearl above all else. The possession of the pearl, which means the possession of Christ as a personal Saviour, is a symbol of the highest riches. It is a treasure above every earthly treasure....

There are some who are seeking, always seeking, for the goodly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl.... They never know what it is to have peace and harmony in the soul; for without entire self-surrender there is no rest, no joy. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved means to be not almost but wholly lost....

In the parable the merchantman is represented as selling all that he had to gain possession of one pearl of great price. This is a beautiful representation of those who appreciate the truth so highly that they give up all they have to come into possession of it. They lay hold by faith of the salvation provided for man at the sacrifice of the only-begotten Son of God. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no guilt, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious truths of God's Word. They are not a mixture of truth and error. They are without a flaw....

Christ is ready to receive all who come to Him in sincerity. But He will not tolerate one particle of pretence or hypocrisy. He is our only hope. He is our Alpha and Omega. He is our sun and our shield, our wisdom, our sanctification, our righteousness. Only by His power can our hearts be kept daily in the love of God....

Salvation, with its blood-bought, inestimable treasures, is the pearl of great price. It may be searched for and found. But all who really find it will sell all they have to buy it.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

Job

Chapter 28

Job Continues: Where Is Wisdom?

- Job 28:1 Surely there is a vein for the silver, and a place for gold *where* they fine *it*.
- Job 28:2 Iron is taken out of the earth, and brass *is* molten *out of* the stone.
- Job 28:3 He sets an end to darkness, and searches out all perfection: the stones of darkness, and the shadow of death.
- Job 28:4 The flood breaks out from the inhabitant; *even the waters* forgotten of the foot: they are dried up, they are gone away from men.
- Job 28:5 *As for* the earth, out of it cometh bread: and under it is turned up as it were fire.
- Job 28:6 The stones of it *are* the place of sapphires: and it hath dust of gold.
- Job 28:7 *There is* a path which no fowl knows, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:
- Job 28:8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.
- Job 28:9 He puts forth his hand upon the rock; he overturns the mountains by the roots.
- Job 28:10 He cuts out rivers among the rocks; and his eye sees every precious thing.
- Job 28:11 He binds the floods from overflowing; and *the thing that is* hid brings he forth to light.
- Job 28:12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where *is* the place of understanding?
- Job 28:13 Man knows not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.
- Job 28:14 The depth saith, *It is* not in me: and the sea saith, *It is* not with me.
- Job 28:15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed *for* the price thereof.
- Job 28:16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.
- Job 28:17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it *shall not be for* jewels of fine gold.
- Job 28:18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.
- Job 28:19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.
- Job 28:20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where *is* the place of understanding?
- Job 28:21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.
- Job 28:22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.
- Job 28:23 God understands the way thereof, and he knows the place thereof.
- Job 28:24 For he looks to the ends of the earth, *and* sees under the whole heaven;
- Job 28:25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weighs the waters by measure.
- Job 28:26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:
- Job 28:27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.
- Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

Thursday – February 13th

1. How did Joseph respond when his brothers later doubted his sincerity?

➤ Genesis 50:15-21

NOTE : “After the burial of Jacob, fear again filled the hearts of Joseph's brothers. Notwithstanding his kindness toward them, conscious guilt made them distrustful and suspicious. It might be that he had but delayed his revenge, out of regard to their father, and that he would now visit upon them the long-deferred punishment for their crime. They dared not appear before him in person, but sent a message: "Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father." This message affected Joseph to tears, and, encouraged by this, his brothers came and fell down before him, with the words, "Behold, we be thy servants." Joseph's love for his brothers was deep and unselfish, and he was pained at the thought that they could regard him as cherishing a spirit of revenge toward them. "Fear not," he said; "for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones." ”—*Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 239

2. What supreme example of forgiveness was shown by our Saviour?

➤ Luke 23:33-34

NOTE : “While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for His enemies, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." His mind passed from His own suffering to the sin of His persecutors, and the terrible retribution that would be theirs. No curses were called down upon the soldiers who were handling Him so roughly. No vengeance was invoked upon the priests and rulers, who were gloating over the accomplishment of their purpose. Christ pitied them in their ignorance and guilt. He breathed only a plea for their forgiveness, "for they know not what they do." ”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 744

3. Heaven's Hotline: —



In Heavenly Places

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 50

February 13th

Abundantly Pardoned

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:7

Many do not move in the confidence of a living assurance that Christ is pleading before the Father as our Intercessor. Christ has identified Himself with our necessities, and is able to supply every peculiar need of our weakness. During His life on this earth He took the attitude of a suppliant, an earnest petitioner, seeking at the hand of the Father a fresh supply of strength, that He might be invigorated and refreshed and come forth with words of encouragement and lessons of consolation to impart to human beings. His words are to brace every soul for duty and strengthen every soul for trial.

As Christ in His humanity sought strength from His Father, that He might be enabled to endure trial and temptation, so are we to do. We are to follow the example of the sinless Son of God. Daily we need help and grace and power from the Source of all power. We are to cast our helpless souls upon the One who is ready to help us in every time of need. Too often we forget the Lord. Self gives way to impulse, and we lose the victories that we should gain.

If we are overcome let us not delay to repent, and to accept the pardon that will place us on vantage ground. If we repent and believe, the cleansing power from God will be ours. His saving grace is freely offered. His pardon is given to all who will receive it....

God will always accept confession if the evil that has been done is repented of. Our heavenly Father makes the declaration, “As I live, ... I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked should turn from his way and live” (Ezekiel 33:11). Over every sinner that repents the angels of God rejoice with songs of joy. Not one sinner need be lost. Full and free is the gift of saving grace....

We are living in the day of preparation. We must obtain a full supply of grace from the divine storehouse. The Lord has made provision for every day's demand.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Job

Chapter 29

Job's Summary Defense

Job 29:1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,
Job 29:2 Oh that I were as *in* months past, as *in* the days *when* God preserved me;
Job 29:3 When his candle shined upon my head, *and when* by his light I walked *through* darkness;
Job 29:4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God *was* upon my tabernacle;
Job 29:5 When the Almighty *was* yet with me, *when* my children *were* about me;
Job 29:6 When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;
Job 29:7 When I went out to the gate through the city, *when* I prepared my seat in the street!
Job 29:8 The young men saw me, and hid themselves: and the aged arose, *and* stood up.
Job 29:9 The princes refrained talking, and laid *their* hand on their mouth.
Job 29:10 The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.
Job 29:11 When the ear heard *me*, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw *me*, it gave witness to me:
Job 29:12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and *him that had* none to help him.
Job 29:13 The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.
Job 29:14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment *was* as a robe and a diadem.
Job 29:15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet *was* I to the lame.
Job 29:16 I *was* a father to the poor: and the cause *which* I knew not I searched out.
Job 29:17 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.
Job 29:18 Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply *my* days as the sand.
Job 29:19 My root *was* spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.
Job 29:20 My glory *was* fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.
Job 29:21 Unto me *men* gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.
Job 29:22 After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.
Job 29:23 And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide *as* for the latter rain.
Job 29:24 *If* I laughed on them, they believed *it* not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.
Job 29:25 I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one *that* comforts the mourners.

Preparation Day – February 14th

1. How did Stephen show that he had learned to follow this example?

➤ **Acts 7:57-60** —

NOTE : “When Stephen was called upon to suffer for Christ's sake, he did not waver. He read his fate in the cruel faces of his persecutors, and he did not hesitate to give to them the last message which he was to bear to men. He looked up and said, "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." All heaven was interested in this case. Jesus, rising from the throne of His Father, was leaning over, looking upon the face of His servant, and imparting to his countenance the beams of His own glory, and men were astonished as they saw Stephen's face lighted up as if it had been the face of an angel. The glory of God shone upon him, and while he was beholding the face of his Lord, the enemies of Christ stoned him to death. Would we not think that a hard death to die? But the fear of death was gone, and his last breath was spent in petitioning the Lord to forgive his persecutors.”—
Review & Herald, April 29, 1890

2. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, February 14th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 51

February 14th

Robed in Christ's Righteousness

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Romans 4:7, 8

Well may our hearts turn to our Redeemer with the most perfect trust when we think of what He has done for us, even when we were sinners. Through faith we may rest in His love. “Him that cometh to me,” He says, “I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37)

It would be a terrible thing to stand before God clothed in sinful garments, with His eye reading every secret of our lives. But through the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice we may stand before God pure and spotless, our sins atoned for and pardoned. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). The redeemed sinner, clothed in the robes of Christ's righteousness, may stand in the presence of a sin-hating God, made perfect by the merits of the Saviour.

Only through faith in Christ's name can the sinner be saved.... Faith in Christ is not the work of nature, but the work of God on human minds, wrought in the very soul by the Holy Spirit, who reveals Christ, as Christ revealed the Father. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. With its justifying, sanctifying power, it is above what men call science. It is the science of eternal realities. Human science is often deceptive and misleading, but this heavenly science never misleads. It is so simple that a child may understand it, and yet the most learned men cannot explain it. It is unexplainable and immeasurable, beyond all human expression.

What inexpressible love has the Saviour manifested toward the children of men! Not only does He take off the brand of sin, but He cleanses and purifies the soul, clothing it in the robe of His own righteousness, which is without spot, woven in the loom of heaven. He not only lifts the curse from the sinner, but brings him into oneness with Himself, reflecting upon him the bright beams of His righteousness. He is welcomed by the heavenly universe, accepted in the beloved Son of God. What glory can fallen man, through repentance and faith, bring back to God!

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, February 14th, 2025

Job

Chapter 30

- Job 30:1 But now *they that are* younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock.
- Job 30:2 Yea, whereto *might* the strength of their hands *profit* me, in whom old age was perished?
- Job 30:3 For want and famine *they were* solitary; fleeing into the wilderness in former time desolate and waste.
- Job 30:4 Who cut up mallows by the bushes, and juniper roots *for* their meat.
- Job 30:5 They were driven forth from among *men*, (they cried after them as *after* a thief;)
- Job 30:6 To dwell in the clefts of the valleys, *in* caves of the earth, and *in* the rocks.
- Job 30:7 Among the bushes they brayed; under the nettles they were gathered together.
- Job 30:8 *They were* children of fools, yea, children of base men: they were viler than the earth.
- Job 30:9 And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword.
- Job 30:10 They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face.
- Job 30:11 Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me, they have also let loose the bridle before me.
- Job 30:12 Upon *my* right *hand* rise the youth; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction.
- Job 30:13 They mar my path, they set forward my calamity, they have no helper.
- Job 30:14 They came *upon me* as a wide breaking in *of waters*: in the desolation they rolled themselves *upon me*.
- Job 30:15 Terrors are turned upon me: they pursue my soul as the wind: and my welfare passeth away as a cloud.
- Job 30:16 And now my soul is poured out upon me; the days of affliction have taken hold upon me.
- Job 30:17 My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest.
- Job 30:18 By the great force *of my disease* is my garment changed: it binds me about as the collar of my coat.
- Job 30:19 He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes.
- Job 30:20 I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regard me *not*.
- Job 30:21 Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou oppose thyself against me.
- Job 30:22 Thou lift me up to the wind; thou cause me to ride *upon it*, and dissolve my substance.
- Job 30:23 For I know *that* thou wilt bring me *to* death, and *to* the house appointed for all living.
- Job 30:24 Howbeit he will not stretch out *his* hand to the grave, though they cry in his destruction.
- Job 30:25 Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was *not* my soul grieved for the poor?
- Job 30:26 When I looked for good, then evil came *unto me*: and when I waited for light, there came darkness.
- Job 30:27 My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me.
- Job 30:28 I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, *and* I cried in the congregation.
- Job 30:29 I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls.
- Job 30:30 My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.
- Job 30:31 My harp also is *turned* to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, February 14th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Editor's note: Eegii was among the first teachers who taught at Mongolia's only Seventh-day Adventist school when it opened in 2009. She had just graduated from a Mongolian university and had no experience teaching at an Adventist school. She and the other teachers led the first year's group of 13 children with prayer and passion. Today, Tusgal School has 250 students. This is Eegii's story.

Eegii taught at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia, but she wished for an Adventist education of her own. She wondered, "How can I show God's love better?"

Years passed, and Eegii attended seminars about Adventist education in Mongolia. But the seminars were short, and Eegii longed for more. She prayed. She added the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) to her prayers when she learned it offered a master's degree in education in the Philippines. But her dream seemed impossible. She prayed for 10 years.

Then the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, whose territory includes Mongolia, offered Eegii a scholarship to study at AIAS. Eegii was overjoyed! God had answered her prayers. But she didn't know if she could accept the scholarship, which only covered her education. She would still need to pay for housing, utilities, and food. She also had a husband and two school-age sons whom she couldn't leave behind. They would need tickets to fly to the Philippines, and her boys would need money to study at an Adventist school there.

Eegii prayed and prayed. Her dream seemed impossible. Then she and her husband decided to step out in faith. They sold their car and furniture. When they added the money to their family savings, however, they still didn't have enough.

That night, Eegii went to bed worried.

As she slept, she had a dream. She was pacing back and forth in a small room without any doors or windows. She was trapped. Then God gave her a piece of paper and said, "I will help you." A moment later, she was sitting

in the back of a pickup, traveling down a road. The pickup stopped at a railroad crossing, a train passed, and the pickup drove on. Eegii woke up with all of her worries gone. God’s words rang in her ears, “I’ll help you.” Eegii was no longer worried, but she still didn’t know what to do. Her dream seemed impossible.

A few days later, as Eegii walked to church on Sabbath, an unusual sight caught her eye. A large tree was growing out of a row of private parking garages. The roots of the tree were sunk deep into the concrete roof of the garages. Eegii thought, “It’s impossible for a tree to grow on a concrete roof.”

Immediately, the angel’s words to Mary sprang into her mind, “For with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37, NKJV).

She thought, “God is showing me that everything is possible for Him!”

Eegii took a photo of the tree on her cell phone and happily showed it to her friends at church. She had no doubt that she and her family would go to the Philippines.

That’s exactly what happened. Over the next few weeks, Eegii got plane tickets and left Mongolia. God even blessed

her en route to the Philippines. She had a six-hour layover to change planes in Turkey, and she got to spend time with two

relatives living there.

When she arrived at AIIAS, she was alone, just like she had been alone in the back of the pickup in her dream. But she believed that God would help her. She believed a tree could grow out of a concrete roof. She prayed and waited. Two months later, her husband sold the last of their possessions, and he and their two sons had the funds to join her.

Today, the family is living at AIIAS as Eegii studies for her master’s in education. She couldn’t be happier. Her impossible dream is being fulfilled. She is obtaining an Adventist education, and she can’t wait to share God’s love in new ways back home.

“We need to look at God rather than at our problems, and we need to move forward in faith,” she said.

“When the Israelites fled Egypt, they stopped at the Red Sea in fear,” she said. “But then when they stepped forward in faith, they saw God miraculously part the water. So, walk forward with God in faith, prayer, and thanksgiving.”

Pray for Eegii and the other teachers at Tusgal School, the only Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia. Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped the school expand with new classrooms and a library. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29 for this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath projects in Mongolia and elsewhere in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

LESSON 8

“LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION”

February 15 - February 21

📖 MEMORY VERSE : *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” [Matthew 6:13]*

? STUDY HELP : ✓ Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 116-120

🔗 LESSON AIM : To show the dangers of temptation and our need for our Lord's protection.

💬 INTRODUCTION : No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted. Satan is an expert in quoting Scripture, placing his own interpretation upon passages, by which he hopes to cause us to stumble. We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God. While we must constantly guard against the devices of Satan, we should pray in faith continually: *“Lead us not into temptation.”—Darkness Before Dawn, page 12*

Sabbath – February 15th

1. How are we to think of temptation?

➤ James 1:2 —

NOTE : “The temptation of the second verse is that which is successfully met, and which leaves the individual stronger than ever. It is the trying of faith. In Ephesians 6:16 we learn that faith is the shield by which the darts of the wicked may be quenched. The office of a shield is to protect the person. If a missile is received upon the shield, the person at whom it was aimed receives no injury; he does not feel it. The temptations, then, which work patience, and which strengthen, are those which meet with no response in our own hearts, but which are instantly repelled.”—E. J. Waggoner: Signs of the Times, May 19, 1887

2. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, February 15th, 2025

Thoughts from The Mount of Blessing

Chapter 5, p. 116-120

"The LORD's Prayer"

We should not try to lessen our guilt by excusing sin. We must accept God's estimate of sin, and that is heavy indeed. Calvary alone can reveal the terrible enormity of sin. If we had to bear our own guilt, it would crush us. But the sinless One has taken our place; though undeserving, He has borne our iniquity. "If we confess our sins," God "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Glorious truth!--just to His own law, and yet the Justifier of all that believe in Jesus. "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardons iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger forever, because He delights in mercy." [Micah 7:18]

"Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." [Matthew 6:13, R.V.]

Temptation is enticement to sin, and this does not proceed from God, but from Satan and from the evil of our own hearts. "God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no man." James 1:13, R.V.

Satan seeks to bring us into temptation, that the evil of our characters may be revealed before men and angels, that he may claim us as his own. In the symbolic prophecy of Zechariah, Satan is seen standing at the right hand of the Angel of the Lord, accusing Joshua, the high priest, who is clothed in filthy garments, and resisting the work that the Angel desires to do for him. This represents the attitude of Satan toward every soul whom Christ is seeking to draw unto Himself. The enemy leads us into sin, and then he accuses us before the heavenly universe as unworthy of the love of God. But "the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" And unto Joshua He said, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." Zechariah 3:1-4.

God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that through divine power resists temptation reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace of Christ.

But while we are not to be dismayed by trial, bitter though it be, we should pray that God will not permit us to be brought where we shall be drawn away by the desires of our own evil hearts. In offering the prayer that Christ has given, we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Isaiah 30:21.

It is not safe for us to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped through yielding to Satan's suggestions. Sin means dishonour and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature, and it will entice us with flattering presentations. If we venture on Satan's ground we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us.

The prayer, "Bring us not into temptation," is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us. But when we behold the great love of God, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul. As the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, our hearts are softened and subdued, the temptation loses its power, and the grace of Christ transforms the character.

Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died. The soul 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 swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant 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.

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. Thank God, we are not left alone. He who "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16), will not desert us in the battle with the adversary of God and man. "Behold," He says, "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19.

Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10.

"Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory." Matthew 6:13.

The last like the first sentence of the Lord's Prayer, points to our Father as above all power and authority and every name that is named. The Saviour beheld the years that stretched out before His disciples, not, as they had dreamed, lying in the sunshine of worldly prosperity and honour, but dark with the tempests of human hatred and satanic wrath. Amid national strife and ruin, the steps of the disciples would be beset with perils, and often their hearts would be oppressed by fear. They were to see Jerusalem a desolation, the temple swept away, its worship forever ended, and Israel scattered to all lands, like wrecks on a desert shore. Jesus said, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars." "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Matthew 24:6-8. Yet Christ's followers were not to fear that their hope was lost or that God had forsaken the earth. The power and the glory belong unto Him whose great purposes would still move on unthwarted toward their consummation. In the prayer that breathes their daily wants, the disciples of Christ were directed to look above all the power and dominion of evil, unto the Lord their God, whose kingdom rules over all and who is their Father and everlasting Friend.

The ruin of Jerusalem was a symbol of the final ruin that shall overwhelm the world. The prophecies that received a partial fulfillment in the overthrow of Jerusalem have a more direct application to the last days. We are now standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. A crisis is before us, such as the world has never witnessed. And sweetly to us, as to the first disciples, comes the assurance that God's kingdom rules over all. The program of coming events is in the hands of our Maker. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of His church, in His own charge. The divine Instructor is saying to every agent in the accomplishment of His plans, as He said to Cyrus, "I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me." Isaiah 45:5.

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, February 15th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 52

February 15th

In the Sunlight of the Cross

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

The cross speaks life, and not death, to the soul that believes in Jesus. Welcome the precious life-giving rays that shine from the cross of Calvary. Reach up for the blessing, believe for the blessing....

Walk not in the shadow of the cross. Do not give expression to weeping, lamentation, and woe; but encourage your soul to hope and joy. The cross points upward to a living Saviour, who is your advocate, and is pleading in your behalf.... When you are deeply shadowed it is because Satan has interposed himself between you and the bright rays of the Sun of Righteousness....

I have indeed been halting under the shadow of the cross. It is not a common thing for me to be overpowered and to suffer so much depression of spirits as I have suffered for the last few months. I would not be found to trifle with my own soul and thus trifle with my Saviour. I would not teach that Jesus is risen from the tomb, and that He is ascended on high and lives to make intercession for us before the Father, unless I carry out my teachings by practice and believe in Him for His salvation, casting my helpless soul upon Jesus for His grace, for righteousness, for peace and love.

I must trust in Him irrespective of the changes of my emotional atmosphere. I must show forth the praises of Him who has called me out of darkness into His marvellous light. My heart must be steadfast in Christ, my Saviour, beholding His love and gracious goodness. I must not trust Him now and then, but always, that I may manifest the results of abiding in Him who has bought me with His precious blood. We must learn to believe the promises, to have an abiding faith....

Let us live in the sunlight of the cross of Calvary. Let us no longer dwell in the shadow, complaining of our sorrows, for this only deepens our trouble. Let us never forget, even when we walk in the valley, that Christ is as much with us when we walk trustingly there as when we are on the mountaintop.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, February 15th, 2025

Job

Chapter 31

Job's Final Appeal

- Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?
- Job 31:2 For what portion of God *is there* from above? and *what* inheritance of the Almighty from on high?
- Job 31:3 *Is* not destruction to the wicked? and a strange *punishment* to the workers of iniquity?
- Job 31:4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?
- Job 31:5 If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit;
- Job 31:6 Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity.
- Job 31:7 If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;
- Job 31:8 *Then* let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out.
- Job 31:9 If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or *if* I have laid wait at my neighbour's door;
- Job 31:10 *Then* let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her.
- Job 31:11 For this *is* an heinous crime; yea, it *is* an iniquity *to be punished by* the judges.
- Job 31:12 For it *is* a fire *that* consumes to destruction, and would root out all mine increase.
- Job 31:13 If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;
- Job 31:14 What then shall I do when God rises up? and when he visits, what shall I answer him?
- Job 31:15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?
- Job 31:16 If I have withheld the poor from *their* desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;
- Job 31:17 Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof;
- Job 31:18 (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as *with* a father, and I have guided her from my mother's womb;)
- Job 31:19 If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering;
- Job 31:20 If his loins have not blessed me, and *if* he were *not* warmed with the fleece of my sheep;
- Job 31:21 If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:
- Job 31:22 *Then* let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone.
- Job 31:23 For destruction *from* God *was* a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.
- Job 31:24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, *Thou art* my confidence;
- Job 31:25 If I rejoiced because my wealth *was* great, and because mine hand had gotten much;
- Job 31:26 If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking *in* brightness;
- Job 31:27 And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:
- Job 31:28 This also *were* an iniquity *to be punished by* the judge: for I should have denied the God *that is* above.
- Job 31:29 If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him:
- Job 31:30 Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul.
- Job 31:31 If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied.
- Job 31:32 The stranger did not lodge in the street: *but* I opened my doors to the traveller.
- Job 31:33 If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom:
- Job 31:34 Did I fear a great multitude, or did the contempt of families terrify me, that I kept silence, *and* went not out of the door?
- Job 31:35 Oh that one would hear me! behold, my desire *is*, *that* the Almighty would answer me, and *that* mine adversary had written a book.
- Job 31:36 Surely I would take it upon my shoulder, *and* bind it *as* a crown to me.

- Job 31:37 I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him.
- Job 31:38 If my land cry against me, or that the furrows likewise thereof complain;
- Job 31:39 If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the owners thereof to lose their life:
- Job 31:40 Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley. The words of Job are ended.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, February 15th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Ee-un [EE-oo-yen] was happy when she learned that a fun Bible club would open at her church every day after school in South Korea. She loved Jesus, and she wanted her friends to love Jesus, too. But she felt kind of shy. What if she invited them to the Bible club and they said no? What if they refused to come?

Ee-un prayed for courage and then thought about who she would invite to the Bible club. It was hard to choose one or two children. She wanted everyone in her class to love Jesus. So, she asked all of her classmates.

“Can you join us?” she said. “Can you come at least one time? You can come at least one time, can’t you?”

But Korean schoolchildren are very busy. One girl said she had to help her mother after school. Another said she had too much homework. A third said she had music lessons.

Ee-un prayed, “Please, Lord, bring one of my classmates to the Bible club.” Then she kept inviting her classmates, even those who said they were too busy to come.

“Can you join us?” she said. “Can you come at least one time? You can come at least one time, can’t you?”

Then a girl accepted her invitation! Saleng said she would go with Ee-un to the Bible club.

Ee-un was so happy! God had answered her prayer! When she came home, she excitedly told Mom.

But the next day at school, Saleng had bad news. She couldn’t go after all.

Ee-un felt sad. She had looked forward to going with Saleng. She had thought that God had answered her prayer. But she was not discouraged. She decided to keep on praying and to keep on inviting her classmates.

“Can you join us?” she said. “Can you come at least one time? You can come at least one time, can’t you?”

Then another girl accepted her invitation! Jeong-yeon said she would go with Ee-un to the Bible club. But she said that she could not go every day.

“I can go with you on Fridays and Sundays,” she said.

Ee-un was so happy! But she wondered if Jeong-yeon would change her mind. She prayed for her to come.

On Friday afternoon, Ee-un saw Jeong-yeon walk into the Seventh-day Adventist church to attend the Bible club. She was overjoyed!

Jeong-yeon said her mom had given her a ride to church.

“I really wanted to come,” she said. “I begged my mom, ‘I want to go. Please, let me go.’”

That day, Ee-un and Jeong-yeon enjoyed learning about Jesus from the Bible.

On Sunday afternoon, Jeong-yeon came to the Bible club again. Ee-un was so happy to see her. Again, the two girls

enjoyed learning about Jesus from the Bible.

Ee-un saw that it was important to keep inviting her classmates to the Bible club. The Bible says, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9, NIV). Ee-un didn’t give up, and finally a girl accepted her invitation and came to the Bible club.

However, Jeong-yeon didn’t come the next Friday. Ee-un wondered what had happened. Jeong-yeon also didn’t come on Sunday afternoon.

At school on Monday, Ee-un found out that Jeong-yeon had moved to another part of South Korea. She lived so far away that she could no longer come to the Bible club.

Ee-un hopes that Jeong-yeon will learn to love Jesus even though she only came to the Bible club two times.

“I hope that she will believe in Jesus,” she said. “I hope to meet her in heaven.” In the meantime, Ee-un will keep inviting her classmates to come to the Bible club.

Pray for Jeong-yeon and all of Ee-un’s classmates to love Jesus. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to two projects in South Korea that will help many people to know and love Jesus. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

Sunday – February 16th

1. How are we actually tempted?

➤ James 1:14-15 —

NOTE : “Now it is evident that the apostle would not exhort men to count it a joyful thing to be drawn away of their own lust, and enticed into sin; therefore the temptation of the second verse is different from that of the fourteenth. . . . The other temptations are those which are entertained in the heart. The sin presents itself, and the mind goes out towards it, and longs for it. It may be that the overt act is never committed, but since “the thought of foolishness is sin” (Proverbs 24:9), the one who only in imagination does the sinful act is in the sight of God accounted guilty. Such temptations as those are natural to every human being, “for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts.” The petition, “lead us not into temptation,” must be understood as meaning “suffer us not to fall into temptation;” and it must also be understood as referring to the second class of temptations, those which proceed from within. The reason is (1) that we are not to ask freedom from trials, but rather to count them a blessing, and (2) that God cannot and does not lead people into sin. The prayer, then, is “suffer us not to fall into foolish and hurtful lust, but deliver us (keep us back) from evil.” —*E. J. Waggoner: Signs of the Times, May 19, 1887.*

“But while we are not to be dismayed by trial, bitter though it be, we should pray that God will not permit us to be brought where we shall be drawn away by the desires of our own evil hearts. In offering the prayer that Christ has given, we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing. We shall wait for His hand to lead us; we shall listen to His voice, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” Isaiah 30:21.”—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 117*

2. Does God allow us to be tested by temptations?

➤ Matthew 4:1 —

NOTE : “God in His great love is seeking to develop in us the precious graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution, and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest blessing of our lives. Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that, through divine power, resists temptation reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace of Christ”—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 117*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, February 16th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 53

February 16th

Under Christ's Yoke

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28, 29

Our Saviour purchased the human race by humiliation of the very severest kind.... He points us to the only path that will lead to the strait gate, opening into the narrow way, beyond which lie broad and pleasant pastures. He has marked out every step of the way; and that no one may make a mistake, He tells us just what to do. “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:29, 30). This is the only way in which sinners can be saved. Knowing that no one can obey this command in his own strength, Christ tells us not to be worried nor afraid, but to remember what He can do if we come to Him, trusting in His strength. He says, If you yoke up with Me, your Redeemer, I will be your strength, your efficiency.

The blessings connected with Christ's invitation can be realized and enjoyed by those only who wear Christ's yoke. Accepting this invitation, you withdraw your sympathy, your affections, from the world, and place them where you can enjoy the blessing of close fellowship and communion with God. By coming to Christ, you bind up your interests with His.

The Lord has determined that every soul who obeys His word shall have His joy, His peace, His continual keeping power. Such men and women are brought near Him always, not only when they kneel before Him in prayer, but when they take up the duties of life. He has prepared for them an abiding place with Himself, where the life is purified from all grossness, all unloveliness. By this unbroken communion with Him, they are made collaborators with Him in their lifework....

He invites us, Come unto Me. Take My yoke upon you. I require you to do nothing that I have not done before you. All I ask you to do is to follow My example. Walk in the path I have marked out. Place your feet in My footsteps.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, February 16th, 2025

Job

Chapter 32

Elihu Rebukes Job's Three Friends

- Job 32:1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he *was* righteous in his own eyes.
- Job 32:2 Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.
- Job 32:3 Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and *yet* had condemned Job.
- Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they *were* elder than he.
- Job 32:5 When Elihu saw that *there was* no answer in the mouth of *these* three men, then his wrath was kindled.
- Job 32:6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I *am* young, and ye *are* very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.
- Job 32:7 I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.
- Job 32:8 But *there is* a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.
- Job 32:9 Great men are not *always* wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.
- Job 32:10 Therefore I said, Hearken to me; I also will shew mine opinion.
- Job 32:11 Behold, I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, whilst ye searched out what to say.
- Job 32:12 Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, *there was* none of you that convinced Job, *or* that answered his words:
- Job 32:13 Lest ye should say, We have found out wisdom: God thrusts him down, not man.
- Job 32:14 Now he hath not directed *his* words against me: neither will I answer him with your speeches.
- Job 32:15 They were amazed, they answered no more: they left off speaking.
- Job 32:16 When I had waited, (for they spake not, but stood still, *and* answered no more;)
- Job 32:17 *I said*, I will answer also my part, I also will shew mine opinion.
- Job 32:18 For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constrains me.
- Job 32:19 Behold, my belly *is* as wine *which* hath no vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles.
- Job 32:20 I will speak, that I may be refreshed: I will open my lips and answer.
- Job 32:21 Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man.
- Job 32:22 For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away.

Monday – February 17th

1. What is God's purpose in permitting temptation to come to us?

➤ **1 Peter 1:6-7** —

NOTE : “Trials are permitted to come upon the chosen people of God. The expressions are used, "God tempted Abraham," "God tempted the children of Israel." This means that the Lord permitted Satan to tempt them in order that their faith might be found unto honour and glory when the judgment shall sit, and when every person shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body. God knows every heart, every motive, every thought in the heart; but He permits Satan to try and tempt and test His believing ones in order that their trust and confidence in God may be revealed. 'Christ Triumphant, page 186. "Test and trial will come to every soul that loves God. The Lord does not work a miracle to prevent this ordeal of trial, to shield His people from the temptations of Satan. If they are tempted severely, it is because circumstances have been so shaped by the apostasy of Satan that temptations are permitted in order that characters may be developed that will decide the fitness of the human family for the home in heaven, characters that will stand through all the pressure of unfavourable circumstances in private and public life.”—*Christ Triumphant, page 37*

2. Do temptations come from God?

➤ **James 1:13** —

NOTE : “Temptation is enticement to sin, and this does not proceed from God, but from Satan and from the evil of our own hearts. "God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no man." James 1:13, R.V.—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 116*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, February 17th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 54

February 17th

Only One Pattern

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18

If we gaze even a moment upon the sun in its meridian glory, when we turn away our eyes, the image of the sun will appear in everything upon which we look. Thus it is when we behold Jesus; everything we look upon reflects His image, the Sun of Righteousness. We cannot see anything else, or talk of anything else. His image is imprinted upon the eye of the soul, and affects every portion of our daily life, softening and subduing our whole nature. By beholding, we are conformed to the divine similitude, even the likeness of Christ. To all with whom we associate we reflect the bright and cheerful beams of His righteousness.

Jesus was a perfect pattern of what we should be. He was the strictest observer of His Father's law, yet He moved in perfect freedom. He had all the fervour of the enthusiast, yet He was calm, sober, and self-possessed. He was elevated above the common affairs of the world, yet He did not exclude Himself from society. He dined with publicans and sinners, played with little children, and took them in His arms and blessed them. He graced the wedding feast with His presence. He shed tears at the grave of Lazarus. He was a lover of the beautiful in nature and used the lilies to illustrate the value of natural simplicity in the sight of God, above artificial display. He used the occupation of the husbandman to illustrate the most sublime truths....

His zeal never degenerated into passion nor His consistency into selfish obstinacy. His benevolence never savoured of weakness nor His sympathy of sentimentalism. He combined the innocence and simplicity of the child with manly strength, all-absorbing devotion to God with tender love for man. He possessed commanding dignity combined with winning grace of humility. He manifested unyielding firmness with gentleness. May we live daily in close connection with this perfect, faultless character.

We have not six patterns to follow, nor five; we have only one, and that is Christ Jesus.

Daily Scripture

Monday, February 17th, 2025

Job

Chapter 33

Elihu Rebukes Job

- Job 33:1 Wherefore, Job, I pray thee, hear my speeches, and hearken to all my words.
- Job 33:2 Behold, now I have opened my mouth, my tongue hath spoken in my mouth.
- Job 33:3 My words *shall be of* the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.
- Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
- Job 33:5 If thou canst answer me, set *thy words* in order before me, stand up.
- Job 33:6 Behold, I *am* according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay.
- Job 33:7 Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.
- Job 33:8 Surely thou hast spoken in mine hearing, and I have heard the voice of *thy words*, *saying*,
- Job 33:9 I am clean without transgression, I *am* innocent; neither *is there* iniquity in me.
- Job 33:10 Behold, he finds occasions against me, he counts me for his enemy,
- Job 33:11 He puts my feet in the stocks, he marks all my paths.
- Job 33:12 Behold, *in* this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man.
- Job 33:13 Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.
- Job 33:14 For God speaks once, yea twice, *yet man* perceives it not.
- Job 33:15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;
- Job 33:16 Then he opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction,
- Job 33:17 That he may withdraw man *from his* purpose, and hide pride from man.
- Job 33:18 He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.
- Job 33:19 He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong *pain*:
- Job 33:20 So that his life abhors bread, and his soul dainty meat.
- Job 33:21 His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen; and his bones *that* were not seen stick out.
- Job 33:22 Yea, his soul draws near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyers.
- Job 33:23 If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to shew unto man his uprightness:
- Job 33:24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.
- Job 33:25 His flesh shall be fresher than a child's: he shall return to the days of his youth:
- Job 33:26 He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.
- Job 33:27 He looks upon men, and *if any* say, I have sinned, and perverted *that which was* right, and it profited me not;
- Job 33:28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.
- Job 33:29 Lo, all these *things* works God oftentimes with man,
- Job 33:30 To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.
- Job 33:31 Mark well, O Job, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I will speak.
- Job 33:32 If thou hast anything to say, answer me: speak, for I desire to justify thee.
- Job 33:33 If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.

Tuesday – February 18th

1. So where does temptation come from?

➤ Matthew 4:1 —

➤ James 1:14 —

NOTE : “Satan seeks to bring us into temptation, that the evil of our characters may be revealed before men and angels, that he may claim us as his own. In the symbolic prophecy of Zechariah, Satan is seen standing at the right hand of the Angel of the Lord, accusing Joshua, the high priest, who is clothed in filthy garments, and resisting the work that the Angel desires to do for him. This represents the attitude of Satan toward every soul whom Christ is seeking to draw unto Himself. The enemy leads us into sin, and then he accuses us before the heavenly universe as unworthy of the love of God. ”
—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 116.*

“It is not safe for us to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped through yielding to Satan's suggestions. Sin means dishonour and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature, and it will entice us with flattering presentations. If we venture on Satan's ground, we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us.”—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 118*

2. What precious promise can we depend on in times of temptation?

➤ Corinthians 10:13 —

NOTE : “The prayer, "Bring us not into temptation," is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13.' Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 118. 'God will preserve all who walk in the path of obedience; but to depart from it is to venture on Satan's ground. There we are sure to fall. The Saviour has bidden us, "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Mark 14:38. Meditation and prayer would keep us from rushing unbidden into the way of danger, and thus we should be saved from many a defeat. Yet we should not lose courage when assailed by temptation. Often when placed in a trying situation we doubt that the Spirit of God has been leading us. But it was the Spirit's leading that brought Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. When God brings us into trial, He has a purpose to accomplish for our good. Jesus did not presume on God's promises by going unbidden into temptation, neither did He give up to despondency when temptation came upon Him. Nor should we. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." He says, "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 50:14, 15.”—*The Desire of Ages, page 126*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 55

February 18th

Abiding in Christ

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:4

It is not a casual touch with Christ that is needed, but it is to abide with Him. He called you to abide with Him. He does not propose to you a short-lived blessedness that is realized occasionally through earnest seeking of the Lord and passes away as you engage in the common duties of life. Your abiding with Christ makes every necessary duty light, for He bears the weight of every burden. He has prepared for you to abide with Him. This means that you are to be conscious of an abiding Christ, that you are continually with Christ, where your mind is encouraged and strengthened...

Do not stand outside of Christ, as many professed Christians of today. To “abide in me, and I in you” is a possible thing to do, and the invitation would not be given if you could not do this. Jesus our Saviour is constantly drawing you by His Holy Spirit, working with your mind that you will abide with Christ.... The blessings He bestows are all connected with your own individual action. Shall Christ be refused? He says, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). Of another class He says, “Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40)....

Have you, have I, fully comprehended the gracious call, “Come unto me”? He says, “Abide *in* me,” not Abide *with* Me. “Do understand My call. Come to Me to stay with Me.” He will freely bestow all blessings connected with Himself upon all who come to Him for life. He has something better for you than a short-lived blessedness that you feel when you seek the Lord in earnest prayer. That is but as a drop in the bucket, to have a word with Christ. You are privileged with His abiding presence in the place of a short-lived privilege that is not lasting as you engage in the duties of life.... Will anxiety, perplexity, and cares drive you away from Christ? Are we less dependent upon God when in the workshop, in the field, in the market-place? ... The Lord Jesus will abide with you and you with Him in every place.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

Job

Chapter 34

Elihu Asserts God's Justice

- Job 34:1 Furthermore Elihu answered and said,
 Job 34:2 Hear my words, O ye wise *men*; and give ear unto me, ye that have knowledge.
 Job 34:3 For the ear tries words, as the mouth tastes meat.
 Job 34:4 Let us choose to us judgment: let us know among ourselves what *is* good.
 Job 34:5 For Job hath said, I am righteous: and God hath taken away my judgment.
 Job 34:6 Should I lie against my right? my wound *is* incurable without transgression.
 Job 34:7 What man *is* like Job, *who* drinks up scorning like water?
 Job 34:8 Which goeth in company with the workers of iniquity, and walks with wicked men.
 Job 34:9 For he hath said, It profits a man nothing that he should delight himself with God.
 Job 34:10 Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, *that he should do* wickedness; and *from* the Almighty, *that he should commit* iniquity.
 Job 34:11 For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to *his* ways.
 Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.
 Job 34:13 Who hath given him a charge over the earth? or who hath disposed the whole world?
 Job 34:14 If he set his heart upon man, *if* he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath;
 Job 34:15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.
 Job 34:16 If now *thou hast* understanding, hear this: hearken to the voice of my words.
 Job 34:17 Shall even he that hates right govern? and wilt thou condemn him that is most just?
 Job 34:18 *Is it fit* to say to a king, *Thou art* wicked? *and* to princes, *Ye are* ungodly?
 Job 34:19 *How much less to him* that accepts not the persons of princes, nor regards the rich more than the poor? for they all *are* the work of his hands.
 Job 34:20 In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand.
 Job 34:21 For his eyes *are* upon the ways of man, and he sees all his goings.
 Job 34:22 *There is* no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.
 Job 34:23 For he will not lay upon man more *than right*; that he should enter into judgment with God.
 Job 34:24 He shall break in pieces mighty men without number, and set others in their stead.
 Job 34:25 Therefore he knows their works, and he overturns *them* in the night, so that they are destroyed.
 Job 34:26 He strikes them as wicked men in the open sight of others;
 Job 34:27 Because they turned back from him, and would not consider any of his ways:
 Job 34:28 So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he hears the cry of the afflicted.
 Job 34:29 When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hides *his* face, who then can behold him? whether *it be done* against a nation, or against a man only:
 Job 34:30 That the hypocrite reign not, lest the people be ensnared.
 Job 34:31 Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne *chastisement*, I will not offend *any more*:
 Job 34:32 *That which* I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.
 Job 34:33 *Should it be* according to thy mind? he will recompense it, whether thou refuse, or whether thou choose; and not I: therefore speak what thou knows.
 Job 34:34 Let men of understanding tell me, and let a wise man hearken unto me.
 Job 34:35 Job hath spoken without knowledge, and his words *were* without wisdom.

Job 34:36 My desire *is that* Job may be tried unto the end because of *his* answers for wicked men.

Job 34:37 For he adds rebellion unto his sin, he claps *his hands* among us, and multiplies his words against God.

Wednesday – February 19th

1. Of what may God's people also be certain?

➤ 2 Peter 2:9, first part. —

NOTE : “Temptation is not sin, and is no indication that God is displeased with us. The Lord suffers us to be tempted, but He measures every temptation, and apportions it according to our power to resist and overcome evil. It is in time of trial and temptation that we are enabled to measure the degree of our faith and trust in God, and to estimate the stability of our Christian character. If we are easily jostled and overcome, we should be alarmed; for our strength is small. Let us consider the words of comfort that have been left on record for our instruction: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God has apportioned the temptation in proportion to the strength He can supply, and He never permits us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist or to endure. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation." "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." Through prayer and the word of God we shall be enabled to overcome temptation.”—*Signs of the Times, December 18, 1893*

2. What counsel did Jesus give His disciples to enable them to resist temptation?

➤ Matthew 26:41 —

➤ Mark 14:38 —

NOTE : “Prayer and watching thereunto are necessary for advancement in the divine life. Your only safety is to live like a watchman. Watch and pray always. Oh, what a preventive against yielding to temptation and falling into the snares of the world! "Take ye heed, watch and pray." Mark 13:13. First, you are to watch. Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully, and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest you become light and trifling, and your influence savour of death, rather than life. Second, you are to pray. Jesus would not have enjoined this upon you, unless there was actual necessity for it. It is well known to Him that of yourself you cannot overcome the many temptations of the enemy, and the many snares laid for your feet. He has not left you alone to do this; but has provided a way that you can obtain help. Therefore He has bid you to pray. To pray aright is to ask God in faith for the very things you need. Go to your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father for Jesus' sake to help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent up from a heart convinced of its own weakness, yet earnestly longing for that strength that comes of God. The earnest, fervent prayer will be heard and answered. Faint not. Cast yourself at the feet of Jesus, who has been tempted, and knows how to help such as are tempted. Plead your case before God, through Jesus, until your soul can with confidence rely upon Him for strength, and you feel that you are not left to do the work of overcoming alone. God will help you. Angels will watch over you. But before you can expect this help, you must do what you can on your part. Watch and pray.”—*The Faith I Live By, page 224*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 56

February 19th

One With Christ

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

Christ's connection with His believing people is illustrated by this parable as by no other.

All who receive Christ by faith become one with Him. The branches are not tied to the vine; they are not joined to it by any mechanical process of artificial fastening. They are united to the vine, so as to become part of it. They are nourished by the roots of the vine. So those who receive Christ by faith become one with Him in principle and action. They are united to Him, and the life they live is the life of the Son of God. They derive their life from Him who is life.

Baptism may be repeated over and over again, but of itself it has no power to change the human heart. The heart must be united with Christ's heart, the will must be submerged in His will, the mind must become one with His mind, the thoughts must be brought into captivity to Him.... The regenerated man has a vital connection with Christ. As the branch derives its sustenance from the parent stock and, because of this, bears much fruit, so the true believer, united with Christ, reveals in his life the fruits of the Spirit. The branch becomes one with the vine; storm cannot carry it away; frost cannot destroy its vital properties. Nothing is able to separate it from the vine. It is a living branch, and it bears the fruit of the vine. So with the believer. By good words and good actions he reveals the character of Christ...

Christ has provided means whereby our whole life may be an unbroken communion with Himself; but the sense of Christ's abiding presence can come only through living faith...

Let all contemplate the completeness it is their privilege to have and ask themselves the question, Is my will submerged in Christ's will? Is the fullness and richness of the Living Vine—His goodness, His mercy, His compassion and love—seen in my life and character?

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025

Job

Chapter 35

Elihu Condemns Job

- Job 35:1 Elihu spake moreover, and said,
Job 35:2 Think thou this to be right, *that* thou said, My righteousness *is* more than God's?
Job 35:3 For thou said, What advantage will it be unto thee? *and*, What profit shall I have, *if I be cleansed* from my sin?
Job 35:4 I will answer thee, and thy companions with thee.
Job 35:5 Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds *which* are higher than thou.
Job 35:6 If thou sin, what do thou against him? or *if* thy transgressions be multiplied, what do thou unto him?
Job 35:7 If thou be righteous, what gives thou him? or what receives he of thine hand?
Job 35:8 Thy wickedness *may hurt* a man as thou *art*; and thy righteousness *may profit* the son of man.
Job 35:9 By reason of the multitude of oppressions they make *the oppressed* to cry: they cry out by reason of the arm of the mighty.
Job 35:10 But none saith, Where *is* God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;
Job 35:11 Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the fowls of heaven?
Job 35:12 There they cry, but none giveth answer, because of the pride of evil men.
Job 35:13 Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it.
Job 35:14 Although thou say thou shalt not see him, *yet* judgment *is* before him; therefore trust thou in him.
Job 35:15 But now, because *it is* not *so*, he hath visited in his anger; yet he knows *it* not in great extremity:
Job 35:16 Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplies words without knowledge.

Thursday – February 20th

1. How did Jesus explain that a superficial Christian experience will not be sufficient in times of temptation?

➤ **Luke 8:13** —

NOTE : “Some are stony-ground hearers. They readily receive anything new and exciting. The word of truth they receive with joy. And with ardour and zeal they talk earnestly in reference to their faith and hope, and may even administer reproof to those of long experience for some apparent deficiency or for their lack of enthusiasm. But when they are tested and proved by the heat of trial and temptation, when the pruning-knife of God is applied, that they may bring forth fruit unto perfection, their zeal dies, their voice is silent. No longer do they boast in the strength and power of truth. This class are controlled by feelings. They have not depth and stability of character. Principle does not reach down deep, underlying the springs of action. They have in word exalted the truth, but are not doers of that word. The seed of truth has not rooted down below the surface. The heart has not been renewed by the transforming influence of the Spirit of God. And when the truth calls for working men and women, when sacrifices have to be made for the truth's sake, they are somewhere else; and when trials and persecution come; they fall away because they have no deepness of earth. The truth, plain, pointed, and close, is brought to bear upon the heart, and reveals the deformity of character. Some will not bear this test, but frequently close their eyes to their imperfections, although their consciences tell them that the words spoken by the messengers of God, which bears so closely upon their Christian characters, are truth; yet they will not listen to the voice. They are offended because of the word, and yield the truth rather than to submit to be sanctified through the truth. They flatter themselves that they may get to Heaven an easier way.”—*Pamphlet: Testimony to the Church*, page 140

2. What blessing awaits those who resist temptations?

➤ **James 1:12** —

NOTE : “When the Lord makes up His jewels, the true, the frank, the honest, will be looked upon with pleasure. Angels are employed in making crowns for such ones, and upon these star-gemmed crowns will be reflected, with splendour, the light which radiates from the throne of God. Talk of heavenly things. Talk of Jesus, His loveliness and glory, and of His undying love for you, and let your heart flow out in love and gratitude to Him, who died to save you. O, get ready to meet your Lord in peace. Those who are ready will soon receive an unfading crown of life, and will dwell forever in the kingdom of God, with Christ, with angels, and with those who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. It is the waiting ones who are to be crowned with glory, honour, and immortality. You need not talk of the honours of the world, or the praise of its great ones. They are all vanity. Let but the finger of God touch them, and they would soon go back to dust again. I want honour that is lasting, honour that is immortal, honour that will never perish; a crown that is richer than any crown that ever decked the brow of a monarch. In that day the redeemed will shine forth in the glory of the Father and His Son. The angels of heaven, touching their golden harps, will welcome the King, and those who are the trophies of His 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 self-sacrifice has not been in vain.”—*Sons & Daughters of God*, page 362

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, February 20th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 57

February 20th

True to Our Name

He that saith he abides in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

1 John 2:6

We bear the name of Christian. Let us be true to this name. To be a Christian means to be Christlike. It means to follow Christ in self-denial, bearing aloft His banner of love, honouring Him by unselfish words and deeds. In the life of the true Christian there is nothing of self—self is dead. There was no selfishness in the life that Christ lived while on this earth. Bearing our nature, He lived a life wholly devoted to the good of others.... In word and deed Christ’s followers are to be pure and true. In this world—a world of iniquity and corruption—Christians are to reveal the attributes of Christ. All they do and say is to be free from selfishness....

Said the great apostle to the Gentiles, “I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). By faith Paul appropriated the grace of Christ, and this grace supplied the necessities of his soul. By faith he received the heavenly gift, and imparted it to souls longing for light. This is the experience we need.... Pray for this faith. Strive for it. Believe that God will give it to you....

Learn of Him who has said, “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29). Learning of Him, you will find rest. Day by day you will gain an experience in the things of God, day by day realize the greatness of His salvation and the glory of a union with Him. Constantly you will learn better how to live Christlike, and constantly you will grow more like the Saviour.

If we will die to self, if we will enlarge our idea of what Christ can be to us and what we can be to Him, if we will unite with one another in the bonds of Christian fellowship, God will work through us with mighty power. Then we shall be sanctified through the truth. We shall indeed be chosen by God and controlled by His Spirit. Every day of life will be precious to us, because we shall see in it an opportunity to use our entrusted gifts for the blessing of others.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, February 20th, 2025

Job

Chapter 36

Elihu Extols God's Greatness

- Job 36:1 Elihu also proceeded, and said,
Job 36:2 Suffer me a little, and I will shew thee that *I have* yet to speak on God's behalf.
Job 36:3 I will fetch my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.
Job 36:4 For truly my words *shall* not *be* false: he that is perfect in knowledge *is* with thee.
Job 36:5 Behold, God *is* mighty, and despises not *any*: *he is* mighty in strength *and* wisdom.
Job 36:6 He preserves not the life of the wicked: but giveth right to the poor.
Job 36:7 He withdraws not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings *are they* on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted.
Job 36:8 And if *they be* bound in fetters, *and* be holden in cords of affliction;
Job 36:9 Then he shows them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.
Job 36:10 He opens also their ear to discipline, and commands that they return from iniquity.
Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.
Job 36:12 But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge.
Job 36:13 But the hypocrites in heart heap up wrath: they cry not when he binds them.
Job 36:14 They die in youth, and their life *is* among the unclean.
Job 36:15 He delivers the poor in his affliction, and opens their ears in oppression.
Job 36:16 Even so would he have removed thee out of the strait *into* a broad place, where *there is* no straitness; and that which should be set on thy table *should be* full of fatness.
Job 36:17 But thou hast fulfilled the judgment of the wicked: judgment and justice take hold *on thee*.
Job 36:18 Because *there is* wrath, *beware* lest he take thee away with *his* stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.
Job 36:19 Will he esteem thy riches? *no*, not gold, nor all the forces of strength.
Job 36:20 Desire not the night, when people are cut off in their place.
Job 36:21 Take heed, regard not iniquity: for this hast thou chosen rather than affliction.
Job 36:22 Behold, God exalts by his power: who teaches like him?
Job 36:23 Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?
Job 36:24 Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.
Job 36:25 Every man may see it; man may behold *it* afar off.
Job 36:26 Behold, God *is* great, and we know *him* not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.
Job 36:27 For he makes small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof:
Job 36:28 Which the clouds do drop *and* distil upon man abundantly.
Job 36:29 Also can *any* understand the spreading of the clouds, *or* the noise of his tabernacle?
Job 36:30 Behold, he spreads his light upon it, and covers the bottom of the sea.
Job 36:31 For by them judges he the people; he giveth meat in abundance.
Job 36:32 With clouds he covers the light; and commands it *not to shine* by *the cloud* that cometh betwixt.
Job 36:33 The noise thereof shows concerning it, the cattle also concerning the vapour.

Preparation Day – February 21st

1. What precious promise is for those who keep the Word of God?

➤ Revelation 3:10 —

NOTE : “It is not necessary that anyone should yield to the temptations of Satan and thus violate his conscience and grieve the Holy Spirit. Every provision has been made in the Word of God whereby all may have divine help in their endeavours to overcome. In the religious life of every soul who is finally victorious there will be scenes of terrible perplexity and trial; but his knowledge of the Scriptures will enable him to bring to mind the encouraging promises of God, which will comfort his heart and strengthen his faith in the power of the Mighty One. He reads: "that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:7). The trial of faith is more precious than gold. All should learn that this is a part of the discipline in the school of Christ, which is essential to purify and refine them from the dross of earthliness. Summon all your powers to look up, not down at your difficulties; then you will never faint by the way. You will soon see Jesus behind the cloud, reaching out His hand to help you; and all you have to do is to give Him your hand in simple faith and let Him lead you. A great name among men is as letters traced in sand, but a spotless character will endure to all eternity. God gives you intelligence and a reasoning mind, whereby you may grasp His promises; and Jesus is ready to help you in forming a strong, symmetrical character.”—*God's Amazing Grace, page 81*

2. Heaven’s Hotline:



In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, February 21st, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 58

February 21st

How Much Does God Love Us?

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:23

It seems almost too good to believe that the Father can and does love any member of the human family as He loves His Son. But we have the assurance that He does, and this assurance should bring joy to every heart, awakening the highest reverence and calling forth unspeakable gratitude. God's love is not uncertain and unreal, but a living reality.

The Creator of all worlds proposes to love those who believe in His only-begotten Son as their personal Saviour, even as He loves His Son. Even here and now His gracious favour is bestowed upon us to this marvellous extent.... Much as He has promised us for the life to come, He also bestows princely gifts upon us in this life, and as subjects of His grace, He would have us enjoy everything that will ennoble, expand, and elevate our characters. It is His design to fit us for the heavenly courts above.

Those who live in close fellowship with Christ will be promoted by Him to positions of trust. The servant who does the best he can for his master is admitted to familiar intercourse with one whose commands he loves to obey. In the faithful discharge of duty we may become one with Christ, for those who are obeying God's commands may speak to Him freely. The one who talks most familiarly with his divine Leader has the most exalted conception of His greatness and is the most obedient to His commands.

In the life of man things sacred and secular are to be done, some in business lines, some in the ministry of the Word, and some in various trades; but when a man gives himself to Christ and loves God with the whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, he serves with a devotion that takes his whole being.... He recognizes the ownership of his powers and the ownership of himself. This consecration invests his whole life with a sacredness which makes him gentle, kind, and courteous. His every act is a consecrated act.... He is under Christ, being trained for the higher grade above.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, February 21st, 2025

Job

Chapter 37

Elihu Proclaims God's Majesty

- Job 37:1 At this also my heart trembles, and is moved out of his place.
- Job 37:2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound *that* goeth out of his mouth.
- Job 37:3 He directs it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth.
- Job 37:4 After it a voice roars: he thunders with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard.
- Job 37:5 God thunders marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.
- Job 37:6 For he says to the snow, Be thou *on* the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.
- Job 37:7 He seals up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.
- Job 37:8 Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places.
- Job 37:9 Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.
- Job 37:10 By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.
- Job 37:11 Also by watering he wearies the thick cloud: he scatters his bright cloud:
- Job 37:12 And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commands them upon the face of the world in the earth.
- Job 37:13 He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.
- Job 37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.
- Job 37:15 Do thou know when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine?
- Job 37:16 Do thou know the balancing of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?
- Job 37:17 How thy garments *are* warm, when he quiets the earth by the south *wind*?
- Job 37:18 Hast thou with him spread out the sky, *which is* strong, *and* as a molten looking glass?
- Job 37:19 Teach us what we shall say unto him; *for* we cannot order *our speech* by reason of darkness.
- Job 37:20 Shall it be told him that I speak? if a man speak, surely he shall be swallowed up.
- Job 37:21 And now *men* see not the bright light which *is* in the clouds: but the wind passeth, and cleanses them.
- Job 37:22 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God *is* terrible majesty.
- Job 37:23 *Touching* the Almighty, we cannot find him out: *he is* excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.
- Job 37:24 Men do therefore fear him: he respects not any *that are* wise of heart.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, February 21st, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



When Yu Jin [YOU-jeen] was 9 years old, her mom gave her a book to read.

“Since you read a lot of books, you should read this book, too,” she said. “It’s in Korean and English. Study it. Read it. This is a good book.”

It was the small book *Steps to Christ* by Ellen White.

Up to that point, Yu Jin had only read books in Korean. But Mom wanted her to learn English.

An obedient child, Yu Jin immediately began to read the book.

She read it every day on the bus as she travelled to and from school in South Korea. She read during lunch break at school.

The English text was too hard to read, so she skipped it and finished the Korean part of the book in a week.

She didn’t understand everything that she read, but she felt a strong conviction that she needed to be baptized.

She went to Mom.

“I want to be baptized,” she said.

Mom smiled.

“When you grow up, you can be baptized,” she said.

Korean children often start thinking about baptism when they are about 13 years old. But Yu Jin was 9, and 13 was four long years away. She wasn't happy about having to wait. But she was an obedient child.

“OK, fine,” she said.

She didn't speak about baptism again.

As time passed, she kept attending church every Sabbath as she had in the past. But she went because she wanted to participate in Pathfinders and other fun activities, not because she desired a close relationship with God.

When she turned 13, she was baptized with the rest of her friends. But she didn't have the same conviction to be baptized as when she was 9.

As a teen, she spent more and more time with non-Christian friends, and her love for God gradually dimmed. She ate like her friends and sometimes skipped church on Sabbath. She was tired on Sabbath morning and didn't want to make the effort to go to church.

Doubts even crept into her mind about the existence of God.

Then one summer, when she was 16, she volunteered to help with an evangelism program. Her job was to invite other young people to come to the church meetings by handing out flyers.

No young people came to the first meeting as a result of her invitations, and she felt like a failure.

A missionary from the meetings saw her disappointment and prayed with her.

To Yu Jin's amazement, several young people whom she had invited showed up at the next meeting.

A flicker of faith flashed in her heart.

Then heavy rain threatened to disrupt a meeting. She prayed, and the rain stopped. The meeting went ahead as planned.

Yu Jin was a new person when she returned to her Adventist high school in the fall. She eagerly attended a student-led prayer group, called “Kneelers,” that met every Friday evening after worship services. She got a new copy of Steps to Christ. But this time, she didn't finish the book in a week. She read it with a group of other students at the rate of about a chapter a week. For her, it was like reading the book for the first time.

Yu Jin said she is glad that she read Steps to Christ when she was 9.

“When I read it for the first time, my heart was stirred deeply to follow Jesus and to be baptized,” she said.

She is even more glad that she read it again. She said the book cannot be read too many times.


“Surely the Lord is coming again,” she said.

Yu Jin goes to Hankook Sahmyook Academy, which will receive part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a gym and missionary training center, in Seoul, South Korea. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 9

“DELIVER US FROM EVIL”

February 22 - February 28

 **MEMORY VERSE :** “Deliver us from evil.” [Matthew 6:13, middle part.]

? STUDY HELP :  Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pages 118-119

8 LESSON AIM : To show our need for protection from the snares of the Evil One.

🗣 INTRODUCTION : Christ prayed to His Father on behalf of His followers, "I pray not that Thou should take them out of the world, but that Thou should keep them from the evil." Sin and pollution abound on every hand, and daily, hourly, the prayer should ascend to heaven, "Deliver us from evil." The offering of this prayer by one who realises his weakness makes the temptation of the enemy powerless.' *Signs of the Times*, March 29, 1905. Compiler's Note: Many Bible translators render this phrase, 'Save us from the Evil One,' or something similar. In the book, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, the Revised Version is quoted as follows: “Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” [Matthew 6:13, R.V.]

Sabbath – February 22nd

1. How is the evil one pictured in Scripture?

➤ 1 Peter 5:8 —

NOTE : “He is called in the Bible, Satan, Beelzebub, the serpent, the deceiver, a liar, the accuser of the brethren, the prince of the power of the air, the prince of darkness, and the god of this world. Frightful names, infernal agencies! This fallen spirit, so malignant and subtle, is walking about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. When there is no special effort made to resist his power, when profound indifference prevails in the church and in the world, he is not concerned; for he is in no danger of losing those whom he is leading captive at his will. But when the attention is called to eternal things, and souls are inquiring, "What shall I do to be saved?" he is on the ground, seeking to match his power against the power of Christ, and doubling his efforts to counteract the influences of the Holy Spirit.”—*Signs of the Times*, May 8, 1884

2. Heaven’s Hotline:

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E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, February 22nd, 2025

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing Chapter 5, p. 118-119

The LORD's Prayer

It is not safe for us to linger to contemplate the advantages to be reaped through yielding to Satan's suggestions. Sin means dishonour and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature, and it will entice us with flattering presentations. If we venture on Satan's ground we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us.

The prayer, "Bring us not into temptation," is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He "will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." [1 Corinthians 10:13]

The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us. But when we behold the great love of God, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul. As the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, our hearts are softened and subdued, the temptation loses its power, and the grace of Christ transforms the character.

Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died. The soul 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 swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant 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.

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] Thank God, we are not left alone. He who "so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." [John 3:16] will not desert us in the battle with the adversary of God and man. "Behold," He says, "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." [Luke 10:19]

Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and is safe." [Proverbs 18:10]

"Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory." [Matthew 6:13]

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, February 22nd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 59

February 22nd

“Partakers of the Divine Nature,”

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

2 Peter 1:4

“Partakers of the divine nature.” Is this possible? Of ourselves we can do no good thing. How, then, can we be partakers of the divine nature? By coming to Christ just as we are, needy, helpless, dependent. He died to make it possible for us to be partakers of the divine nature. He took humanity upon Himself that He might reach humanity. With the golden chain of His matchless love He has bound us to the throne of God. We are to have power to overcome as He overcame.

To all He gives the invitation: “Come unto me.... Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls ...” (Matthew 11:28-30).

We have a part to act in this work. Let none think that men and women are going to be taken to heaven without engaging in the struggle here below. We have a battle to fight, a victory to gain. God says to us, “Work out your own salvation.” How? “With fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12, 13). God works, and man works.... Thus only can we be partakers of the divine nature.

Here is the consistency of true religion. We are to be “labourers together with God,” working in harmony with Him. “Ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). This figure represents human character, which is to be wrought upon point by point. Each day God works on His building to perfect the structure, that it may become a holy temple for Him. Man is to cooperate with God, striving in His strength to make himself what God designs him to be, building his life with pure, noble deeds....

God asks us to live only one day at a time. You need not look a week or a month ahead. *Today* do your best. Today speak and act in a way that will honour God. The promise is, “As thy days, so shall thy strength be” (Deuteronomy 33:25).

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, February 22nd, 2025

Job

Chapter 38

The Lord Answers Job

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,
 Job 38:2 Who *is* this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
 Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.
 Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
 Job 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou know? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
 Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;
 Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
 Job 38:8 Or *who* shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, *as if* it had issued out of the womb?
 Job 38:9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,
 Job 38:10 And brake up for it my decreed *place*, and set bars and doors,
 Job 38:11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?
 Job 38:12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; *and* caused the dayspring to know his place;
 Job 38:13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?
 Job 38:14 It is turned as clay *to* the seal; and they stand as a garment.
 Job 38:15 And from the wicked their light is withholds, and the high arm shall be broken.
 Job 38:16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?
 Job 38:17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?
 Job 38:18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knows it all.
 Job 38:19 Where *is* the way *where* light dwelleth? and *as for* darkness, where *is* the place thereof,
 Job 38:20 That thou should take it to the bound thereof, and that thou should know the paths *to* the house thereof?
 Job 38:21 Knows thou *it*, because thou wast then born? or *because* the number of thy days *is* great?
 Job 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
 Job 38:23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?
 Job 38:24 By what way is the light parted, *which* scatters the east wind upon the earth?
 Job 38:25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;
 Job 38:26 To cause it to rain on the earth, *where* no man *is*; *on* the wilderness, wherein *there is* no man;
 Job 38:27 To satisfy the desolate and waste *ground*; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?
 Job 38:28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
 Job 38:29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?
 Job 38:30 The waters are hid as *with* a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.
 Job 38:31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?
 Job 38:32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
 Job 38:33 Knows thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?
 Job 38:34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?
 Job 38:35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we *are*?
 Job 38:36 Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?
 Job 38:37 Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,
 Job 38:38 When the dust grows into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?

Job 38:39 Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,

Job 38:40 When they couch in *their* dens, *and* abide in the covert to lie in wait?

Job 38:41 Who provides for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, February 22nd, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Two little girls and their brother had never gone to church in South Korea. Their dad didn’t know God. Their mom didn’t know God. So, the children didn’t know God. But their auntie knew God, and she wanted the whole family to go to church.

The children heard Auntie call Dad on the phone. “Come to church with me on Sabbath, and bring Mom and the kids,” Auntie said.

“I don’t believe in God anymore,” Dad replied. “Some Christian kids were mean to me in school.”

The children weren’t sure about what had happened to Dad when he was a boy. But they knew that he had gone to a Seventh-day Adventist school and that something bad had happened to him.

Auntie didn’t give up. She really wanted Dad, Mom, and their three children to go to church.

“I think that the kids who were mean to you didn’t know God,” she said. “That is why they were mean. But if they had known God, they would have been different.

“You also would be different today if you knew God,” Auntie said. “If you had faith and went to church, you could teach your children to be kind to other kids and not be mean like those kids at your school. I want you to come to church with me.”

Dad, however, stood firm. “I don’t want to go to church anymore,” he said. “But if you insist on asking me, you can take my kids to church.”

The three children looked at each other with excitement. They loved Auntie, and they were eager to go to church with her.

Auntie picked up the children on Sabbath morning. The two girls, 10-year-old Ye-rim [YEH heh-REEM] and 7-year-old Sion, [see-ON] and their 6-year-old brother, Chea-Hwan, [CHEE-ah HWAHN] had never been to church before, and they loved it! They learned happy songs, they listened to interesting stories, and they learned to pray to God.

The three children loved church so much that they told their friends about it. Then their friends also wanted to go to church on Sabbath. Before long, the three children were bringing eight friends to church every Sabbath. Auntie didn't have enough room in her car for all of them, so she asked Mom if she could help drive children in her car. Mom agreed, and so it was that Mom also started to go to church every Sabbath.

One Sabbath, Auntie learned that the children were praying to God on their own at home. They prayed when they woke up in the morning, saying, “We thank You, God, for giving us this day and for giving us good health.” At night, when they went to bed, they prayed, “Thank You, God, for giving us a great day.” Auntie was so happy! The children who had not known God were now praying to Him every day.

When Mom saw the children praying, she began to think more about God.

Auntie asked her, “Can we study the Bible together?”

“Yes,” Mom said.

So, Mom and Auntie started studying the Bible together. Then Mom began opening the Bible at home and teaching her children about God. She even helped lead out in the children's activities at church.

Before long, Dad changed his mind about God. While he still didn't want to go to church on Sabbath, he was happy that Mom and the children were going. Their life had become a lot happier ever since the children and Mom had started to get to know God.

Pray for Dad and the rest of the family as they get to know God better. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to two projects in South Korea that will help many people get to know God better. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

Sunday – February 23rd

1. What other picture of the evil one does the Scripture give?

➤ **Revelation 12:3- 4, 17** —

NOTE : “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.”—*Last Day Events*, page 256

2. Besides his fierceness, what other thing about the evil one are we warned about?

➤ **Ephesians 6:11** —

➤ **Revelation 12:9** —

NOTE : “He does not always wear the ferocious look of the lion, but when he can work to better effect, he transforms himself into an angel of light. He can readily exchange the roar of the lion for the most persuasive arguments or for the softest whisper. He has legions of angels to aid him in his work. He often conceals his snares, and allures by pleasing deception. He charms and deludes many by flattering their vanity. Through his agents he presents the pleasures of the world in an attractive light, and strews the path to hell with tempting flowers, and thus souls are charmed and ruined. After every advance step in the downward road, Satan has some special temptation to lead them still further on the wrong track.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, volume 2, page 286

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 60

February 23rd

Living Abundantly

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

There can be no such thing as a narrow life for any soul connected with Christ. Those who love Jesus with heart and mind and soul and their neighbour as themselves have a broad field in which to use their ability and influence. There is no talent to be used for selfish gratification. Self must die, and our lives be hid with Christ in God....

The Lord would have us value our souls according to the estimate—as far as we can comprehend it—that Christ has placed upon them.... Jesus died that He might redeem man from eternal ruin. Then we are to hold ourselves as property purchased. “Ye are not your own.” “Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). All our powers of mind and soul and body are the Lord’s. Our time belongs to Him. We are to place ourselves in the very best possible condition to do His service, keeping constantly in connection with Christ, and considering daily the costly sacrifice made for us that we should be made the righteousness of God in Him....

Those who are emptied of self, the thoughtful and conscientious, cannot raise their eyes to Christ, the living Saviour, without feelings of awe and the deepest humility. To behold Jesus continually will make the soul alive unto God. We shall love Jesus, we shall love the Father who sent Him into the world, for we see Him in a wondrous light, full of grace and truth. Jesus declares, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father” (Matthew 11:27); ... “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). What for? That He may give gifts unto men, that they may lay all their powers under tribute to make known the wondrous love wherewith He hath loved us...

When we estimate all our talents in the light of the cross of Calvary, we shall so live for Christ and so let our light shine before men that our lives will never seem narrow. Who can estimate the value of the soul?

Daily Scripture

Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

Job

Chapter 39

- Job 39:1 Know thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? *or* canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?
- Job 39:2 Canst thou number the months *that* they fulfil? or know thou the time when they bring forth?
- Job 39:3 They bow themselves, they bring forth their young ones, they cast out their sorrows.
- Job 39:4 Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn; they go forth, and return not unto them.
- Job 39:5 Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?
- Job 39:6 Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.
- Job 39:7 He scorns the multitude of the city, neither regards he the crying of the driver.
- Job 39:8 The range of the mountains *is* his pasture, and he searches after every green thing.
- Job 39:9 Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?
- Job 39:10 Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee?
- Job 39:11 Wilt thou trust him, because his strength *is* great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him?
- Job 39:12 Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather *it into* thy barn?
- Job 39:13 *Gave thou* the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?
- Job 39:14 Which leaves her eggs in the earth, and warms them in dust,
- Job 39:15 And forgets that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them.
- Job 39:16 She is hardened against her young ones, as though *they were* not hers: her labour is in vain without fear;
- Job 39:17 Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding.
- Job 39:18 What time she lifts up herself on high, she scorns the horse and his rider.
- Job 39:19 Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?
- Job 39:20 Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils *is* terrible.
- Job 39:21 He paws in the valley, and rejoices in *his* strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men.
- Job 39:22 He mocks at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword.
- Job 39:23 The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and the shield.
- Job 39:24 He swallows the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that *it is* the sound of the trumpet.
- Job 39:25 He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smells the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.
- Job 39:26 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, *and* stretch her wings toward the south?
- Job 39:27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?
- Job 39:28 She dwelleth and abides on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.
- Job 39:29 From thence she seeks the prey, *and* her eyes behold afar off.
- Job 39:30 Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain *are*, there *is* she.

Monday – February 24th

1. When speaking of the last days, against what especially did Jesus warn?

- **Matthew 24:4-5** —
- **Matthew 24:11** —
- **Matthew 24:24** —

NOTE : “Satan will work with all power and "with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. His working is plainly revealed by the rapidly increasing darkness, the multitudinous errors, heresies, and delusions of these last days. Not only is Satan leading the world captive, but his deceptions are leavening the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ. The great apostasy will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair. To God's people it will be a night of trial, a night of weeping, a night of persecution for the truth's sake.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 414

2. What must we recognise in our warfare with Satan?

- **Psalms 56:3** —
- **2 Chronicles 20:6** —
- **2 Chronicles 20:12** —

NOTE : “The apostle Paul says, "When I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Corinthians 12:10. When we have a realisation of our weakness, we learn to depend upon a power not inherent. Nothing can take so strong a hold on the heart as the abiding sense of our responsibility to God. Nothing reaches so fully down to the deepest motives of conduct as a sense of the pardoning love of Christ. We are to come in touch with God, then we shall be imbued with His Holy Spirit, that enables us to come in touch with our fellow men. Then rejoice that through Christ you have become connected with God, members of the heavenly family. While you look higher than yourself, you will have a continual sense of the weakness of humanity. The less you cherish self, the more distinct and full will be your comprehension of the excellence of your Saviour. The more closely you connect yourself with the source of light and power, the greater light will be shed upon you, and the greater power will be yours to work for God. Rejoice that you are one with God, one with Christ, and with the whole family of heaven.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 493

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, February 24th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 61

February 24th

“Without Offence,”

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:10, 11

The Lord presents before His finite creatures no impossibilities.... The power of a higher, purer, nobler life is our great need. God’s people are to be filled with holy joy, that its radiance may shine forth from them, brightening the pathway of others. What power, what peace, what joy the soul may have that is united with Christ! The divine splendour is revealed to those who commune with Him who is the source of power.

We know little of the peace and happiness and joy of heaven. We need more efficiency. We need to receive from Christ the water of life, that it may be in us a well of water, refreshing all who come within the sphere of our influence...

At our baptism we pledged ourselves to break all connection with Satan and his agencies, and to put heart and mind and soul into the work of extending the kingdom of God. All heaven is working for this object. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are pledged to cooperate with sanctified human instrumentalities. If we are true to our vow, there is opened to us a door of communication with heaven—a door that no human hand or satanic agency can close...

Moral and spiritual perfection, through the grace and power of Christ, is promised to all who believe. At every step we are to ask for the help of Christ. He is the model we are to follow in character building. He calls for deeds, not words, saying, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)....

Christ is the source of light, the fountain of life.... It is His purpose that human beings, purified and sanctified, shall be His helping hand. He leads us to the throne of God and gives us a prayer to offer to Him. When we live this prayer we are brought into close contact with Christ; at every step we touch His living power. In our behalf He sets in operation the all-powerful agencies of heaven.

Daily Scripture

Monday, February 24th, 2025

Job

Chapter 40

Job 40:1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said,
Job 40:2 Shall he that contends with the Almighty instruct *him*? he that reproves God, let him answer it.

Job Promises Silence

Job 40:3 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,
Job 40:4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.
Job 40:5 Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

The Lord Challenges Job

Job 40:6 Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said,
Job 40:7 Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
Job 40:8 Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou may be righteous?
Job 40:9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?
Job 40:10 Deck thyself now *with* majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty.
Job 40:11 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one *that is* proud, and abase him.
Job 40:12 Look on every one *that is* proud, *and* bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.
Job 40:13 Hide them in the dust together; *and* bind their faces in secret.
Job 40:14 Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.
Job 40:15 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eats grass as an ox.
Job 40:16 Lo now, his strength *is* in his loins, and his force *is* in the navel of his belly.
Job 40:17 He moves his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.
Job 40:18 His bones *are as* strong pieces of brass; his bones *are* like bars of iron.
Job 40:19 He *is* the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach *unto him*.
Job 40:20 Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.
Job 40:21 He lies under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.
Job 40:22 The shady trees cover him *with* their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.
Job 40:23 Behold, he drinks up a river, *and* hastes not: he trusts that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.
Job 40:24 He taketh it with his eyes: *his* nose pierces through snares.

Tuesday – February 25th

1. So where does our strength and deliverance come from?

➤ **Exodus 15:2, first part; —**

➤ **Isaiah 40:29-31 —**

NOTE : “That song does not belong to the Jewish people alone. It points forward to the destruction of all the foes of righteousness and the final victory of the Israel of God. The prophet of Patmos beholds the white-robed multitude that have "gotten the victory," standing on the "sea of glass mingled with fire," having "the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb" (Revelation 15:2, 3). In freeing our souls from the bondage of sin, God has wrought for us a deliverance greater than that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Like the Hebrew host, we should praise the Lord with heart and soul and voice for His "wonderful works to the children of men." Those who dwell upon God's great mercies, and are not unmindful of His lesser gifts, will put on the girdle of gladness and make melody in their hearts to the Lord. The daily blessings that we receive from the hand of God, and above all else the death of Jesus to bring happiness and heaven within our reach, should be a theme for constant gratitude.”—*Conflict & Courage*, page 93

2. What precious promise of deliverance may we rely on?

➤ **Psalms 50:15 —**

NOTE : “When I pray earnestly for restoration, and it seems that the Lord does not answer, my spirit almost faints within me. Then it is that the dear Saviour makes me mindful of His presence. He says to me, Cannot you trust Him who has purchased you with His own blood? I have graven thee on the palms of My hands. Then my soul is nourished with the divine Presence. I am lifted out of myself, as it were, into the presence of God. When the affliction under which I have been suffering for several months came upon me, I was surprised that it was not removed at once in answer to prayer. But the promise, "My grace is sufficient" (2 Corinthians 12:9), has been fulfilled in my case. There can be no doubt on my part. My hours of pain have been hours of prayer, for I have known to whom to take my sorrows. I have the privilege of reinforcing my feeble strength by laying hold upon infinite power. By day and night I stand on the solid rock of God's promises. My heart goes out to Jesus in loving trust. He knows what is best for me. My nights would be lonely did I not claim the promise, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." [Psalm 50:15]”—*Selected Messages*, book 2, page 240

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 62

February 25th

The Happiest People

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

Do not think that when you walk with Jesus you must walk in the shadow. The happiest people in the world are those who trust in Jesus and gladly do His bidding. From the lives of those who follow Him, unrest and discontent are banished.... They may meet with trial and difficulty, but their lives are full of joy; for Christ walks beside them, and His presence makes the pathway bright....

When you arise in the morning, rise with the praise of God on your lips, and when you go out to work, go with a prayer to God for help.... Wait for a leaf from the tree of life. This will soothe and refresh you, filling your heart with peace and joy. Fix your thoughts upon the Saviour. Go apart from the bustle of the world and sit under Christ's shadow. Then, amid the din of daily toil and conflict, your strength will be renewed. It is positively necessary for us to sit down sometimes and think of how the Saviour descended from heaven, from the throne of God, to show what human beings may become if they will unite their weakness to His strength. Having gained renewal of strength by communion with God, we may go on our way rejoicing, praising Him for the privilege of bringing the sunshine of Christ's love into the lives of those we meet....

Heavenly intelligences are waiting to cooperate with human instrumentalities, that the world may see what human beings may become through a union with the divine. Those who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to God's service will constantly receive a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the life of His life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in mind and heart. Through the grace given us we may achieve victories which, because of our defects of character and the smallness of our faith, may have seemed to us impossible.

To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025

Job

Chapter 41

- Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord *which* thou let down?
- Job 41:2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?
- Job 41:3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft *words* unto thee?
- Job 41:4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?
- Job 41:5 Wilt thou play with him as *with* a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?
- Job 41:6 Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?
- Job 41:7 Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears?
- Job 41:8 Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.
- Job 41:9 Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not *one* be cast down even at the sight of him?
- Job 41:10 None *is so* fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?
- Job 41:11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay *him? whatsoever is* under the whole heaven is mine.
- Job 41:12 I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.
- Job 41:13 Who can discover the face of his garment? *or* who can come *to him* with his double bridle?
- Job 41:14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth *are* terrible round about.
- Job 41:15 *His scales are his* pride, shut up together *as with* a close seal.
- Job 41:16 One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.
- Job 41:17 They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.
- Job 41:18 By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes *are* like the eyelids of the morning.
- Job 41:19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, *and* sparks of fire leap out.
- Job 41:20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as *out* of a seething pot or caldron.
- Job 41:21 His breath kindles coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.
- Job 41:22 In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him.
- Job 41:23 The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved.
- Job 41:24 His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether *millstone*.
- Job 41:25 When he raises up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves.
- Job 41:26 The sword of him that lays at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.
- Job 41:27 He esteems iron as straw, *and* brass as rotten wood.
- Job 41:28 The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble.
- Job 41:29 Darts are counted as stubble: he laughs at the shaking of a spear.
- Job 41:30 Sharp stones *are* under him: he spreads sharp pointed things upon the mire.
- Job 41:31 He makes the deep to boil like a pot: he makes the sea like a pot of ointment.
- Job 41:32 He makes a path to shine after him; *one* would think the deep *to be* hoary.
- Job 41:33 Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.
- Job 41:34 He beholds all high *things*: he *is* a king over all the children of pride.

Wednesday – February 26th

1. How did Paul testify to the way the Lord had delivered him and to his confidence that God would continue to deliver him?

➤ 2 Timothy 4:16-18 —

NOTE : “This letter was written to Timotheus, the first bishop of the church at Ephesus, after Paul had been brought before Nero the second time to witness with his life to the faith he held. In placing on record this account of his trials through men who turned from the faith, Paul speaks words which should encourage our hearts as we pass over the same ground. We are having trials to encounter similar to those that Paul met. There are some who once were with us as teachers, but who are now denying the faith, and are working against the truth they once advocated. In this experience we need not lose our faith and confidence in God. It is the privilege of each to be able to say, *“The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory forever and ever. Men.”*” —*Review & Herald, July 18, 1907*

'And they overcame him'

2. Do we have to be constantly overcome by the evil one?

➤ Romans 6:11-14 —

NOTE : “Christ will never abandon the soul for whom He has died. The soul 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 swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant 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. 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. Thank God, we are not left alone. He who “so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), will not desert us in the battle with the adversary of God and man. “Behold,” He says, “I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19. Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan. “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and is safe.” [Proverbs 18:10]” —*Prayer, pages 301-302*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 63

February 26th

Grace and Dignity in Daily Duties

His speech [margin] is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely.

Song of Solomon 5:16

Study the life that Christ lived while on this earth. He did not neglect the smallest, simplest duty. Perfection marked all that He did. Look to Him for help, and you will be enabled to perform your daily duties with the grace and dignity of one who is seeking for the crown of immortal life.

We dwell much on the grandeur of Christ's life. We speak of the great things that He accomplished, of the miracles He wrought, of how He spoke peace to the tempestuous waters, restored sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, and raised the dead to life. But His attention to small things is even higher proof of His greatness. Listen to Him speaking to Martha as she comes to Him with the request that He bid her sister help her with the serving. He tells her not to allow the cares of the household to disturb the peace of her soul. “Martha, Martha,” He says, “thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41, 42).

Listen to the words that He spoke as the weary mothers brought their children to Him to be blessed. The disciples, unwilling that their Master should be disturbed, were sending the women away, but Christ said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). And taking them in His arms, He blessed them. Could the future of these children be opened before us we could see the mothers recalling to the minds of the children the scene of that day and repeating the loving words of the Saviour.... This same Jesus is your Saviour.⁴⁰

The divine beauty of the character of Christ, of whom the noblest and most gentle among men are but a faint reflection; of whom Solomon by the Spirit of inspiration wrote, He is “the chiefest among ten thousand.... Yea, he is altogether lovely”; ... the self-denying Redeemer, throughout His pilgrimage of love on earth was a living representation of the character of the law of God.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025

Job

Chapter 42

Job's Confession and Repentance

- Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said,
Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do everything, and *that* no thought can be withhelds from thee.
Job 42:3 Who *is* he that hides counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.
Job 42:4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.
Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye sees thee.
Job 42:6 Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

The Lord Rebukes Job's Friends

- Job 42:7 And it was *so*, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right*, as my servant Job *hath*.
Job 42:8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you *after your* folly, in that ye have not spoken of me *the thing which is right*, like my servant Job.
Job 42:9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite *and* Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.

The Lord Restores Job's Fortunes

- Job 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.
Job 42:11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold.
Job 42:12 So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.
Job 42:13 He had also seven sons and three daughters.
Job 42:14 And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.
Job 42:15 And in all the land were no women found *so* fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.
Job 42:16 After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, *even* four generations.
Job 42:17 So Job died, *being* old and full of days.

Thursday – February 27th

1. What is said of those to whom God grants the power to overcome the evil one?

➤ **Revelation 12:11** —

NOTE : “The crown of glory will be placed on the brow of all who have overcome temptation by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. This word of our testimony means a great deal. It is before all the heavenly universe and before the world. The soul who dishonours God by his words and works, who does not acknowledge Christ as his Saviour, places himself on the losing side. Jesus is your helper. No one understands so well as He your peculiarities of character. He is watching over you, and if you are willing to be taught, He will throw around you influences for good that will enable you to accomplish all His will for you. We are preparing for the future eternal life. Soon there is to be a grand review, in which every soul who is seeking to perfect a Christian character must bear the test of God's searching questions: Have you set an example that others are safe in following? Have you watched for souls as they that must give an account? The heavenly host are intensely anxious that you should bear the test. The Lord looks with deepest interest upon each striving soul. He loves each one. Did He not, He never would have given His only-begotten Son to die for us. The Lord will help all who will do their best, walking humbly with God. Let us be encouraged in believing that we have a mighty arm to lean upon, and that so long as we rely upon Christ's strength we cannot dishonour God. We are on trial now, but under every test let us make it manifest to all around us that we are on the Lord's side.”—*In Heavenly Places*, page 278

2. What assurance may we have of final deliverance at a time when the devil will put forth his strongest efforts to destroy the people of God?

➤ **John 16:33** —

➤ **Revelation 17:14** —

NOTE : “When we surrender all we have and are to God, and are placed in trying and dangerous positions, coming in contact with Satan, we should remember that we shall have victory in meeting the enemy in the name and power of the Conqueror. Every angel would be commissioned to come to our rescue when we thus depend upon Christ, rather than that we should be permitted to be overcome. But we need not expect to get the victory without suffering, for Jesus suffered in conquering for us. The Christian life is a life of warfare, of continual conflict. It is a battle and a march. But every act of obedience to Christ, every act of self-denial for His sake, every trial well endured, every victory gained over temptation, is a step in the march to the glory of final victory.”—*Christ Triumphant*, page 204

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 64

February 27th

“More Than Conquerors,”

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:37

Through the power that Jesus gives, we can be “more than conquerors.” But we cannot manufacture this power. Only through the Spirit of God can we receive it.

We need a deep insight into the nature of Christ and into the mystery of His love, “which passeth knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19). We are to live in the warm, genial rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Nothing but Christ’s loving compassion, His divine grace, His almighty power, can enable us to baffle the relentless foe and subdue the opposition of our own hearts. What is our strength? The joy of the Lord. Let the love of Christ fill our hearts, and then we shall be prepared to receive the power that He has for us.

Let us thank God every day for the blessings that are ours. If the human agent will humble himself before God, ... realizing his utter inability to do the work that needs to be done in order that his soul may be purified; if he will cast away his own righteousness, Christ will abide in his heart. He will put His hand to the work of creating him anew, and will continue the work till he is complete in Him...

Beholding Christ for the purpose of becoming like Him, the seeker after truth sees the perfection of the principles of God’s law, and he becomes dissatisfied with everything but perfection.... But he knows that with the Redeemer there is saving power that will gain for him the victory in the conflict. The Saviour will strengthen and help him as he comes pleading for grace and efficiency.

Christ will never neglect the work that has been placed in His hands. He will inspire the resolute disciple with a sense of the perversity, the sin-stained condition, the depravity, of the heart upon which He is working. The true penitent learns the uselessness of self-importance. Looking to Jesus, comparing his own defective character with the Saviour’s perfect character, he says only—

“In my hand no price I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.”

Daily Scripture

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 1

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked

- Psa 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.
- Psa 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- Psa 1:3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- Psa 1:4** The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.
- Psa 1:5** Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- Psa 1:6** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Preparation Day – February 28th

1. What unusual advice are we given when we encounter evil?

- **Romans 12:17-20** —
- **Romans 12:21** —
- **Luke 22:49-51** —

NOTE : 'The crafty deceiver has been found to be an accuser, a liar, a tormentor and a murderer; but whatever he may have led others to say concerning you, the Lord can say to him as He said to Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan." He can say to him, "You shall not come in between this soul and Me. You shall not interpose yourself between Me and the soul for whom I died a ransom." It is for you to dismiss Satan with his temptations, and to take Jesus. Press close to Jesus, and place your hand in His, and He will firmly hold your hand, and never let go of the soul who maintains his faith in Him. Living faith in the power of Jesus Christ, not in your own efficiency and wisdom, will bring you through every difficulty and temptation. Patiently wait, watch, and pray, and hold fast to the promises. However much your enemies have bruised and wounded your soul, forgive them, and by maintaining faith in Christ, you will find Him to be to you as the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land. Endure the pressure. Submit to wrong, bear the suffering part of religion for Christ's sake, rather than sin against God by seeking to deliver yourself. Cannot you be a partaker with Christ in His sufferings? Cannot you endure to have your name cast out as evil, and suffer the loss of temporal interest? You may be falsely accused, but bear in mind that Jesus bore all this for you, and faint not at tribulation. Overcome evil with good. Do not become bitter and estranged from Jesus. He loves you. Put your trust in Him."—*The Upward Look*, page 42

2. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, February 28th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 2, p. 65

February 28th

The Christian's All in All

But Christ is all, and in all.

Colossians 3:11

Christ, the precious Saviour, is to be the Christian's all in all. Every holy thought, every pure desire, every godlike purpose, is from Him who is the light, the truth, and the way. Christ is to live in His representatives by the Spirit of truth.... Paul says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20)....

Under the mighty impulse of His love He took our place in the universe and invited the Ruler of all things to treat Him as a representative of the human family. He identified Himself with our interests, bared His breast for the stroke of death, took man's guilt and its penalty, and offered in man's behalf a complete sacrifice to God. By virtue of this atonement He has power to offer to man perfect righteousness and full salvation. Whosoever shall believe on Him as a personal Saviour shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus identifies His interest with His chosen and tried people. He represents Himself as personally affected with all that concerns them.... After presenting His relation to His people in various lights, He finally declares that in the great day He will judge of every action as if it had been done unto Himself.

His sympathy with His people is without a parallel. He will not simply remain a spectator, indifferent to what His people may suffer, but identifies Himself with their interests and sorrows. If His people are wronged, maligned, treated with contempt, their sufferings are registered in the books of heaven as done unto Him.

The privileges, the blessings, of the child of God are represented by the apostle in the following language: “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). When we realize that our hope of glory is Christ, that we are complete in Him, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, February 28th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 2

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed

- Psa 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,
- Psa 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
- Psa 2:4 He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
- Psa 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- Psa 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
- Psa 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
- Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.
- Psa 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
- Psa 2:10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
- Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, February 28th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects is to train children and teens to be missionaries in South Korea. The project envisages the opening of a missionary training center at Hankook Sahmyook Academy, which includes a middle school and a high school, in South Korea's capital, Seoul.

Missionary training programs are a staple of Adventist life in South Korea. This week's story is about a group of 19 Korean teens who joined one such program called Academy Missionary Movement.

A fierce thunderstorm broke out on the first night that 19 South Korean teenage missionaries spent on a Philippine island.

The teens, ages 14 to 17, had not signed up for a thunderstorm when they joined a one-year mission training program called Academy Missionary Movement. Part of the program required them to participate in an international mission trip, and they had come to the remote island to assist with evangelistic meetings under the guidance of a South Korean pastor, who would preach.

But the storm that greeted them on their first night threatened to spoil their plans.

Eleven boys were sleeping in tents set up on the concrete floor of a partially constructed church building located on a sandy beach. Eight girls were sleeping in a thatched house nearby.

The night was pitch-black except for sharp flashes of lightning. Rain poured down, and the wind howled. The church building had no doors or windows, and the tents sheltering the boys trembled violently.

Then the South Korean pastor began to wake up the boys.

"The situation is serious," he told two boys in one tent. "We need to get up and pray."

He asked the boys to rouse the boys in the next tent and tell them to pass on the word until everyone had assembled to pray in the thatched house.

Meanwhile, the mission program director woke up the girls in the thatched house with similar instructions.

Before long, the teens had gathered in the thatched house. The building’s walls shook against the blast of the storm.

None of the teens or adults had seen such a bad rainstorm.

It was 4 a.m.

Everyone knelt down and prayed for God to stop the storm. For two hours, the missionaries prayed as the wind howled, the lightning flashed, and the rain fell. The pastor asked God to forgive the sins of everyone in the group. The teens sang worship songs. Each person took time for personal prayer. The pastor also gave a short sermon about God being a refuge in the storm.

By 6 a.m., the storm started to die down.

The pastor told the teens to go to bed. Seeing that it was their first night on the island, he didn’t want them to be too exhausted on their first full day.

The sun was shining brightly in the blue sky when everyone woke up two hours later.

The storm set the scene for the rest of the week. The mission trip became a season of prayer. Whenever it rained, everyone knelt and prayed. Whenever a teen faced a challenge, like inviting people to attend the evening meetings, everyone knelt and prayed. The teens realized that they were fighting for the salvation of souls. Sometimes they knelt in pairs and prayed for someone whom they had just met in a nearby village.

The mission trip offered some surprises for the teens, who were accustomed to conveniences like running water and heated toilet seats back home in South Korea. On the island, they used shovels to dig their own toilets and took outdoor baths with buckets or in the ocean. No one complained.

Every evening, the teens gathered near the unfinished church building to read the Bible, discuss the day, and thank God for life, food, and good weather.

At the end of the trip, seven people were baptized in the ocean. They had taken Bible studies with local church members and made the decision to get baptized during the evangelistic meetings.

The teens rejoiced that seven people had given their hearts to Jesus. They returned to South Korea, expressing an eagerness to be lifelong missionaries for Jesus.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will train students to become missionaries at Hankook Sahmyook Academy in Seoul, South Korea. Your offering will help open a missionary training center and gym at the academy. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 10

“FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM”

March 1 - March 7

MEMORY VERSE : *“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.” [1 Chronicles 29:11]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ God's Amazing Grace, page 21

LESSON AIM : To show the importance of the kingdom of God and how we may become a part of it.

INTRODUCTION : The last, like the first, sentence of the Lord's Prayer, points to our Father as above all power and authority and every name that is named. The Saviour beheld the years that stretched out before His disciples, not, as they had dreamed, lying in the sunshine of worldly prosperity and honour, but dark with the tempests of human hatred and satanic wrath. Amid national strife and ruin, the steps of the disciples would be beset with perils, and often their hearts would be oppressed by fear. They were to see Jerusalem a desolation, the temple swept away, its worship forever ended, and Israel scattered to all lands, like wrecks on a desert shore. Jesus said, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars." "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." [Matthew 24:6-8] Yet Christ's followers were not to fear that their hope was lost or that God had forsaken the earth. The power and the glory belong unto Him whose great purposes would still move on unthwarted toward their consummation. In the prayer that breathes their daily wants, the disciples of Christ were directed to look above all the power and dominion of evil, unto the Lord their God, whose kingdom rules over all and who is their Father and everlasting Friend.”
—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, page 120*

COMPILER'S NOTE : Those Bible versions whose New Testament relies mainly on the two Alexandrian manuscripts, Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, omit the closing words of the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:13. The words: 'For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen,' are, however, to be found in the next earliest Greek witness of Matthew 6:13, Codex Washingtonensis from the 4th to 5th century. The doxology exists in all the Byzantine Greek manuscripts, The Alexandrian writer, Origen, who lived from about 184/185 to 253/254 said in his commentary of Matthew's Gospel, concerning the manuscripts circulating in Alexandria in his day: "The differences among the manuscripts [of the Gospels] have become great, either through the negligence of some copyists or through the perverse audacity of others; they either neglect to check over what they have transcribed, or, in the process of checking, they lengthen or shorten, as they please." (Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus differ from each other in thousands of instances in the Gospels alone!) In the light of Origen's comment, it is difficult to see why scholars should set aside the overwhelming testimony of the ancient Greek manuscripts and rely instead on these two manuscripts Alexandrian in origin.

Sabbath – March 1st

1. What essential truth did Christ seek to convey to His disciples and to the Jews generally?

➤ **Luke 17:20-21** —

NOTE : “The people who listened to the words of Christ were still anxiously watching for some announcement of the earthly kingdom. While Jesus was opening to them the treasures of heaven, the question uppermost in many minds was, How will a connection with Him advance our prospects in the world? Jesus shows that in making the things of the world their supreme anxiety they were like the heathen nations about them. "All these things," said Jesus, "do the nations of the world seek after" (Luke 12:30). I have come to open to you the kingdom of love and righteousness and peace. Open your hearts to receive this kingdom, and make its service your highest interest. Though it is a spiritual kingdom, fear not that your needs for this life will be uncared for.”—*God's Amazing Grace, page 21*

2. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, March 1st, 2025

God's Amazing Grace Chapter 1, p. 21

“The Kingdom of Grace”

“The Message of the First Advent”

January 4th

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Mark 1:14, 15

As Jesus travelled through Galilee, teaching and healing, multitudes flocked to Him from the cities and villages. Many came even from Judea and the adjoining provinces. Often He was obliged to hide Himself from the people. The enthusiasm ran so high that it was necessary to take precautions lest the Roman authorities should be aroused to fear an insurrection. Never before had there been such a period as this for the world. Heaven was brought down to men. Hungering and thirsting souls that had waited long for the redemption of Israel now feasted upon the grace of a merciful Saviour....

The gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies. The “time” which He declared to be fulfilled was the period made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel.... “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks” (Daniel 9:25), sixty-nine weeks, or four hundred and eighty-three years. The commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, as completed by the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus (see Ezra 6:14; 7:1, 9, margin), went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. From this time four hundred and eighty-three years extend to the autumn of A.D. 27. According to the prophecy, this period was to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One. In A.D. 27, Jesus at His baptism received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and soon afterward began His ministry. Then the message was proclaimed, “The time is fulfilled.” ...

The time of Christ's coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out.... “The Spirit of Christ which was in them” “testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow” (1 Peter 1:11).... As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, March 1st, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 67

March 1st

Let Us Ask of God

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him.

James 1:5

It is the privilege of every believer first to talk with God in his closet, and then as God's mouthpiece to talk with others. In order that we may have something to impart, we must daily receive light and blessing. Men and women who commune with God, who have an abiding Christ, who, because they cooperate with holy angels, are surrounded with holy influences, are needed at this time. The cause needs those who have power to draw with Christ, power to express the love of God in words of encouragement and sympathy.

As the believer bows in supplication before God, and in humility and contrition offers his petition from unfeigned lips, he loses all thought of self. His mind is filled with the thought of what he must have in order to build up a Christlike character. He prays, "Lord, if I am to be a channel through which Thy love is to flow day by day and hour by hour, I claim by faith the grace and power that Thou hast promised." He fastens his hold firmly on the promise, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it shall be given him."

How this dependence pleases the Master! How He delights to hear the steady, earnest pleading! ... With wonderful and ennobling grace the Lord sanctifies the humble petitioner, giving him power to perform the most difficult duties. All that is undertaken is done unto the Lord, and this elevates and sanctifies the lowliest calling. It invests with new dignity every word, every act, and links the humblest worker ... with the highest of the angels in the heavenly courts....

The sons and daughters of God have a great work to do in the world. They are to accept the Word of God as the man of their counsel and to impart it to others. They are to diffuse light. All who have received the engrafted word will be faithful in giving that word to others. They will speak the words of Christ. In conversation and in deportment they will give evidence of a daily conversion to the principles of truth. Such believers will be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men, and God will be glorified in them.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, March 1st, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 3

Save Me, O My God

- Psa 3:1 **A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.** LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many *are* they that rise up against me.
- Psa 3:2 Many *there be* which say of my soul, *There is* no help for him in God. Selah.
- Psa 3:3 But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.
- Psa 3:4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.
- Psa 3:5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.
- Psa 3:6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set *themselves* against me round about.
- Psa 3:7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies *upon* the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.
- Psa 3:8 Salvation *belongs* unto the LORD: thy blessing *is* upon thy people. Selah.

Children's Mission Story

Sabbath, March 1st, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Five-year-old Haon [HA-on] and 4-year-old Sion [see-ON] were two sisters living in South Korea. They loved playing with their 5-year-old neighbour friend, a girl named Jooyoung. [ZOO-young] When the three little girls got together, they had big adventures.

Now some girls might be scared of insects and lizards. But not these girls. They had no fear of any creature, big or small.

One of the girls' favourite activities was catching flies and bugs and putting them into a jar. All around their apartment building they went, hunting high and low for flies and bugs.

When Haon, Sion, and Jooyoung had caught enough flies and bugs, they looked for a lizard. All around their apartment building they went, hunting high and low for a lizard.

What do you think that the girls did when they captured a lizard? They fed it a delicious meal of flies and bugs, of course! Then they released the lizard to resume its interrupted journey across an apartment building wall.

Haon and Sion would have liked to bring the lizard and the flies and bugs into their apartment. But Mom wouldn't let them. She said lizards, flies, and bugs belonged outdoors.

Mom also said cats belonged outdoors. Several stray cats with no home lived in the garden outside the apartment building. Haon, Sion, and Jooyoung enjoyed petting them, talking to them, and feeding them.

What do you think that the girls fed the stray cats? No, not lizards or flies or bugs! They fed the cats tuna that Mom gave them from a can, of course.

Mom didn’t allow flies, bugs, lizards, and stray cats in the apartment. But she did make an exception for a baby bird. Once, the girls found a baby sparrow that was shivering with cold after falling out of its mother’s nest. Mom allowed the girls to bring it into the apartment to warm up in a box. Then they returned the baby sparrow to its mother.

Haon, Sion, and Jooyoung were the best of friends. They loved to play, and they loved animals. But they had one big difference. Haon and Sion also loved Jesus, but Jooyoung had never heard of Jesus. Haon and Sion were waiting for Jesus to come and take His children to heaven. Jooyoung had never heard that Jesus would come and take people to heaven. Haon and Sion wanted their friend to know and love Jesus. They began praying every night for her and her family to know Him. The girls couldn’t bear the thought of not playing with their dear friend in heaven.

Then the girls grew older and started to go to school. They didn’t have as much time to play. One Sabbath morning, Jooyoung knocked on her friends’ door.

“Can we play at your place today?” she asked.

“We can’t play here today because we are going to church,” Haon said.

“It would be great if we could go together to church,” Sion said.

Jooyoung couldn’t go that day. But she kept coming over on Sabbath mornings, and her friends kept inviting her to church. One Sabbath morning, she agreed to go to church. Haon and Sion were overjoyed! It was an answer to their prayers. They had prayed every night for two years for Jooyoung to know Jesus.

Today, Haon is 13, and Sion is 12. Jooyoung is 13, and she has been going to church with them every Sabbath for six years. The girls are also Pathfinders, and they look forward to playing with insects, lizards, and cats in heaven one day.

Pray for Jooyoung’s family to also know Jesus. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to two projects in South Korea that will help people to know Jesus. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

Sunday – March 2nd

1. What shows the disciples struggle to understand this truth?

- **Matthew 18:1** —
- **Matthew 20:20-21** —
- **Acts 1:6** —

NOTE : “The kingdom He had come to establish was the opposite of that which the Jews desired. He who was the foundation of the ritual and economy of Israel would be looked upon as its enemy and destroyer. He who had proclaimed the law upon Sinai would be condemned as a transgressor. He who had come to break the power of Satan would be denounced as Beelzebub. No one upon earth had understood Him, and during His ministry He must still walk alone. Throughout His life His mother and His brothers did not comprehend His mission. Even His disciples did not understand Him. He had dwelt in eternal light, as one with God, but His life on earth must be spent in solitude.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 111

2. What shows us the importance of the kingdom of God in Christ's preaching and teaching?

- **Matthew 4:23** —
- **Luke 4:43** —

NOTE : “Think how many of Christ's parables were spoken to teach what the kingdom of God is like. "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.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 12

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 68***

March 2nd

Whom God Accepts

To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.

Isaiah 66:2

Those who search for worldly distinction and glory make a sad mistake. It is the one who denies self, giving to others the preference, who will sit nearest to Christ on His throne. He who reads the heart sees the true merit possessed by His lowly, self-sacrificing disciples, and because they are worthy He places them in positions of distinction, though they do not realize their worthiness and do not seek for honour....

God places no value on outward display or boasting. Many who in this life are looked upon as superior to others will one day see that God values men according to their compassion and self-denial.... Those who follow the example of Him who went about doing good, who help and bless their fellow men, trying always to lift them up, are in God's sight infinitely higher than the selfish ones who exalt themselves.

God does not accept men because of their capabilities, but because they seek His face, desiring His help. God sees not as man sees. He judges not from appearances. He searches the heart, and judges righteously. “To this man will I look,” He declares, “even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.” He accepts and communes with His lowly, unpretentious followers; for in them He sees the most precious material, which will stand the test of storm and tempest, heat and pressure.

Our object in working for the Master should be that His name may be glorified in the conversion of sinners. Those who labour to gain applause are not approved of God....

Humble workers, who do not trust in their great gifts, but who work in simplicity, trusting always in God, will share in the joy of the Saviour. Their persevering prayers will bring souls to the cross. Heavenly angels will respond to their self-sacrificing efforts....

These workers are trees of the Lord's planting. In a peculiar sense they bear fruit equal to the fruit borne by the apostles. A rich reward awaits them in the future life.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 4

Answer Me When I Call

- Psa 4:1 **To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm of David.** Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me *when I was* in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.
- Psa 4:2 O ye sons of men, how long *will ye turn* my glory into shame? *how long* will ye love vanity, *and* seek after leasing? Selah.
- Psa 4:3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.
- Psa 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
- Psa 4:5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.
- Psa 4:6 *There be* many that say, Who will shew us *any* good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.
- Psa 4:7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time *that* their corn and their wine increased.
- Psa 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makes me dwell in safety.
- Psa 95:11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Monday - March 3rd

1. How are we shown that the kingdom of God was central in Paul's preaching?

- Acts 20:25 —
- Acts 28:23 —
- Acts 28:30-31 —
- Acts 8:12 —

NOTE : “As was his custom, Paul had begun his work at Ephesus by preaching in the synagogue of the Jews. He continued to labour there for three months, "disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God." At first he met with a favourable reception; but as in other fields, he was soon violently opposed. "Divers were hardened, and believed not, but spoke evil of that way before the multitude." As they persisted in their rejection of the gospel, the apostle ceased to preach in the synagogue.' Acts of the Apostles, page 285. 'Later, in Thessalonica, in Corinth, in Ephesus, and in other important centres, Paul and his companions in labour preached the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. But their chief energies were henceforth directed toward the building up of the kingdom of God in heathen territory, among peoples who had but little or no knowledge of the true God and of His Son.'—*Acts of the Apostles, page 174*

2. How did Christ teach that His kingdom is not for the proud and ambitious?

- Matthew 5:3 —
- Matthew 18:1-4 —

NOTE : “Seated upon the mount, surrounded by His disciples and a large gathering, Jesus "opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." These are not murmurers and complainers, but those who are content with their condition and surroundings in life. They do not cherish the feeling that they deserve a better position than that which Providence has assigned them, but manifest a spirit of gratitude for every favour bestowed upon them. Every proud thought and exalted feeling is banished. Those who are truly sanctified have a sense of their own weakness. Feeling their need, they will go for light and grace and strength to Jesus, in whom all fullness dwells, and who alone can supply their wants. Conscious of their own imperfections, they seek to become more like Christ, and to live in accordance with the principles of His holy law. This continual sense of inefficiency will lead to such entire dependence upon God, that His Spirit will be exemplified in them. The treasures of heaven will be opened to supply the wants of every hungering, thirsting soul. All of this character have the assurance of one day beholding the glory of that kingdom which as yet the imagination can only faintly grasp.”—*Reflecting Christ, page 61*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, March 3rd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 69

March 3rd

Strength Through Prayer

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

Psalms 95:6

Christ has given His disciples assurance that special seasons for devotion are necessary. Prayer went before and sanctified every act of His ministry.... The night seasons of prayer which the Saviour spent in the mountain or in the desert were essential to prepare Him for the trials He must meet in the days to follow. He felt the need of the refreshing and invigorating of soul and body, that He might meet the temptations of Satan; and those who are striving to live His life will feel this same need....

Christ has pledged Himself to be our substitute and surety, and He neglects no one. There is an inexhaustible fund of perfect obedience accruing from His obedience. In heaven His merits, His self-denial and self-sacrifice, are treasured up as incense to be offered up with the prayers of His people. As the sinner's sincere, humble prayers ascend to the throne of God, Christ mingles with them the merits of His life of perfect obedience. Our prayers are made fragrant by this incense...

Let all remember that the mysteries of God's kingdom cannot be learned by reasoning. True faith, true prayer—how strong they are! The prayer of the Pharisee had no value, but the prayer of the publican was heard in the courts above, because it showed dependence reaching forth to lay hold of Omnipotence. Self was to the publican nothing but shame. Thus it must be with all who seek God. Faith and prayer are the two arms which the needy suppliant lays upon the neck of infinite Love....

We speak with Jesus Christ as we walk by the way, and He says, “I am at thy right hand.” We may walk in daily companionship with Christ. When we breathe out our desire, it may be inaudible to any human ear, but that word cannot die away into silence nor can it be lost, though the activities of business are going on. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and the prayer is heard. Ask then; “Ask, and it shall be given you.”

Daily Scripture

Monday, March 3rd, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 5

Lead Me in Your Righteousness

- Psa 5:1 **To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David.** Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.
- Psa 5:2 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.
- Psa 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.
- Psa 5:4 For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.
- Psa 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hates all workers of iniquity.
- Psa 5:6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.
- Psa 5:7 But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.
- Psa 5:8 Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.
- Psa 5:9 For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part *is* very wickedness; their throat *is* an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.
- Psa 5:10 Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.
- Psa 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defends them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.
- Psa 5:12 For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield.

Tuesday – March 4th

1. Which others will possess the kingdom of heaven?

➤ **Matthew 5:10** —

NOTE : “This kingdom is not, as Christ's hearers had hoped, a temporal and earthly dominion. Christ was opening to them the spiritual kingdom of His love, His grace, His righteousness. His subjects are the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted for righteousness' sake. The kingdom of heaven is theirs. Though not yet fully accomplished, the work is begun in them which will make them "meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" [Colossians 1:12]”—*God's Amazing Grace, page 9*

2. What qualifications does the Bible give for those who wish to become citizens of the kingdom of God?

➤ **Matthew 7:21** —

➤ **James 2:5** —

➤ **2 Peter 1:5-11** —

NOTE : “Christ does not acknowledge any caste, colour, or grade as necessary to become a subject of His kingdom. Admittance to His kingdom does not depend upon wealth or a superior heredity. But those who are born of the Spirit are the subjects of His kingdom. Spiritual character is that which will be recognised by Christ. His kingdom is not of this world. His subjects are those who are partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And this grace is given them of God. Christ does not find His subjects fitted for His kingdom, but He qualifies them by His divine power. Those who have been dead in trespasses and sins are quickened to spiritual life. The faculties which God has given them for holy purposes are refined, purified, and exalted, and they are led to form characters after the divine similitude.”—*God's Amazing Grace, page 52*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 70

March 4th

Standing in the Light of Heaven

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Provision has been made whereby the communication between heaven and our souls may be free and open. Finite man can place himself where rays of light and glory from the throne of God will be given him in abundance. The light of the knowledge of the glory of God which shines in the face of Jesus Christ may shine upon him. He may stand where it can be said of him, “Ye are the light of the world.” Were it not for the communication between heaven and earth there would be no light in the world. Like Sodom and Gomorrah, all men would perish beneath the just judgment of God. But the world is not left in darkness. The long-suffering mercy of God is still extended to the children of men, and it is His design that the rays of light which emanate from the throne of God shall be reflected by the children of light....

It is our privilege to stand with the light of heaven upon us. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. It was no easier for Enoch to live a righteous life than it is for us at the present time. The world in his time was no more favourable to growth in grace and holiness than it is now.

It was by prayer and communion with God that Enoch was enabled to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. We are living in the perils of the last days, and we must receive our strength from the same Source. We must walk with God. A separation from the world is required of us, for we cannot remain free from its pollution unless we follow the example of the faithful Enoch....

Those who profess the religion of Christ should understand the responsibility resting upon them. They should feel that this is an individual work, an individual preaching of Christ. If each would realize this and take hold of the work, we should be as mighty as an army with banners. The heavenly Dove would hover over us. The light of the glory of God would be no more shut away from us than it was from the devoted Enoch.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 6

O Lord, Deliver My Life

- Psa 6:1 **To the chief Musician on Neginoth upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David.** O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.
- Psa 6:2 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I *am* weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.
- Psa 6:3 My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?
- Psa 6:4 Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.
- Psa 6:5 For in death *there is* no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?
- Psa 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.
- Psa 6:7 Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxes old because of all mine enemies.
- Psa 6:8 Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.
- Psa 6:9 The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.
- Psa 6:10 Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return *and* be ashamed suddenly.

Wednesday – March 5th

1. What will disqualify us from the kingdom of heaven?

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** —
- **Galatians 5:19-21** —
- **Matthew 19:23-24** —

NOTE : “The lover of self is a transgressor of the law. This Jesus desired to reveal to the young man [the rich young ruler], and He gave him a test that would make manifest the selfishness of his heart. He showed him the plague spot in his character. The young man desired no further enlightenment. He had cherished an idol in the soul; the world was his god. He professed to have kept the commandments, but he was destitute of the principle which is the very spirit and life of them all. He did not possess true love for God or man. This want was the want of everything that would qualify him to enter the kingdom of heaven. In his love of self and worldly gain he was out of harmony with the principles of heaven.”—*Conflict & Courage*, page 299

2. When is the kingdom of God to come?

- **2 Timothy 4:1** —
- **Luke 17:20-21** —
- **Luke 22:18** —

NOTE : “As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory.”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 235

“The kingdom of God's grace is now being established, as day by day hearts that have been full of sin and rebellion yield to the sovereignty of His love. But the full establishment of the kingdom of His glory will not take place until the second coming of Christ to this world. Not until the personal advent of Christ can His people receive the kingdom. The Saviour said: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations. . . . 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 25:31-34).”—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 347

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 71***

March 5th

Letters to Heaven

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

Hebrews 4:16

Prayer is not an expiation for sin. It is not a penance. We need not come to God as condemned criminals, for Christ has paid the penalty of our transgression. He has made an atonement for us. His blood cleanses from sin. Our prayers are as letters sent from earth, directed to our Father in heaven. The petitions that ascend from sincere, humble hearts will surely reach Him. He can discern the sincerity of His adopted children. He pities our weakness and strengthens our infirmities. He has said, “Ask, and ye shall receive.”

Many of the human family know not what they should ask for as they ought. But the Lord is kind and tender. He helps their infirmities by giving them words to speak. He who comes with sanctified desire has access through Christ to the Father. Christ is our intercessor. The prayers that are placed in the golden censer of the Saviour’s merits are accepted by the Father.

Every promise in the Word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think. Educate yourself to have unlimited confidence in God. Cast all your care upon Him. Wait patiently for Him, and He will bring it to pass.

We are to come to God, not in a spirit of self-justification, but with humility, repenting of our sins. He is able to help us, willing to do for us more than we ask or think. He has the abundance of heaven wherewith to supply our necessities.... God is holy, and we must pray, “lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (1 Timothy 2:8)...

We are to seek “first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). We are to be ready to receive the blessing which God will bestow upon those who seek Him with the whole heart, in sincerity and truth. We must keep the heart open if we would receive of the grace of Christ.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 7

In You Do I Take Refuge

- Psa 7:1 **Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.** O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:
- Psa 7:2 Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending *it* in pieces, while *there is* none to deliver.
- Psa 7:3 O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands;
- Psa 7:4 If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)
- Psa 7:5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take *it*; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah.
- Psa 7:6 Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me *to* the judgment *that* thou hast commanded.
- Psa 7:7 So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about: for their sakes therefore return thou on high.
- Psa 7:8 The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity *that is* in me.
- Psa 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God tries the hearts and reins.
- Psa 7:10 My defence *is* of God, which saves the upright in heart.
- Psa 7:11 God judges the righteous, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day.
- Psa 7:12 If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready.
- Psa 7:13 He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordains his arrows against the persecutors.
- Psa 7:14 Behold, he travails with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.
- Psa 7:15 He made a pit, and dug it, and is fallen into the ditch *which* he made.
- Psa 7:16 His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.
- Psa 7:17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

Thursday – March 6th

1. How did Paul explain that we cannot inherit the kingdom of God in our mortal state?

➤ **1 Corinthians 15:50-53** —

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

2. What work has Christ committed to His church?

➤ **Matthew 24:14** —

NOTE : “Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfilment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, page 111

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 72

March 6th

Sweet Communion With Our Saviour

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

It is our privilege to taste the sweetness of communion with a crucified and risen Saviour. But in order for this to be, self must be surrendered to God. Self-indulgence means that Christ is not followed in self-denial and cross bearing. When self strives for the highest place, the spiritual perceptions become dimmed. The eyes are turned from Christ to the poor picture of self. We cannot afford to become separated from Christ. We must keep looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith....

It is as we commune with Christ that precious, holy light shines into our souls, until every chamber is lighted up and we become bright lights in the world, reflecting to others the glory of Christ. We are to keep Christ before us as the example of perfection.

Communion with God is the life of the soul. It is not a something which we can interpret, a something which we can clothe with beautiful words, but which does not give us the genuine experience that makes our words of real value. Communion with God gives us a daily experience that does indeed make our joy full.

Those who have this union with Christ will declare it in spirit and word and work. Profession is nothing unless, in word and work, good fruit is manifest. Unity, fellowship with one another and with Christ—this is the fruit borne on every branch of the living vine. The cleansed soul, born again, has a clear, distinct testimony to bear....

To know God is, in the scriptural sense of the term, to be one with Him in heart and mind, having an experimental knowledge of Him, holding reverential communion with Him as the Redeemer. Only through sincere obedience can this communion be obtained....

Following Christ's example of unselfish service, trusting like little children in His merits, and obeying His commands, we shall receive the approval of God. Christ will abide in our hearts, and our influence will be fragrant with His righteousness.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 8

How Majestic Is Your Name

- Psa 8:1 **To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.** O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
- Psa 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou might still the enemy and the avenger.
- Psa 8:3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
- Psa 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visits him?
- Psa 8:5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
- Psa 8:6 Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet:
- Psa 8:7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
- Psa 8:8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, *and whatsoever* passeth through the paths of the seas.
- Psa 8:9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth!

Preparation Day – March 7th

1. What can we Christians do to hasten the coming of the kingdom?

➤ **2 Peter 3:12** —

NOTE : “When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 69

2. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, March 7th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 73

March 7th

Fervent Prayer

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

Psalm 62:8

Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him. But why is it that so many prayers are never answered? ... The Lord gives us the promise: “Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). Again, He speaks of some who “have not cried unto me with their heart” (Hosea 7:14). Such petitions are prayers of form, lip service only, which the Lord does not accept....

There is need of prayer—most earnest, fervent, agonizing prayer—such prayer as David offered when he exclaimed: “As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God.” “I have longed after thy precepts”; “I have longed for thy salvation.” “My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh cries out for the living God.” “My soul breaks for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments” (Psalm 42:1; 119:40, 174; Psalm 84:2; 119:20). This is the spirit of wrestling prayer, such as was possessed by the royal psalmist....

Of Christ it is said: “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly” (Luke 22:44). In what contrast to this intercession by the Majesty of heaven are the feeble, heartless prayers that are offered to God. Many are content with lip service, and but few have a sincere, earnest, affectionate longing after God.

Communion with God imparts to the soul an intimate knowledge of His will.... True prayer engages the energies of the soul and affects the life. He who thus pours out his wants before God feels the emptiness of everything else under heaven. “All my desire is before thee,” said David, “and my groaning is not hid from thee.” “My soul thirsts for God....” “When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me” (Psalm 38:9; 42:2, 4).

Your prayers may rise with an importunity that will not accept denial. That is faith.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, March 7th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 9

I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds

- Psa 9:1 **To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David.** I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.
- Psa 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.
- Psa 9:3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence.
- Psa 9:4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou sat in the throne judging right.
- Psa 9:5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.
- Psa 9:6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.
- Psa 9:7 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.
- Psa 9:8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.
- Psa 9:9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.
- Psa 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.
- Psa 9:11 Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.
- Psa 9:12 When he makes inquisition for blood, he remembers them: he forgets not the cry of the humble.
- Psa 9:13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble *which I suffer* of them that hate me, thou that lifts me up from the gates of death:
- Psa 9:14 That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.
- Psa 9:15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit *that* they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.
- Psa 9:16 The LORD is known *by* the judgment *which* he executes: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.
- Psa 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.
- Psa 9:18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall *not* perish for ever.
- Psa 9:19 Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight.
- Psa 9:20 Put them in fear, O LORD: *that* the nations may know themselves *to be but* men. Selah.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, March 7th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Ain-seok was 2 when his father died. He has no memories of his father.

Dad was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in South Korea, and Mom singlehandedly raised Jin-seok [GIN-seek] and his brother. Her faith was Jin-seok's faith — until he grew into a teenager.

Then Jin-seok began to think for himself, and he refused to believe in God.

He thought, “If God exists, why did He allow Dad to die?”

The boy told God, “If You exist, You can kill me, too. I can't live like this!”

When he was 15, Jin-seok decided that he had had enough.

During family worship, he abruptly stood up and ripped his Bible in two.

“Mom, don't tell me to believe in God,” he said.

With that, he dropped out of school and moved out of the house.

For the next 10 years, Jin-seok smoked, drank, and mingled with worldly friends. He didn't have a Bible, and he hated Christians, especially Adventists.

One day, he inadvertently ended up on the campus of an Adventist university in South Korea's capital, Seoul. He was accompanying a friend who had business at Sahmyook University.

As he waited for his friend, he wanted to smoke, but smoking was prohibited at the university. So, he looked for a place where he could smoke without getting caught.

Finding a remote park-like area with trees and bushes, he sat down on a bench and lit up a cigarette.

As he smoked, he looked around and saw a Bible verse engraved on a stone. He suddenly realized that he was in the university’s prayer garden.

A flood of emotions filled his heart. He had no memories of his father, but he remembered that Dad had studied at that same university to become a pastor. Dad had probably prayed in the same prayer garden.

Then Jin-seok’s thoughts turned to his mother. He remembered hearing that Mom was very ill. Several people had told him that she would die soon.

Grief filled his heart. Dad had died when he was 2, and now Mom was dying when he was 25.

“I can’t live like this!” he exclaimed.

Now Jin-seok began to feel sorry for his mother. He thought, “Mom lost her husband. She has two sons, but she lost me, too. I’m breaking her heart, and now she’s going to die.”

Tears poured down his cheeks.

In the university prayer garden, with a lit cigarette between his fingers, he spoke to God for the first time in years.

“God, if you exist, please help me,” he said. “Please help Mom. If You do, I’ll surrender my heart to you. I’ll give my life to you.”

Not long after that prayer, Mom recovered, and Jin-seok kept his promise. He became a pastor just like his father. He graduated from Sahmyook University just like his father.

Mom was thrilled!

But the story didn’t end there. Jin-seok got married, had a daughter, and is now helping raise four boys from single-mother homes. Remembering how he grew up without a dad, he began caring for the four boys with the support of the members of the church that he pastors in rural South Korea.

The boys, who are now teens, are living very different lives than Jin-seok did at their age because they see Jin-seok’s love and know that they have a Father in heaven who loves them even more. All four boys have given their hearts to Jesus in baptism.

Jin-seok hopes to send them to an Adventist high school in Seoul one day. He hopes that they will become missionaries.

Gone are the days when Jin-seok exclaimed, “I can’t live like this!” He has found that life with God is worth living, and he looks forward to meeting his father at Jesus’ soon coming.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to Hankook Sahmyook Academy, where Jin-seok hopes to send his adopted sons to study, in Seoul, South Korea. Your offering will support the opening of a missionary training center and gym at the school. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

LESSON 11

“THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER”

March 8 - March 14

📖 **MEMORY VERSE :** “” [Matthew 28:18]

❓ **STUDY HELP :** ✓ God's Amazing Grace, page 274

🔧 **LESSON AIM :** To show the importance of God's power in our daily lives.

💬 **INTRODUCTION :** “We should not come together to remain silent; those only are remembered of the Lord who assemble to speak of His honour and glory and tell of His power; upon such the blessing of God will rest, and they will be refreshed. If all moved as they should, no precious time would run to waste, and no reproofs would be needed for long prayers and exhortations; all the time would be occupied by short, pointed testimonies and prayers. Ask, believe, and receive. There is too much mocking the Lord, too much praying that is no praying and that wearies angels and displeases God, too many vain, unmeaning petitions. First we should feel needy, and then ask God for the very things we need, believing that He gives them to us, even while we ask; and then our faith will grow, all will be edified, the weak will be strengthened, and the discouraged and desponding made to look up and believe that God is a rewarder of all those who diligently seek Him.”—*Early Writings, page 115*

Sabbath – March 8th

1. What is promised to all those who are willing to receive Christ?

➤ John 1:12 —

NOTE : “Satan had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God's commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity combined can obey every one of God's precepts. *“As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”* [John 1:12] This power is not in the human agent. It is the power of God. When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.”—*Christ's Object Lessons, page 314*

2. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, March 8th, 2025

**God’s Amazing Grace
Chapter 9, p. 274**

“The Power of Grace”

“Tell of His Power”

September 23rd

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.

Psalm 145:11

If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God, and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed, and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence.

If we would but think of God as often as we have evidence of His care for us, we should keep Him ever in our thoughts, and should delight to talk of Him and to praise Him. We talk of temporal things because we have an interest in them. We talk of our friends because we love them; our joys and our sorrows are bound up with them. Yet we have infinitely greater reason to love God than to love our earthly friends; it should be the most natural thing in the world to make Him first in all our thoughts, to talk of His goodness and tell of His power.

Those who study the Word of God and day by day receive instruction from Christ bear the stamp of heaven’s principles. A high, holy influence goes forth from them. A helpful atmosphere surrounds their souls. The pure, holy, elevated principles that they follow enable them to bear a living testimony to the power of divine grace.

Christ wants His followers to be like Him, because He desires to be correctly represented in the family circle, in the church, and in the world.... We are to accept Christ as our efficiency, our strength, that we may reveal His character to the world. This is the work resting upon us as Christians. We are to witness to the power of heavenly grace....

God wants His sons and daughters to reveal before the synagogue of Satan, before the heavenly universe, before the world, the power of His grace, that men and angels may know that Christ has not died in vain. Let us show the world that we have power from on high

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, March 8th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 74

March 8th

Nothing Too Small

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

Lamentations 3:25

There are few who rightly appreciate or improve the precious privilege of prayer. We should go to Jesus and tell Him all our needs. We may bring Him our little cares and perplexities as well as our greater troubles. Whatever arises to disturb or distress us, we should take it to the Lord in prayer.

We lose many precious blessings by failing to bring our needs and cares and sorrows to our Saviour. He is the wonderful Counsellor. He looks upon His church with intense interest and with a heart full of tender sympathy. He enters into the depth of our necessities. But our ways are not always His ways. He sees the result of every action, and He asks us to trust patiently in His wisdom, not in the supposedly wise plans of our own making.

Do not cease to pray. If the answer tarry, wait for it. Lay all your plans at the feet of the Redeemer. Let your importunate prayers ascend to God. If it be for His name's glory, the soothing words will be spoken, "Be it unto thee according to thy word."

We can never weary Christ by earnest supplications. We do not depend on God as we should. Let us leave unsaid every word of complaint. Talk faith and courage while waiting for God.... Be afraid to doubt, lest this become a habit that will destroy faith. The dealing of the heavenly Father may seem dark and mysterious and unexplainable; nevertheless we are to trust in Him.

Oh, how precious is Jesus to the soul who trusts in Him! But many are walking in darkness because they bury their faith in the shadow of Satan.... Never for a moment should we allow Satan to think that his power to distress and annoy is greater than the power of Christ to uphold and strengthen....

Every sincere prayer that is offered is mingled with the efficacy of Christ's blood. If the answer is deferred, it is because God desires us to show a holy boldness in claiming the pledged word of God. He is faithful who hath promised. He will never forsake the soul who is wholly surrendered to Him.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, March 8th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 10

Why Do You Hide Yourself?

- Psa 10:1 Why stand thou afar off, O LORD? *why* hide thou *thyself* in times of trouble?
- Psa 10:2 The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.
- Psa 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and blesses the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhors
- Psa 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.
- Psa 10:5 His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffs at them.
- Psa 10:6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I shall* never *be* in adversity.
- Psa 10:7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity.
- Psa 10:8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.
- Psa 10:9 He lies in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lies in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draws him into his net.
- Psa 10:10 He crouches, *and* humbles himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.
- Psa 10:11 He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hides his face; he will never see *it*.
- Psa 10:12 Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.
- Psa 10:13 Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*.
- Psa 10:14 Thou hast seen *it*; for thou beholds mischief and spite, to requite *it* with thy hand: the poor commits himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.
- Psa 10:15 Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*: seek out his wickedness *till* thou find none.
- Psa 10:16 The LORD *is* King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.
- Psa 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:
- Psa 10:18 To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, March 8th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Ten-year-old Onyu is outgoing, and she likes to talk with friends at school. When she learned that her church was planning a Vacation Bible School, she was excited that she would have something new to talk about with her friends. She could invite them to the Vacation Bible School.

Onyu goes to a Seventh-day Adventist school in South Korea. But many of her classmates come from families who do not believe in God.

So, at school lunchtime, Onyu stood up in front of all her classmates. She spoke up loudly so everyone could hear her.

“Is anyone interested in coming to my church?” she said. “We will have a good Vacation Bible School on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Do you have time?”

In her hand, she held four colourful fans that she had made. On each fan, she had written a personal invitation to the Vacation Bible School. She wanted to give the fans to anyone who wanted to go.

Many children said that they couldn’t go. They had to do homework, help with chores, or do other things.

But Onyu didn’t give up.

“Please come,” she said. “We are going to the swimming pool on Sunday. I would like you to go with me.”

Then two girls and a boy said that they would like to go. Onyu gave fans to each of them.

The next day, one of the girls said that she couldn’t go. Her parents had told her that she was too busy. But the other girl and the boy said that their parents had given them permission to go.

Onyu was so excited! She smiled as bright as the sun.

But a few days later, the girl said that her mom had changed her mind. She couldn't go after all.

Onyu was sad, but she was happy that at least one classmate, the boy, would be able to attend. His name was Jisung.

On the first day of the Vacation Bible School, Onyu eagerly looked around for Jisung.

“Where is he?” she thought.

She waited and waited and began to grow worried.

“Why isn't he coming?” she wondered.

Jisung didn't come on Friday.

The next day, on Saturday, Onyu couldn't check to see if he was there because she was sick at home.

But Jisung showed up at the swimming pool on Sunday.

Onyu was overjoyed when she saw him!

Jisung was also thrilled to be there, and he enjoyed every moment of the day.

Like Onyu, Jisung was also outgoing, and he liked to talk with friends at school.

At school on Monday, he excitedly told everyone about the Vacation Bible School and about all of the fun that he had had. He was so excited! He wanted to go back again.

“When is the next Vacation Bible School?” he asked Onyu. “I'll tell everyone about it, and I'll definitely go again.”

He also said that he wanted to go to church with Onyu on Sabbath.

That night, Onyu offered a prayer of gratitude to God.

“Thank You, God, for using me as Your instrument for mission,” she prayed.

Onyu goes to Hankook Sahmyook Academy in Seoul, South Korea. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school open a gym and missionary training center. Thank you for planning a generous offering on March 29.

Sunday – March 9th

1. How great is this power?

➤ **Matthew 28:18** —

NOTE : “By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, *"I AM THAT I AM. . . . Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."* [Exodus 3:14] This was the pledge of Israel's deliverance. So when He came *"in the likeness of men,"* He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God *"manifest in the flesh."* [1 Timothy 3:16] And to us He says: *"I AM the Good Shepherd."* *"I AM the living Bread."* *"I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."* *"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."* [John 10:11; John 6:51; John 14:6; Matthew 28:18] I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. *"God with us" is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven.*”—*The Desire of Ages*, page 24

2. With what statement of God's power does the Bible begin?

➤ **Genesis 1:1** —

NOTE : “As regards this earth, Scripture declares the work of creation to have been completed. *"The works were finished from the foundation of the world."* [Hebrews 4:3] But the power of God is still exercised in upholding the objects of His creation. Every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the care of Him in whom we live and move and have our being. Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit of the heavens. The God of heaven is constantly at work. It is by His power that vegetation is caused to flourish, that every leaf appears and every flower blooms. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for His attention. Many teach that matter possesses vital power, and that the operations of nature are conducted in harmony with fixed laws, with which God Himself cannot interfere. This is false science, and is not sustained by the Word of God. Nature is the servant of her Creator. God does not annul His laws, or work contrary to them; but He is continually using them as His instruments.”—*The Faith I Live By*, page 28

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Sunday, March 9th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 75

March 9th

Prayer Moves Heaven

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matthew 7:7

Why is it that we do not receive more from Him who is the source of light and power? We expect too little....

We do not value as we should the power and efficacy of prayer. “The Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26). God desires us to come to Him in prayer, that He may enlighten our minds. He alone can give clear conceptions of truth. He alone can soften and subdue the heart. He can quicken the understanding to discern truth from error. He can establish the wavering mind and give it a knowledge and a faith that will endure the test. Pray, then; pray without ceasing. The Lord who heard Daniel’s prayer will hear yours if you will approach Him as Daniel did.

Let us live in close communion with God. The joy of the Christian arises from a sense of God’s love and care for His children and the assurance that He will not leave them alone in their weakness.

We need to know how to pray. It is not tame, spiritless prayers that take hold of the divine attributes. Prayer is heard by God when it comes from a heart broken by a sense of unworthiness. Prayer was instituted for our comfort and salvation, that through faith and hope we may lay hold on the rich promises of God. Prayer is the expression of the desires of a soul hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

Prayer is a heaven-ordained means of success. Appeals, petitions, entreaties, between man and man, move men and act a part in controlling the affairs of nations. But prayer moves heaven. That power alone that comes in answer to prayer will make men wise in the wisdom of heaven and enable them to work in the unity of the Spirit, joined together by the bonds of peace. Prayer, faith, confidence in God, bring a divine power that sets human calculations at their real worth—nothingness.... He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, March 9th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 11

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

- Psa 11:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** In the LORD put I my trust: how say you to my soul, Flee *as* a bird to your mountain?
- Psa 11:2 For, lo, the wicked bend *their* bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.
- Psa 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?
- Psa 11:4 The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.
- Psa 11:5 The LORD tries the righteous: but the wicked and him that loves violence his soul hates.
- Psa 11:6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be* the portion of their cup.
- Psa 11:7 For the righteous LORD loves righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

Monday – March 10th

1. How did God intend that mankind should be constantly reminded of the power of their Creator?

- **Exodus 20:8-11** —
- **Genesis 2:2-3** —
- **Revelation 4:11** —

NOTE : “Professed Christians would do well to inquire what God they are serving. Are they serving the God that made heaven and earth, who gave the human race His law, in the bosom of which He placed the fourth commandment, requiring men to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy?" The seventh-day Sabbath is a memorial of the creative power of God, and is to be sacredly observed throughout all generations.”—*Signs of the Times, March 12, 1894*

2. What evidence of God's power is apparent to all?

- **Romans 1:20** —
- **Psalms 19:1-4** —

NOTE : “Man will be left without excuse. God has given sufficient evidence upon which to base faith if he wish to believe. In the last days the earth will be almost destitute of true faith. Upon the merest pretence, the Word of God will be considered unreliable, while human reasoning will be received, though it be in opposition to plain Scripture facts. Men will endeavour to explain from natural causes the work of creation, which God has never revealed. But human science cannot search out the secrets of the God of heaven, and explain the stupendous works of creation, which were a miracle of Almighty power, any sooner than it can show how God came into existence.”—*Lift Him Up, page 59*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, March 10th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 76

March 10th

Jesus the Mighty Petitioner

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.

John 17:20

Think of Christ, the adored of angels, in the attitude of a suppliant. He was a mighty petitioner, seeking at the hands of the Father fresh supplies of grace, and coming forth invigorated and refreshed, to impart His lessons of assurance and hope. Look at His kneeling form, as in the moonlit hours He pours forth His soul to the Father. Behold the angels watching the earnest suppliant. His prayer rises to all heaven in our behalf....

The disciples often witnessed Christ kneeling in prayer, their hearts broken and humbled. As their Lord and Saviour arose from His knees, what did they read in His countenance and bearing? That He was braced for duty and prepared for trial. Prayer was a necessity of His humanity, and His petitions were often accompanied with strong crying and with agony of soul as He saw the necessities of His disciples, who, not understanding their own dangers, were often, under Satan's temptations, led away from duty into wrongdoing.

Christ's life was pure and undefiled. He refused to yield to the temptations of the enemy. Had He yielded on one point, the human family would have been lost. Who can tell the agony that He endures as He sees Satan playing the game of life for the souls of those who claim to be His disciples, and sees them yielding point after point, allowing the soul's defenses to be broken down? We can form no conception of the agony that He endures at this sight. One soul lost, one soul given up to Satan's power, means more to Him than the whole world.... What an argument of power in the prayer, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:21, 22).

Christ is represented as hunting, searching, for the sheep that was lost. It is His love that encircles us, bringing us back to the fold, giving us the privilege of sitting together with Him in heavenly places.

Daily Scripture

Monday, March 10th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 12

The Faithful Have Vanished

- Psa 12:1 **To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David.** Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.
- Psa 12:2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: *with* flattering lips *and* with a double heart do they speak.
- Psa 12:3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaks proud things:
- Psa 12:4 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips *are* our own: who *is* lord over us?
- Psa 12:5 For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set *him* in safety *from him that* puffs at him.
- Psa 12:6 The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
- Psa 12:7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
- Psa 12:8 The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Tuesday – March 11th

1. How did our Creator exercise His power?

➤ **Psalm 33:6, 9** —

➤ **Hebrews 1:2-3** —

NOTE : “God created the seed, as He created the earth, by His word. By His word He gave it power to grow and multiply. He said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so. . . : And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:11, 12. It is that word which still causes the seed to grow. Every seed that sends up its green blade to the sunlight declares the wonderworking power of that word uttered by Him who "spoke, and it was"; who "commanded, and it stood fast." Psalm 33:9.”—*Christ's Object Lessons, page 80*

2. How did Christ exercise the power of the word?

➤ **Matthew 8:5-13**

NOTE : “What kind of power did this centurion think was vested in Jesus? He knew it was the power of God. He said, "I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goes." The centurion saw with the eye of faith that the angels of God were all around Jesus, and that His word would commission an angel to go to the sufferer. He knew that His word would enter the chamber, and that his servant would be healed. And how Christ commended this man's faith! He exclaimed, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. " " Review & Herald, March 11, 1890. 'Now what was it that the centurion expected would heal his servant? It was "the word only," which Jesus would speak. And after the word was spoken, what did the centurion depend upon, to what did he look, for the healing power? It was "the word only." He did not look for the Lord to do it in some ways apart from the word. No. He heard the word, "So be it done unto thee." He accepted that word as it is in truth the word of God, and expected it, depended upon it, to accomplish that which it said. And it was so. And that word is the word of God to-day as certainly as in the day that it was originally spoken. It has lost none of its power, for that word "lives and abides forever." ”—*A. T. Jones: Review & Herald, October 27, 1896*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 77

March 11th

Asking in Christ's Name

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13

I am so thankful that we can trust in God. And the Lord is honoured when we trust in Him, bringing to Him all our perplexities.... The Lord Jehovah did not deem the principles of salvation complete while invested only with His own love. By His own appointment He has placed at His altar an Advocate clothed in our nature. As our Intercessor, His office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. Christ intercedes in behalf of those who have received Him. To them He gives power, by virtue of His own merits, to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ, who paid our ransom by His blood, by receiving and welcoming Christ's friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, the life, death, and mediation of His Son.

In Christ's name our petitions ascend to the Father. He intercedes in our behalf, and the Father lays open all the treasures of His grace for our appropriation, to enjoy and communicate to others. Ask in My name, Christ says. I do not say that I will pray the Father for you, for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me. Make use of My name. This will give your prayers efficiency, and the Father will give you the riches of His grace. Wherefore ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

What condescension! What a privilege is granted us! Christ is the connecting link between God and man.... As we approach God through the virtue of Christ's merits, we are clothed with His priestly vestments. He places us close by His side, encircling us with His human arm, while with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite. He puts His merits as sweet incense in a censer in our hands in order to encourage our petitions. He promises to hear and answer our supplications. Yes; Christ has become the medium of prayer between man and God. He also has become the medium of blessing between God and man. He has combined divinity and humanity.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 13

How Long, O Lord?

- Psa 13:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
- Psa 13:2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *having* sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?
- Psa 13:3 Consider *and* hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the *sleep of* death;
- Psa 13:4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; *and* those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
- Psa 13:5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.
- Psa 13:6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Wednesday – March 12th

1. Against what end-time trend did Paul warn?

➤ 2 Timothy 3:5 —

NOTE : “There are many who make proud boasts of godliness, answering the description of the apostle, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof in their fruitless lives. Christ's search for fruit in them reveals nothing but leaves. Pride, display, vain glory, selfishness and oppression are concealed beneath the green foliage. Everything has been done for them that the Majesty of heaven in His wisdom can do, but like the Jews they pervert and abuse their sacred privileges, and are satisfied to be fruitless cumberers of the ground, no better than worldlings as far as good works are concerned. But the worldlings are in a more favourable condition before God because they make no pretension to true godliness. They are not hypocritical pretenders. They do not put on the outer foliage to screen and mask their utter absence of the sanctifying grace of God. It is sad to acknowledge that the daily lives of many who profess to be followers of Christ deny in their unsanctified words and actions the very religion they profess. The jewel of truth and integrity is not in them; therefore, they have not Christ formed in them the hope of glory. They have no connection with God.”—*Signs of the Times, February 21, 1878*

2. What does this denial of the power of God lead to?

➤ 2 Timothy 3:2-4 —

NOTE : “The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord there will exist a state of religious declension similar to that in the first centuries. "In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:1-5. "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." And all that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" will be left to accept "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. When this state of ungodliness shall be reached, the same results will follow as in the first centuries.”—*Great Controversy, page 444*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 78

March 12th

Our Access to the Father

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

John 16:23

We are to pray in the name of Christ, our Mediator. Our petitions are of value only as they are offered in His name. He has bridged the gulf that sin has made. By His atoning sacrifice He has bound to Himself and His Father those who believe in Him. His is the only name under heaven whereby we may be saved....

We are not to be so overwhelmed with the thought of our sins and errors that we shall cease to pray. Some realize their great weakness and sin, and become discouraged. Satan casts his dark shadow between them and the Lord Jesus, their atoning sacrifice. They say, It is useless for me to pray. My prayers are so mingled with evil thoughts that the Lord will not hear them.

These suggestions are from Satan. In His humanity Christ met and resisted this temptation, and He knows how to succour those who are thus tempted. In our behalf, He “offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears” (Hebrews 5:7).

Many, not understanding that their doubts come from Satan, become fainthearted and are defeated in the conflict. Do not, because your thoughts are evil, cease to pray. If we could in our own wisdom and strength pray aright, we could also live aright, and would need no atoning sacrifice. But imperfection is upon all humanity. Educate and train the mind that you may in simplicity tell the Lord what you need. As you offer your petitions to God, seeking for forgiveness for sin, a purer and holier atmosphere will surround your soul.

The Lord desires us to improve in prayer and to offer our spiritual sacrifices with increased faith and power.... He has given His own Son for your redemption. If by living faith we accept Him as our Saviour, we are placed on vantage ground with God; for Christ stands before His Father, saying, “Lay their sins on me. I will bear their guilt. They are my property. I have graven them upon the palms of my hands.” In our behalf He presents before His Father the marks of the crucifixion which He will bear throughout eternity.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 14

The Fool Says, There Is No God

- Psa 14:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.
- Psa 14:2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God.
- Psa 14:3 They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.
- Psa 14:4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people *as* they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.
- Psa 14:5 There were they in great fear: for God *is* in the generation of the righteous.
- Psa 14:6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD *is* his refuge.
- Psa 14:7 Oh that the salvation of Israel *were come* out of Zion! when the LORD brings back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, *and* Israel shall be glad.

Thursday – March 13th

1. What will God's power bring to those who put their trust in it?

➤ **Romans 1:16** —

NOTE : “Under the inspiration of the Spirit, the apostle Paul represents Christians as those who have purified their souls in obeying the truth. Just in accordance with the faith and love we bring into our work will be the power brought into it. No man can create faith. The Spirit operating upon and enlightening the human mind creates faith in God. In the Scriptures faith is stated to be the gift of God, powerful unto salvation, enlightening the hearts of those who search for truth as for hidden treasure. The Spirit of God impresses the truth on the heart. The gospel is called the power of God unto salvation, because God alone can make the truth a power which sanctifies the soul. He alone can render the cross of Christ triumphant.”—*General Conference Bulletin, April 1, 1899*

2. How will that power reveal itself in the lives of those who put their trust in it?

➤ **2 Peter 1:3-4** —

➤ **1 Peter 1:5** —

NOTE : “The religion of Jesus Christ makes us better men and better women. Christ came to our world to reshape the deformed character of humanity. It was a very crooked character. God wants us to be His sons and His daughters. He wants us, during the hours of probation here, to be fitted up with all these graces that He has presented "according as His divine power hath given unto us all things." Nothing is withheld that pertains unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Then the rich promise is that we shall be partakers of the divine nature. This means everything to us, to be a partaker of the divine nature.”—*Christ Triumphant, page 206*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, March 13th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 79***

March 13th

Our Personal Intercessor

Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:34

The Lord Jesus is your personal intercessor.... Repeat over and over many times through the day, “Jesus has died for me. He saw me in peril, exposed to destruction, and poured out His life to save me. He does not behold the soul as a trembling suppliant prostrate at His feet without pity, and He will not fail to raise me up.” He has become the advocate for man. He has lifted up those who believe in Him and placed a treasure house of blessing at their demand. Men cannot bestow one blessing upon their fellows, they cannot remove one stain of sin. It is only the merit and righteousness of Christ that will avail anything, but this is placed to our account in rich fullness. We may draw upon God every moment. As we turn to Him, He answers, “Here I am.”

Christ proclaims Himself our Intercessor. He would have us know that He has graciously engaged to be our Substitute. He places His merit in the golden censer to offer up with the prayers of His saints, so that the prayers of His dear children may be mingled with the fragrant merit of Christ as they ascend to the Father in the cloud of incense.

The Father hears every prayer of His contrite children. The voice of supplication from the earth unites with the voice of our Intercessor, who pleads in heaven, whose voice the Father always hears. Let our prayers therefore continually ascend to God. Let them not come up in the name of any human being, but in the name of Him who is our Substitute and Surety. Christ has given us His name to use....

Jesus receives and welcomes you as His own friend. He loves you; He has pledged Himself to open before you all the treasures of His grace for your appropriation. He says, “At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: for the Father himself loves you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God” (John 16:26, 27). He virtually says, Make use of My name, and it will be your passport to the heart of My Father, and to all the riches of His grace.

Daily Scripture

Thursday, March 13th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 15

Who Shall Dwell on Your Holy Hill?

- Psa 15:1 **A Psalm of David.** LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- Psa 15:2 He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.
- Psa 15:3 *He that* backbites not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.
- Psa 15:4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honours them that fear the LORD. *He that* swears to *his own* hurt, and changes not.
- Psa 15:5 *He that* puts not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these *things* shall never be moved.

Preparation Day – March 14th

1. In what way will all mankind witness the power of God?

➤ **Luke 21:27** —

NOTE : “And will Christ's second coming be wanting in glory? No; He comes to triumph. At His death, creation shrouded itself in darkness, and all nature sympathised with His sorrow and humiliation. At His second appearing, nature will testify her triumph. Many think lightly of Christ now. They despise and reject Him, and say, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning." But we read, "He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." The same Jesus whose atonement has been rejected, whose followers have been despised and reviled, will be revealed from heaven "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." "And all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him." ”—*Review & Herald, November 22, 1898*

2. What evidences of God's power will accompany the Second Coming of Christ?

➤ **2 Peter 3:10** —

NOTE : “When He shall come to the earth again, He will shake "*not the earth only, but also heaven.*" [Hebrews 12:26] "*The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage.*" [Isaiah 24:20] "*The heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll;*" [Isaiah 34:4] "*the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*" [2 Peter 3:10] But "*the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*" [Joel 3:16]”—*The Desire of Ages, page 780*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, March 14th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 80

March 14th

The Spirit's Intercession

Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:26

We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit “makes intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

The Holy Spirit will be given to those who seek for its power and grace and will help our infirmities when we would have an audience with God. Heaven is open to our petitions, and we are invited to come “boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). We are to come in faith, believing that we shall obtain the very things we ask of Him.

We may commit the keeping of our souls to God as unto a faithful Creator, not because we are sinless, but because Jesus died to save just such erring, faulty creatures as we are, thus expressing His estimate of the value of the human soul. We may rest upon God, not because of our own merit, but because the righteousness of Christ will be imputed to us....

There are rich promises for us in the Word of God. The plan of salvation is ample. It is no narrow, limited provision that has been made for us. We are not obliged to trust in the evidence that we had a year or a month ago, but we may have the assurance today that Jesus lives and is making intercession for us.

God does not leave His erring children who are weak in faith, and who make mistakes. The Lord hearkens and hears their prayer and their testimony. Those who look unto Jesus day by day and hour by hour, who watch unto prayer, are drawing nigh to Jesus. Angels with wings outspread wait to bear their contrite prayers to God, and to register them in the books of heaven.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, March 14th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 16

You Will Not Abandon My Soul

- Psa 16:1 **Michtam of David.** Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.
- Psa 16:2 *O my soul*, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou *art* my Lord: my goodness *extends* not to thee;
- Psa 16:3 *But* to the saints that *are* in the earth, and *to* the excellent, in whom *is* all my delight.
- Psa 16:4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied *that* hasten *after* another *god*: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.
- Psa 16:5 The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintains my lot.
- Psa 16:6 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, I have a goodly heritage.
- Psa 16:7 I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.
- Psa 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope.
- Psa 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
- Psa 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fullness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, March 14th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



This quarter, the Northern Asia-Pacific Division is placing an emphasis on training children to be missionaries through a Thirteenth Sabbath project that envisages the opening of a missionary training center at Hankook Sahmyook Academy in South Korea. But a South Korean mother says the training of children to be missionaries begins at home. She started with her son when he was just beginning to talk. This is the story of how Olivia plants the Word of God in her children's hearts.

When David was 18 months old, his mother began to read four small books to him. Each book had a Bible passage with simple pictures. The first book had Psalm 1; the second, Matthew 5:3–12, the third, John 14:1–4, and the fourth, 1 Corinthians 13.

Mom read the books when David got up in the morning, She read when he went to bed at night. She also read during the day.

In only a month, little David, who was just learning to talk, had memorized all four books. Today, David is 7, and he has memorized between 350–400 Bible verses.

How was it possible?

David's mother, whose name is Olivia Kim, was inspired by her own mother-in-law, who taught four adopted children to read and write by memorizing Bible verses. Olivia was deeply touched when she saw firsthand how the Bible transformed little hearts. When she became a mother, she wanted to do the same for her son. So, she began to read the four small books, which her mother-in-law made.

As she read, David's eyes followed the pictures and his ears followed her voice. He didn't say anything. He couldn't read. But after a month, he had memorized the books. When Mom showed a picture, he recognized it and repeated the words on the page. Mom was amazed because this was about the same time that he was beginning to talk and make meaningful words and sentences.

Then Mom made books with Psalm 121, Leviticus 6:4–9, the three angels’ messages in Revelation 14, the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, and the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28. She read to David for 20–30 minutes in the morning and for 20–30 minutes at night. She also read during the day. He memorized those books as well.

David and Mom rely on Bible verses in every-day life. David goes to a kindergarten where the teacher sometimes shows cartoons during break time. Popular Korean cartoons feature ghosts that look cute and harmless, but the storylines can be serious. After watching one of those cartoons, David got scared one night and ran to Mom’s bedroom.

“Mommy, I’m scared,” he said.

“Why are you scared?” Mom asked.

“I remember a cartoon that I watched today,” he said.

“Don’t be scared because God is with you,” Mom said. “This house is under God’s protection. Angels are watching over us. Let’s recite Psalm 121 together.”

Mom and son recited Psalm 121, which begins with the words, “I will lift up my eyes to the hills — from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (NKJV).

Another time, David was being mischievous. He was 4 and overly excited after evening worship. He didn’t want to wash his face, brush his teeth, or pick up his toys. Mom was busy with housework, washing dishes, doing laundry, and caring for a 6-month-old baby daughter. It was an hour past his usual 7 p.m. bedtime. Mom grew frustrated as David kept playing and running around the house. Finally, she lost her patience and exclaimed, “Why are you acting like this? Do as I say! Do your chores!”

The boy froze. Mom hardly ever talked like that. He looked up at Mom, and Mom looked down at him. Mom felt sorry that she had raised her voice. As the two stood still, 1 Corinthians 13 sprang to Mom’s mind, and she began to recite it, silently, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.” Then she looked at David and saw in his eyes that he also was reciting 1 Corinthians 13 in his mind. She smiled. David smiled. The two hugged each other. “I’m sorry that I raised my voice,” Mom said. David smiled and clung to her more tightly. Then he changed into his pyjamas, brushed his teeth, and went to bed.

Today, David loves memorizing the Bible. His sister, Abigail, is 3 and is memorizing the first four books that he memorized. Mother has memorized everything that they memorize. She has found that the memorization process happens automatically for her while she is teaching her children.

“I earnestly hope that the verses we are memorizing today will be boldly proclaimed from my children’s lips one day as they become missionaries for the kingdom of God,” she said.

Pray for Olivia and every parent seeking to plant the Word of God in children’s hearts. Pray that these homes produce a bountiful crop of missionaries. Pray also for the missionary training center that will open with the help of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering at Hankook Sahmyook Academy in South Korea. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

LESSON 12

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST”

March 15 - March 21

MEMORY VERSE : “*And now, O Father, glorify You Me with Your own Self with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*” [John 17:5]

STUDY HELP : ✓ God's Amazing Grace, page 322

LESSON AIM : To show what God's glory is and how this glory may be ours.

INTRODUCTION : When the redeemed stand in the presence of God, they will see how short-sighted were their conclusions as to what heaven records as success. As they review their efforts to achieve success, they will see how foolish were their plans, how petty their supposed trials, how unreasonable their doubts. They will see how often they brought failure to their work by not taking God at His word. And one truth will stand out in clear lines: that position does not prepare a man for entrance into the heavenly courts. They will see, too, that the honour given to man is due to God alone, that to Him belongs all the glory. From the lips of the angelic choir and the redeemed host will peal forth the chorus: "Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy." Revelation 15:3, 4.—*Testimonies for the Church, volume 7, page 28*

Sabbath – March 15th

1. What does the Bible say about man's glory?

➤ 1 Peter 1:24 —

NOTE : “Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase pride and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom, the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty, are mortals.”—*Christ Triumphant, page 335*

2. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, March 15th, 2025

God's Amazing Grace Chapter 11, p. 322

“By Grace Alone”

“What is Glory?”

November 10th

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

The glory of God is His character. While Moses was in the mount, earnestly interceding with God, he prayed, “I beseech thee, show me thy glory.” In answer God declared, “I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” The glory of God—His character—was then revealed: “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, and that will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7).

This character was revealed in the life of Christ. That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Constantly he beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world.

Christ desires His followers to reveal in their lives this same character. In His intercessory prayer for His disciples He declared: “The glory [character] which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (John 17:22, 23).

Today it is still His purpose to sanctify and cleanse His church “... that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing” ... (Ephesians 5:26, 27). No greater gift than the character that He revealed, can Christ ask His Father to bestow upon those who believe on Him. What largeness there is in His request! What fullness of grace every follower of Christ has the privilege of receiving! ... O that we might more fully appreciate the honour Christ confers upon us! By wearing His yoke and learning of Him, we become like Him in aspiration, in meekness and lowliness, in fragrance of character.

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, March 15th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 81

March 15th

Ask in Faith

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:11). These gifts are freely given to us by God. Oh, how weak is our faith, that we do not avail ourselves of the rich, glorious promises of God! It is His nature to bestow His gifts upon us. All-wise and all-powerful, He will give liberally to all who ask in faith. He is more merciful, more tender, more patient and loving than any earthly parent.

The believer in Christ is consecrated to high and holy purpose.... Called according to God’s purpose, set apart by grace divine, invested with Christ’s righteousness, imbued with the Holy Spirit, offering up the sacrifices of a broken and contrite heart, the true believer is indeed a representative of the Redeemer.

Upon such a worshiper, God looks with delight. He will let His light shine into the chambers of the mind and into the soul temple if men, when they lack wisdom, will go to their closets in prayer and ask wisdom from Him who gives to all men liberally and upbraids not. The promise is, “It shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:5, 6).... Show a firm, undeviating trust in God. Be ever true to principle. Waver not....

All things are possible to those that believe. No one coming to the Lord in sincerity of heart will be disappointed. How wonderful it is that we can pray effectually, that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God!

What higher power can man require than this—to be linked with the infinite God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We pour out our heart’s desire in our closets. Then we go forth to walk with God as did Enoch.

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, March 15th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 17

In the Shadow of Your Wings

- Psa 17:1 **A Prayer of David.** Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, *that goeth* not out of feigned lips.
- Psa 17:2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.
- Psa 17:3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited *me* in the night; thou hast tried me, *and* shalt find nothing; I am purposed *that* my mouth shall not transgress.
- Psa 17:4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept *me from* the paths of the destroyer.
- Psa 17:5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not.
- Psa 17:6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, *and* hear my speech.
- Psa 17:7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that saves by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.
- Psa 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,
- Psa 17:9 From the wicked that oppress me, *from* my deadly enemies, *who* compass me about.
- Psa 17:10 They are enclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.
- Psa 17:11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;
- Psa 17:12 Like as a lion *that* is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.
- Psa 17:13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, *which is* thy sword:
- Psa 17:14 From men *which are* thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, *which have* their portion in *this* life, and whose belly thou fill with thy hid *treasure*: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their *substance* to their babes.
- Psa 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, March 15th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Schoolchildren teased Yeseo [YE-syo] for as long as she can remember. They didn’t tease her because of the way she looked. They didn’t tease her because of the clothes that she wore. They teased her because of the food that she ate.

Yeseo went to public school in South Korea. She was the only Seventh-day Adventist at the school.

Before leaving school every day, Yeseo looked at the school’s lunch menu to see what food would be served the next day in the school cafeteria. She needed to know if she could eat the school’s lunch or if Mom should pack her a special meal.

One day, she saw that lunch would be black-bean noodles with pork and yellow radish. When she got home, she told Mom, and Mom prepared her a lunch of fried rice with mixed vegetables and kimchi.

The school didn’t allow children to bring food from home for lunch. It was against the school rules. So, when Yeseo took out her fried rice and mixed vegetables at lunch, the other children looked at her strangely.

“Are you sick?” asked one.

“Do you have a problem?” said another. “Why did you bring a lunch?”

“I’m Seventh-day Adventist,” Yeseo said. “I don’t eat pork.”

“What is a Seventh-day Adventist?” a girl asked.

“It is a church that believes in God,” Yeseo said.

That was the easiest way that she could explain it. Many of her classmates did not come from Christian homes and did not believe in God.

The next day, the school cafeteria served vegetables and pork cutlets with sheets of roasted seaweed. The pork wasn't mixed with the other food, so a teacher gave Yeseo extra vegetables and seaweed but no pork.

The children again looked at Yeseo strangely. “Why are you special?” said one. “What makes you so special?”

“You aren't special,” said another. “So, why do you get extra food?”

“It's because I'm a Seventh-day Adventist,” Yeseo said. “God told me not to eat pork. I'm trying to obey Him.”

The children looked at Yeseo with odd expressions on their faces.

“Poor you,” said a boy.

“You have a hard life,” said a girl. “Why do live that way?”

“I'm fine,” Yeseo assured them. “I'm happy with my life. I have a happy life.”

With all the strange looks and curious questions, Yeseo felt like a total stranger at school. No one seemed to want to be her friend. She felt all alone.

One day, Yeseo brought her own lunch again because the cafeteria was serving pork. The children looked at her strangely as usual, and several teased her. She explained again that she was a Seventh-day Adventist.

Then one girl stopped teasing her and asked if she felt healthy even though she didn't eat pork.

Yeseo replied that she felt good because she ate only good food. She invited the girl to do the same.

The girl was curious to know more. “Can I come to church with you?” she asked.

After that, the two girls went to church together every Sabbath. Yeseo was so happy! She had a new friend, and she had made the friend simply by obeying God.

Today, Yeseo is happy to no longer have problems with food at school. When she started high school, she moved to an Adventist school, Hankook Sahmyook Academy, in Seoul, South Korea. Part of next Sabbath's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help his school open a gym and missionary training center. Thank you for planning a generous offering next Sabbath.

Sunday – March 16th

1. How does God regard the nations of the world in comparison to Him?

➤ Isaiah 40:15 —

NOTE : “How many there are who seek for honour and applause from the great men of the earth! How much they will do, and what sacrifices they will make, that they may associate with such persons, and perhaps win a word of approbation! Who are these persons whose favour is regarded so highly? They are mortals, made of the dust of the earth, and must soon return to their native earth again. But the Lord, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, is the Ruler over all rulers; His dominion is the universe. "The nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, He taketh up the isles as a very little thing." He it is that grants you life and all its blessings; He that promises to adopt you into His family, to receive you as sons and daughters. What a relationship is this! What an exalted privilege!”—*Signs of the Times, November 3, 1887*

2. What request did Moses make of God?

➤ Exodus 33:18 —

NOTE : “After the transgression of Israel in making the golden calf, Moses again goes to plead with God on behalf of his people. He has learned from experience that, in order to have an influence with the people, he must first have power with God. The Lord reads the sincerity and unselfish purpose of the heart of His servant and condescends to commune with this feeble mortal, face to face, as a man speaks with a friend. Moses casts himself and all his burdens fully upon God and freely pours out his soul before Him. The Lord does not reprove His servant, but stoops to listen to his supplications. The answer comes: "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give you rest." But Moses does not feel that he can stop here. He has gained much, but he longs to come still nearer to God, to obtain a stronger assurance of His abiding presence. He has carried the burden of Israel; he has borne an overwhelming weight of responsibility; when the people sinned, he suffered keen remorse, as though he himself were guilty; and now there presses upon his soul a sense of the terrible results should God leave Israel to hardness and impenitence of heart. Moses presses his petition with such earnestness and fervency that the answer comes: "I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in My sight, and I know thee by name." Now, indeed, we would expect the prophet to cease pleading; but no, emboldened by his success, he ventures to come still nearer to God, with a holy familiarity which is almost beyond our comprehension. He now makes a request which no human being ever made before: "I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory." What a petition to come from finite, mortal man! But is he repulsed? Does God reprove him for presumption? No.”—*Conflict & Courage, page 99*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Sunday, March 16th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 82***

March 16th

According to God's Will

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1 John 5:14, 15

When you pray for temporal blessings, remember that the Lord may see that it is not for your good or for His glory to give you just what you desire. But He will answer your prayer, giving you just what is best for you.

When Paul prayed that the thorn in his flesh might be removed, the Lord answered his prayer, not by removing the thorn, but by giving him grace to bear the trial. “My grace,” He said, “is sufficient for thee.” Paul rejoiced at this answer to his prayer, declaring, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 Corinthians 12:9). When the sick pray for the recovery of health, the Lord does not always answer their prayer in just the way they desire. But even though they may not be immediately healed, He will give them that which is of far more value—grace to bear their sickness.

Make your requests known to your Maker. Never is one repulsed who comes to Him with a contrite heart. Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We pour out our heart's desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard. You who feel the most unworthy, fear not to commit your case to God.

There is a mighty power in prayer. Our great adversary is constantly seeking to keep the troubled soul away from God. An appeal to Heaven by the humblest saint is more to be dreaded by Satan than the decrees of cabinets or the mandates of kings.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, March 16th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 18

The Lord Is My Rock and My Fortress

- Psa 18:1 **To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,** I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.
- Psa 18:2 The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.
- Psa 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.
- Psa 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.
- Psa 18:5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.
- Psa 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.
- Psa 18:7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.
- Psa 18:8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.
- Psa 18:9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness *was* under his feet.
- Psa 18:10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.
- Psa 18:11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him *were* dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.
- Psa 18:12 At the brightness *that was* before him his thick clouds passed, hail *stones* and coals of fire.
- Psa 18:13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail *stones* and coals of fire.
- Psa 18:14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.
- Psa 18:15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.
- Psa 18:16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.
- Psa 18:17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.
- Psa 18:18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.
- Psa 18:19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.
- Psa 18:20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.
- Psa 18:21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.
- Psa 18:22 For all his judgments *were* before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.
- Psa 18:23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.
- Psa 18:24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.
- Psa 18:25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;
- Psa 18:26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.
- Psa 18:27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

- Psa 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.
- Psa 18:29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.
- Psa 18:30 *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.
- Psa 18:31 For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?
- Psa 18:32 *It is* God that girds me with strength, and makes my way perfect.
- Psa 18:33 He makes my feet like hinds' *feet*, and sets me upon my high places.
- Psa 18:34 He teaches my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.
- Psa 18:35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.
- Psa 18:36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.
- Psa 18:37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.
- Psa 18:38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.
- Psa 18:39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.
- Psa 18:40 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.
- Psa 18:41 They cried, but *there was* none to save *them: even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.
- Psa 18:42 Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.
- Psa 18:43 Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; *and* thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people *whom* I have not known shall serve me.
- Psa 18:44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.
- Psa 18:45 The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.
- Psa 18:46 The LORD lives; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
- Psa 18:47 *It is* God that avenges me, and subdues the people under me.
- Psa 18:48 He delivers me from mine enemies: yea, thou lifts me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.
- Psa 18:49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.
- Psa 18:50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and shows mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

Monday – March 17th

1. How did God respond to Moses' prayer?

➤ **Exodus 33:19** —

➤ **Exodus 34:6-7** —

NOTE : “In answer God declared, "I will make all My goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." The glory of God, His character, was then revealed: "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, and that will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7). This character was revealed in the life of Christ. That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. Constantly He beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world.”—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 322

2. What question did Philip ask Jesus?

➤ **John 14:8** —

NOTE : “Philip, perceiving but dimly the meaning of his Lord, said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and it suffices us." Philip, and also the other disciples were filled with apprehension and doubt, and they desired that Jesus should give them a last convincing proof of His divinity by showing them the Father. Christ appeared in the disguise of humanity as a servant. But those who were partakers of His divine nature had eyes to perceive His divinity, the glory of which had upon special occasions, flashed through His human disguise, revealing indeed the Father. Sad indeed was it that one of His disciples who had been His companion, and witnessed His mighty works, had so failed to discern the character of His Saviour as to ask Him for another sign.”—*Signs of the Times*, January 17, 1878

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Monday, March 17th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 83

March 17th

The Secret of Spiritual Power

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31.

Much prayer is necessary to successful effort. Prayer brings power. Prayer has “subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, ... turned to flight the armies of the aliens” (Hebrews 11:33, 34).

Jesus lived in dependence upon God and communion with Him. To the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, men now and then repair; they abide for a season, and the result is manifest in noble deeds; then their faith fails, the communion is interrupted, and the lifework marred. But the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering.

Christian workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be rested.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Well-spring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience.

Family prayer and public prayer have their place, but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul-life. It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding-place of His glory. It is in the mount with God—the secret place of communion—that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character-building that to us may be fulfilled the promise, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Daily Scripture

Monday, March 17th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 19

The Law of the Lord Is Perfect

- Psa 19:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- Psa 19:2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge.
- Psa 19:3 *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.
- Psa 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- Psa 19:5 Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoices as a strong man to run a race.
- Psa 19:6 His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
- Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.
- Psa 19:8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.
- Psa 19:9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.
- Psa 19:10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
- Psa 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.
- Psa 19:12 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.
- Psa 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.
- Psa 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Tuesday – March 18th

1. How did Christ reply to Philip?

➤ **John 14:9** —

NOTE : “Philip's doubt was answered by words of reproof. He wished Christ to reveal the Father in bodily form; but in Christ, God had already revealed Himself. Is it possible, Christ said, that after walking with Me, hearing My words, seeing My miracles of feeding the five thousand, of healing the sick of the dread disease leprosy, of bringing the dead to life, of raising Lazarus, who was a prey to death, whose body had indeed seen corruption, you do not know Me? Is it possible that you do not discern the Father in the works that He does by Me? Do you not believe that I came to testify of the Father? "How say you then, Show us the Father?" "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." I am "the brightness of His glory," "the express image of His person." "How say thou then, Show us the Father? Believe thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works." "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake." Christ emphatically impressed upon them the fact that they could see the Father by faith alone. God cannot be seen in external form by any human being. Christ alone can represent the Father to humanity. This representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years.”—*The Home Missionary, July 1, 1897*

2. What was the work Christ had been given to do?

➤ **John 17:4, 6, first part.** —

NOTE : “Jesus Christ revealed the Father in His true character to the world, representing Him as full of mercy, love, and light. Christ took upon Him humanity in order that the light and radiance of divine love should not extinguish man. When Moses pleaded, "I beseech thee, show me Thy glory," he was placed in the cleft of the rock, and the Lord passed by before him. When Philip asked Christ to show them the Father, he said, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." He revealed the Father to Philip as He had revealed Him to Moses when He passed by before Him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Jesus proclaimed Himself to the world as the perfect representation of the Father, and invited the love and confidence of the world to be centred in the Father.”—*Signs of the Times, August 20, 1894*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, March 18th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 84

March 18th

The Silent Heart Cry

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalm 31:20

When men and women are in the busy activities of life and are pressed with numerous cares, they cannot live upon their knees. But even in the market place there is a watcher constantly present to witness every transaction, and the books of heaven record every penny of unlawful gain as fraud. While men cannot live upon their knees in the market place, yet the silent heart's earnest desire presented to heaven finds access to the Father through the watchers. The way to the throne of God is open, and all who have the fear of God before them and desire to walk in His counsel will seek His strength to do His will in crowded companies as well as in the chapel....

There is a chance for every man who loves and fears God, with every temptation that shall come in the business transactions of life, to know how to retreat into the secret place of the Most High's pavilion, so that he can remain there and be safe. Then he will honour God because he feels the strength and fullness of power of Him who is back of the promises. He communes with God where no eye sees and no ear hears but His.

All the Lord requires is a willing mind to walk in the way of the Lord. If there be a pure heart he shall see God and will feel His keeping power even in the busiest, most excitable crowd, if duty requires him to be there.... In such places every true, genuine receiver of Christ ... carries the lamp of life....

We must not have a religion that is retained only in favourable circumstances. A religion dependent on circumstances will surely fail when it is most needed, in the most difficult surroundings. The religion of the Bible will require the gospel lamp to be kept burning brightly in unfavourable surroundings—in the market place, in the workshop—just as verily as in the place where prayer is wont to be made. Purest Christian principles may be preserved in every place. Loving and believing in Christ as our personal Saviour, we can claim His grace and His guardian care wherever we may be.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, March 18th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 20

Trust in the Name of the Lord Our God

- Psa 20:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
- Psa 20:2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;
- Psa 20:3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.
- Psa 20:4 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.
- Psa 20:5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.
- Psa 20:6 Now know I that the LORD saves his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.
- Psa 20:7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
- Psa 20:8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.
- Psa 20:9 Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

Wednesday – March 19th

1. In what way does Peter say that we may glorify God?

➤ **1 Peter 4:14** —

NOTE : “Will it make you sad to be buffeted, despised, derided, maligned of the world? It ought not, for Jesus told us just how it would be. "If the world hate you," He says, "ye know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). The apostle Paul, the great hero of faith, testifies: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18). "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17)"—*That I May Know Him, page 280*

2. What had Jesus given to His disciples as a result of His ministry with them?

➤ **John 17:22** —

➤ **Isaiah 60:2** —

NOTE : “It is His righteous character that constitutes the glory of God; and it is this same glory that Christ prays may be given to His followers upon the earth. Hear the petition that He makes to His Father for them: "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth. . . . And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that They also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gave Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou loved Me before the foundation of the world. . . . And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." ”—*Review & Herald, November 3, 1896. Page 58*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 85

March 19th

Guard Jealously Your Hours for Prayer

As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God.

Psalm 42:1

He who is a citizen of the heavenly kingdom will be constantly looking at things not seen. The power of earth over the mind and character is broken. He has the abiding presence of the heavenly Guest, in accordance with the promise, “I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21). He walks with God as did Enoch, in constant communion....

Daily beset by temptation, constantly opposed by the leaders of the people, Christ knew that He must strengthen His humanity by prayer. In order to be a blessing to men He must commune with God, pleading for energy, perseverance, and steadfastness. Thus He showed His disciples where His strength lay. Without this daily communion with God no human being can gain power for service. It is the privilege of every one to commit himself, with all his trials and temptations, his sorrows and disappointments, to the loving heavenly Father. No one who does this, who makes God his confidant, will fall a prey to the enemy.

“We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15, 16)....

Guard jealously your hours for prayer and self-examination. Set apart some portion of each day for a study of the Scriptures and communion with God. Thus you will obtain spiritual strength and grow in grace and favour with God. He alone can direct our thoughts aright. He alone can give us noble aspirations and fashion our characters after the divine similitude. If we draw near to Him in earnest prayer, He will fill our hearts with high and holy purposes and with deep, earnest longing for purity and cleanness of thought....

He imparts the richest blessings to those who serve Him with a pure heart. He teaches each one who opens the heart to His instruction and obeys His voice.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 21

The King Rejoices in the Lord's Strength

- Psa 21:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!
- Psa 21:2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholds the request of his lips. Selah.
- Psa 21:3 For thou prevents him with the blessings of goodness: thou sets a crown of pure gold on his head.
- Psa 21:4 He asked life of thee, *and* thou gave *it* him, *even* length of days for ever and ever.
- Psa 21:5 His glory *is* great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.
- Psa 21:6 For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.
- Psa 21:7 For the king trusts in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.
- Psa 21:8 Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.
- Psa 21:9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.
- Psa 21:10 Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men.
- Psa 21:11 For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, *which* they are not able *to perform*.
- Psa 21:12 Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, *when* thou shalt make ready *thine arrows* upon thy strings against the face of them.
- Psa 21:13 Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: *so* will we sing and praise thy power.

Thursday – March 20th

1. How does Paul explain the way in which that glory is to be ours?

➤ **Colossians 1:27** —

NOTE : “The religion of Jesus Christ makes us better men and better women. Christ came to our world to reshape the deformed character of humanity. It was a very crooked character. God wants us to be His sons and His daughters. He wants us, during the hours of probation here, to be fitted up with all these graces that He has presented "according as His divine power hath given unto us all things." Nothing is withheld that pertains unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue. Then the rich promise is that we shall be partakers of the divine nature. This means everything to us, to be a partaker of the divine nature.”—*Christ Triumphant*, page 206

2. How does Paul express the value he places on the glory to be revealed in us?

➤ **Romans 8:18** —

NOTE : “Through trial and persecution the glory, the character, of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The believers in Christ, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. On earth they walk in narrow paths; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial and experience bitter disappointments; but thus they learn the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they can look beyond the gloom to the glory, saying, "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18.”—*Acts of the Apostles*

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, March 20th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 86

March 20th

The Secret Place of Prayer

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:1

The way to the throne of God is always open. You cannot always be on your knees in prayer, but your silent petitions may constantly ascend to God for strength and guidance. When tempted, as you will be, you may flee to the secret place of the Most High. His everlasting arms will be underneath you.

We come to God by special invitation, and He waits to welcome us to His audience chamber.... We may be admitted into closest intimacy and communion with God.

Pray with humble hearts. Seek the Lord often in prayer. In the secret place, alone, the eye sees Jesus and the ear is opened to Jesus. You come forth from the secret place of prayer to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Temptations come, but you press closer and still closer to the side of Jesus and place your hand in His hand. Then you gain a rich experience, resting in His love and rejoicing in His mercy. The worries and perplexities and cares are gone, and you rejoice in Jesus Christ. The soul is quick to hear the Father's voice, and you will commune with God. All criticism is banished, all judging of others has been expelled from the soul....

In Jesus Christ there is fragrance of character. There is the developing of nobleness of character, of refinement and purity, for by beholding you reflect the image of Christ. Sons of God, daughters of God, we must be like Him, and in this close relationship to God we receive power and heavenly endowment that we may work the works of God....

Oh, what joy we experience in the service of God! What peace, what contentment and rest! Members of the royal family, children of the heavenly king! “It doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him ...” (1 John 3:2). With such a hope, such a relationship, with all the great and precious possibilities, should not our faith grasp much more than it does? Should we not be inspired with hope and courage that will not fail nor be discouraged under any difficulties?

Daily Scripture

Thursday, March 20th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 22

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

- Psa 22:1 **To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David.** My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so* far from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring?
- Psa 22:2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hears not; and in the night season, and am not silent.
- Psa 22:3 But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabits the praises of Israel.
- Psa 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.
- Psa 22:5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.
- Psa 22:6 But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.
- Psa 22:7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,
- Psa 22:8 He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.
- Psa 22:9 But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts.
- Psa 22:10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly.
- Psa 22:11 Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.
- Psa 22:12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round.
- Psa 22:13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion.
- Psa 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.
- Psa 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.
- Psa 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
- Psa 22:17 I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.
- Psa 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.
- Psa 22:19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.
- Psa 22:20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.
- Psa 22:21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.
- Psa 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.
- Psa 22:23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
- Psa 22:24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.
- Psa 22:25 My praise *shall be* of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
- Psa 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.
- Psa 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.
- Psa 22:28 For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.
- Psa 22:29 All *they that be* fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.
- Psa 22:30 A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
- Psa 22:31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*.

Preparation Day – March 21st

1. What prayer did Christ pray for His disciples?

➤ **John 17:24** —

NOTE : “How precious are these words! "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory." Christ wills that we should behold His glory. Where? In the kingdom of heaven. He wills that we should be one with Him. What a thought! How willing it makes me to make any and every sacrifice for His sake! He is my love, my righteousness, my comfort, my crown of rejoicing, and He wills that we should behold His glory.”—*That I May Know Him, page 172*

2. When will we be able to behold His glory?

➤ **Matthew 25:31-34** —

NOTE : “Those who are truly converted will understand that they will never see the Lord in His glory unless they form characters that will harmonise with the character of Christ. Those who are indifferent in regard to bringing thoughts and words and actions into harmony with Christ will never enter the gates of the City of God.' The Upward Look, page 305. 'But if we would enter the city of God, and look upon Jesus in His glory, we must become accustomed to beholding Him with the eye of faith here. The words and the character of Christ should be often the subject of our thoughts and of our conversation; and each day some time should be especially devoted to prayerful meditation upon these sacred themes.’—*Messages to Young People, page 114*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, March 21st, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 87***

March 21st

“With All Your Heart,”

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

Many have not had that religious experience that is essential for them, that they may stand without fault before the throne of God. The furnace fires of affliction He permits to be kindled upon them to consume the dross, to refine, to purify and cleanse them from the defilement of sin, of self-love, and to bring them to know God and to become acquainted with Jesus Christ by walking with Him as did Enoch....

That which is called praying morning and evening, according to custom, is not always fervent and effectual. It is with many a sleepy, dull, and heartless repetition of words, and does not reach the ear of the Lord. God does not need or require your ceremonial compliments, but He will respect the broken heart, the confession of sins, the contrition of the soul. The cry of the humble, broken heart He will not despise....

We must have such love for Jesus that we will consider it a privilege to suffer and even die for His sake. We may tell the Lord all our trials, tell Him all our weaknesses, tell Him all our dependence upon His might and His power. This is true prayer. If ever there was a time when the Spirit of grace and supplication was needed to be poured out upon us, God Himself inditing our prayers, it is now. And the promise is to be brought before every church, and the simplicity of truth dwelt upon. “Ask, and ye shall receive” (John 16:24). It is faith, living faith that we need....

The Lord will lead His people and guide them. The commandment will go forth from God as to Daniel, to help those making earnest intercession to the throne of His grace in their time of need.

We need to open the heart to Christ. We need much firmer faith and more fervent devotion. We need to die to self, and in mind and heart to cherish an adoring love for our Saviour. When we will seek the Lord with all the heart we shall find Him, and our hearts will be all aglow with His love. Self will sink into insignificance, and Jesus will be all and in all to the soul.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, March 21st, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 23

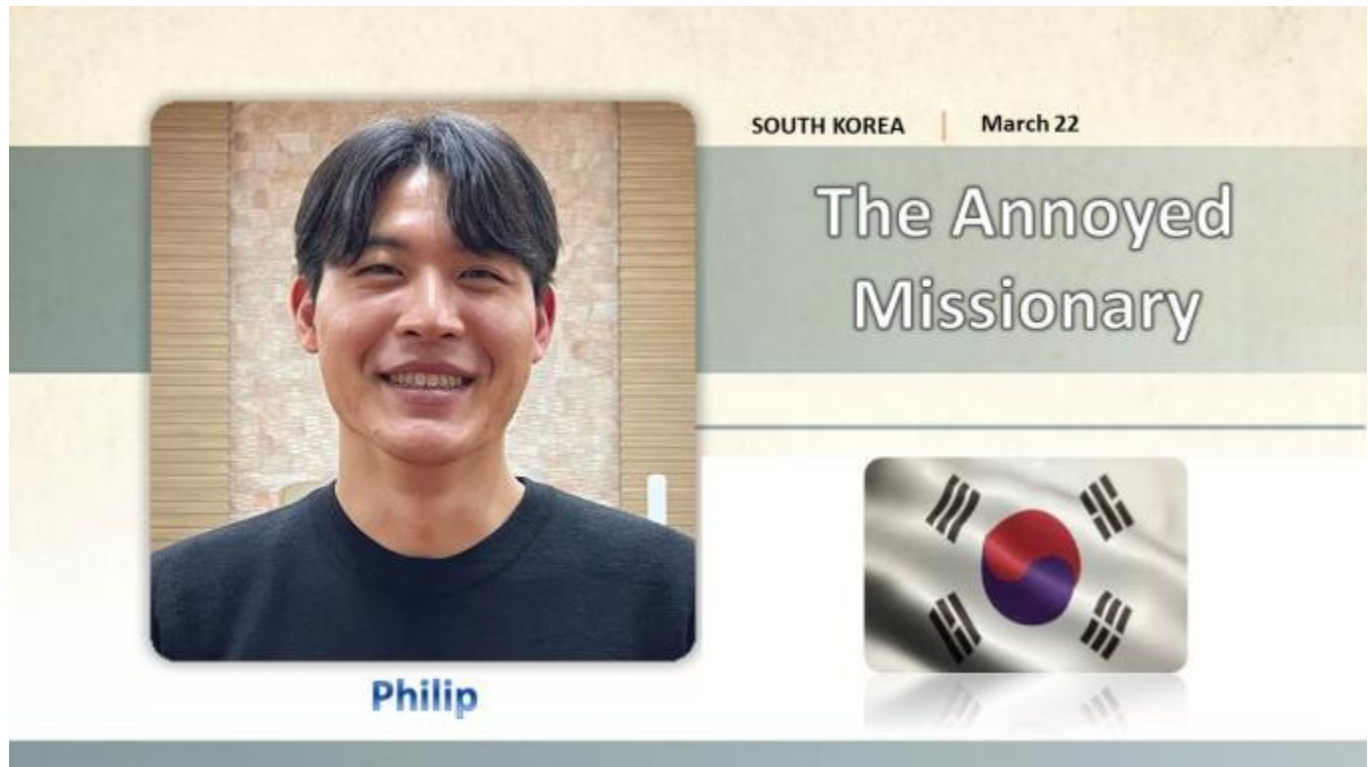
The Lord Is My Shepherd

- Psa 23:1 **A Psalm of David.** The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
- Psa 23:2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters.
- Psa 23:3 He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- Psa 23:5 Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runs over.
- Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, March 21st, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects aims to train young people to be missionaries in South Korea. The project envisages the opening of a missionary training center at Hankook Sahmyook Academy in Seoul. Missionary training programs are a staple of Adventist life in South Korea. This week's story is about Philip, who joined one such program called Compass Missionary Training Program, which included three months as a missionary in the U.S. city of Atlanta.

Philip stepped off the airplane in Atlanta, ready to work in urban mission for three months. The 23-year-old South Korean missionary had a busy schedule ahead of him. During the week, he was to work with refugees, including mentoring refugee children with their schoolwork. On Sabbaths, he was to teach children's Sabbath School and do other activities.

But he quickly ran into a problem: his roommate.

Philip arrived with a group of other South Koreans to serve as short-term missionaries. They were divided into pairs, and Philip was teamed up with Samuel, who was 20. Philip and Samuel moved into a rented house.

It didn't take long for Philip to grow annoyed with his roommate. Samuel thought for a very long time, every time, before he spoke. Then, when he spoke, he spoke very slowly. Philip thought crossly, "Why can't you think and talk more quickly?"

His discontent grew. The two young men ate simple meals, usually salad and other food left over from the Sabbath fellowship meal at a local Korean church. One day, Samuel decided to reheat a leftover Korean rice cake in the oven. But the rice cake burned and stuck to the baking dish. Philip was annoyed because he had cautioned Samuel to be careful about heating up the rice cake. Then Samuel tried to reheat another rice cake, this time in a frying pan on the stovetop. But the rice cake burned and stuck to the pan. Philip's irritation grew but he didn't say anything.

Samuel also didn't say anything until about a month into their stay in the United States. One day, he suggested praying together before going out to work with the refugees. The two had never prayed together.

Samuel's prayer shocked Philip. Speaking very slowly as he always did, he prayed, “Please, Lord, help me not to hate Philip.”

Philip understood that Samuel was praying for them to get along. But he gained no joy from the prayer. He was annoyed. His irritation grew when Samuel repeated the same prayer the next day and then the next. “Please, Lord,” Samuel prayed, “help me not to hate Philip.”

Philip and Samuel spoke less and less to each other. Finally, they stopped talking all together.

The conflict came to a head a month before their time ended in the United States. Philip was driving a car, and Samuel was seated beside him. Both were exhausted, and both fell asleep. Abruptly, they woke up and saw that they were about to smash into the vehicle in front of them. Philip swerved to the left, and they crossed into the oncoming lane. They collided head-on with a big truck.

The car was wrecked, but Philip and Samuel escaped uninjured. The truck driver also wasn't hurt, and the truck suffered only a small dent on the front bumper.

At home, Philip and Samuel embraced and fell on their knees to thank God for life.

Philip felt ashamed. He had come to the United States to share God with others but had instead been focusing on himself. This was the root of his conflict with Samuel. But now the conflict seemed so small and unimportant. Philip thought, “We should have been hugging and praying together this whole time so God could have blessed us as missionaries.”

Samuel suggested that they tell the Korean owners of their rented house, a married, non-Christian couple, about the crash.

A short time later, Philip and Samuel were telling the couple about their two-month personal conflict and the crash. They shared everything from the beginning to the end. It wasn't a biblical discourse on salvation. It was their story of how God had been with them in the United States. For Philip, it was the first time that he had ever shared what God meant to him. He feared that the couple might react negatively. But they only expressed worry for his and Samuel's health.

The mission trip to the United States marked a turning point for Philip. When he returned to South Korea, he was asked to write a testimony about his experience.

He wrote a list of his accomplishments, including resolving the conflict with Samuel. But when he read over the list, he felt ashamed to see it filled with “I did this” and “I did that.” Not once was Jesus mentioned.

He wrote a second draft that he didn't like any better. He realized that he hadn't accomplished anything. His testimony was that God had used him to accomplish something. He whittled down his testimony in one sentence: “God used me, a weak and proud person, but He used me.”

Pray for the Korean young people who are serving as missionaries around the world. Pray for Hankook Sahmyook Academy, whose students will study at a missionary training center that opens with the help of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 29. Thank you for planning a generous offering for this project in Seoul, South Korea.

LESSON 13

“FOREVER AMEN”

March 22 - March 28

MEMORY VERSE : *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” [Psalm 90:2]*

STUDY HELP : ✓ Our Father Cares, page 142

LESSON AIM : To consider the everlasting God and what this means to us.

INTRODUCTION : “In regard to the personality and prerogatives of God, where He is, and what He is, this is a subject which we are not to dare to touch. The one who in the daily life holds closest communion with God, and who has the deepest knowledge of Him, realises most keenly the utter inability of human beings to explain the Creator. God always has been. He is the great I AM. The psalmist declares, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psalm 90:2. He is the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity. "I am the Lord, I change not," He declares. With Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. He is "the same yesterday, and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. He is infinite and omnipresent. No words of ours can describe His greatness and majesty. Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.”—*The Faith I Live By*, page 42

Sabbath – March 22nd

1. When Moses asked what is God's name, what reply did he get and what does this name mean?

➤ Exodus 3:13-14 —

NOTE : “Moses thought of the difficulties to be encountered, of the blindness, ignorance, and unbelief of his people, many of whom were almost destitute of a knowledge of God. "Behold," he said, "when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? what shall I say unto them?" The answer was: "I AM THAT I AM." "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Patriarchs & Prophets, pages 252-253. 'I AM' means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike with God. He sees the most remote events of past history and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things which are transpiring daily. We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare. God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I AM.”—*That I May Know Him*, page 12

3. Heaven's Hotline:



E. G. W. Study Help

Sabbath, March 22nd, 2025

**Our Father Cares
Chapter 7, p. 142**

“That I May Know Him”

“Children, Not Slaves”

May 10th

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Hebrews 12:28

There are many who profess to be Christ’s followers and yet are not doers of His Word. They do not relish this Word because it presents service which is not agreeable to them. They do not relish the wholesome reproofs and close, earnest appeals. They do not love righteousness, but are mastered and tyrannized over by their own erratic, human impulses.

It makes every difference how we do service for God. The boy who drudges through his lessons because he must learn will never become a real student. The man who claims to keep the commandments of God because he thinks he must do it will never enter into the enjoyment of obedience.

The essence and flavour of all obedience is the outworking of a principle within—the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer, doing right because it is right. When the Word of God is a burden because it cuts directly across human inclinations, then the religious life is not a Christian life, but a tug and a strain, an enforced obedience. All the purity and godliness of religion are set aside.

But adoption into the family of God makes us children, not slaves. When the love of Christ enters the heart we strive to imitate the character of Christ.... The more we study the life of Christ with a heart to learn, the more Christlike we become. Into the heart of every true doer of the Word the Holy Spirit infuses clear understanding. The more we crucify selfish practices by imparting our blessings to others and by exercising our God-given ability, the more the heavenly graces will be strengthened and increased in us. We will grow in spirituality, in patience, in fortitude, in meekness, in gentleness.... A train of cars is not merely attached to the engine; they follow on the same track as the engine. Whom are we following?

In Heavenly Places

Sabbath, March 22nd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 88

March 22nd

Faith That Will Not Let Go

And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Genesis 32:26

You who love to speak of the faults of others, arouse, and look into your own hearts. Take your Bibles, and go to God in earnest prayer. Ask Him to teach you to know yourself, to understand your weakness, your sins and follies, in the light of eternity. Ask Him to show you yourself as you stand in the sight of Heaven. This is an individual work.... In humility send your petition to God, and do not rest day nor night until you can say, Hear what the Lord hath done for me—until you can bear a living testimony and tell of victories won.

Jacob wrestled with the Angel all night before he gained the victory. When morning broke, the Angel said, “Let me go, for the day breaks.” But Jacob answered, “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.” Then his prayer was answered. “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob,” said the Angel, “but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:26-28).

We need the perseverance of Jacob and the unyielding faith of Elijah. Time after time Elijah sent his servant to see if the cloud was rising, but no cloud was to be seen. At last, after seven times, the servant returned with the word, “There arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand” (1 Kings 18:44). Did Elijah stand back and say, I will not receive this evidence; I will wait till the heavens gather blackness? No. He said, It is time for us to be going. He ventured all upon that token from God and sent his messenger before him to tell Ahab that there was the sound of abundance of rain.

It is such faith as this that we need, faith that will take hold and will not let go. Inspiration tells us that Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are. Heaven heard his prayer. He prayed that rain might cease, and there was no rain. Again he prayed for rain, and rain was sent. And why should not the Lord be entreated in behalf of His people today? O that the Lord would imbue us with His Spirit! O that the curtain might be rolled back that we might understand the mystery of godliness!

Daily Scripture

Sabbath, March 22nd, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 24

The King of Glory

- Psa 24:1 **A Psalm of David.** The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- Psa 24:2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.
- Psa 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?
- Psa 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
- Psa 24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- Psa 24:6 This *is* the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.
- Psa 24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- Psa 24:8 Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- Psa 24:9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- Psa 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he *is* the King of glory. Selah.

Children’s Mission Story

Sabbath, March 22nd, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Twelve-year-old Joon-woo didn’t belong to a Christian family. He had never read the Bible. But he knew more than anything that he wanted to go to a Seventh-day Adventist school in Seoul, South Korea.

Many children wanted to go to the Adventist school because it had a good reputation.

Joon-woo and every other child who wanted to study at the school had to pass a special entrance exam. For the exam, Joon-woo would have to sit down with a teacher and answer questions about math, science, and English. He also would have to answer questions about the Bible.

Joon-woo wasn’t worried about being tested on math, science, and English. He was a bright boy, and he knew that he could ace those questions. But the Bible? He wasn’t so sure about that. How could he answer Bible questions without knowing the Bible?

Joon-woo’s mom also wanted him to go to the Adventist school. She had heard about it from an Adventist mom whose son went there. Mom asked the Adventist mom for help. “How can my son pass the Bible part of the entrance exam?” she asked.

The Adventist mom had an idea.

“The best way to pass the exam is to go to an Adventist church every Saturday and learn the Bible,” she said.

So, Joon-woo and Mom showed up at an Adventist church on Sabbath. Joon-woo wasn’t the only child from a non-Christian family who came to church that Sabbath. Five other boys and girls came with their moms because they also wanted to learn the Bible so they could go to the Adventist school.

Everything about the church was unusual and strange to Joon-woo. He didn't understand many of the words that he heard from the Bible. He didn't get along well with the other children. But because he wanted to study at the Adventist school, he came back to church the next Sabbath and then the next. During Sabbath School, he studied the Bible with other children who also wanted to go to the Adventist school.

Joon-woo was silent during Sabbath School. His face didn't show any expression. It was impossible to know whether he liked Sabbath School or didn't like Sabbath School. But he came every Sabbath for four months. The other five children from non-Christian families also came for four months.

Then the day of the big entrance exam arrived. Joon-woo easily answered the questions about math, science, and English. He wondered if he could answer the Bible questions.

Then the teacher asked, “Which of God’s commandment is about keeping the Sabbath?”

Joon-woo remembered learning the Ten Commandments in Sabbath School, and he answered, “The fourth commandment.”

“Correct!” the teacher said.

The next question was more difficult. “Who did Philip baptize?” the teacher asked.

Joon-woo remembered reading in the Bible about Philip being sent by an angel to meet with a man on the road between Jerusalem to Gaza.

“An Ethiopian eunuch who was treasurer of the queen of the Ethiopians,” Joon-woo said.

“Correct!” the teacher said.

The next question was, “What happens to people when they die?”

That was a tough one. But Joon-woo remembered reading in the Bible that the dead will sleep in the ground until Jesus wakes them with a loud shout at the Second Coming.

“They wait in their graves until Jesus comes to resurrect them,” he said.

Joon-woo passed the entrance exam. The other five children also passed it, and all of them entered the Adventist school.

Joon-woo and the other five children stopped going to church on Sabbath. They no longer needed to study the Bible for the entrance exam, and they found other things that they wanted to do. But one of their moms kept going to church. She gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized.

After a while, however, Joon-woo started to miss Sabbath School. He went back to church from time to time. Then he began to go every Sabbath again.

Today, Joon-woo is 15 and he loves to go to church every Sabbath. He loves studying at the Adventist school. More than anything, he wants to become a pastor when he grows up.

Pray for Joon-woo to become a missionary for God. Joon-woo goes to Hankook Sahmyook Academy in Seoul, South Korea. Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help his school open a gym and missionary training center. Today's offering will also support four other important projects in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, including a shelter for single mothers in Ansan, South Korea; after-school centers at 14 schools in Japan; a

children’s recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; and the establishment of an Adventist elementary school system in Taiwan.

Sunday – March 23rd

1. How did Jesus apply that divine name to Himself?

➤ **John 8:56-58** —

NOTE : “Our Saviour says, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56). Fifteen hundred years before Christ laid off His royal robe, His kingly crown, and left His position of honour in the heavenly courts, assumed humanity, and walked a man among the children of men, Abraham saw His day, and was glad. "Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (verses 57, 58). Christ was using the great name of God that was given to Moses to express the idea of the eternal presence.”—*That I May Know Him, page 12*

2. How does the Psalmist contrast God with the universe?

➤ **Psalm 102:25-27** —

➤ **Hebrews 1:10-12** —

NOTE : “No change with Him. Notice the connection in these words: "They shall perish;" "Thou remains;" "they shall be changed; Thou art the same." When these perish and pass away there is no passing away to Him. "Thou remains." When these are folded up and changed, there is no change in Him. "Thou art the same." ”—*A. T. Jones: General Conference Bulletin, February 18, 1895*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 89

March 23rd

The Spirit of Submission

Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray often to your heavenly Father. The oftener you engage in prayer, the closer your soul will be drawn into a sacred nearness to God. The Holy Spirit will make intercession for the sincere petitioner with groanings which cannot be uttered, and the heart will be softened and subdued by the love of God. The clouds and shadows which Satan casts about the soul will be dispelled by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and the chambers of mind and heart will be illuminated by the light of Heaven.

But be not discouraged if your prayers do not seem to obtain an immediate answer. The Lord sees that prayer is often mixed with earthliness. Men pray for that which will gratify their selfish desires, and the Lord does not fulfill their requests in the way which they expect. He takes them through tests and trials, He brings them through humiliations, until they see more clearly what their necessities are. He does not give to men those things which will gratify a debased appetite and which will prove an injury to the human agent and make him a dishonour to God. He does not give men that which will gratify their ambition and work simply for self-exaltation. When we come to God we must be submissive and contrite of heart, subordinating everything to His sacred will.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ prayed to His Father, saying, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). The cup which He prayed should be removed from Him, that looked so bitter to His soul, was the cup of separation from God in consequence of the sin of the world.... “Nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). The spirit of submission that Christ manifested in offering up His prayer before God is the spirit that is acceptable to God. Let the soul feel its need, its helplessness, its nothingness; let all its energies be called forth in an earnest desire for help, and help will come.... Let faith pierce the darkness. Walk with God in the dark as well as in the light, repeating the words, “He is faithful that promised” (Hebrews 10:23). Through the trial of our faith we shall be trained to trust in God.

Daily Scripture

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 25

Teach Me Your Paths

- Psa 25:1 **A Psalm of David.** Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.
- Psa 25:2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.
- Psa 25:3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.
- Psa 25:4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.
- Psa 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
- Psa 25:6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they *have been* ever of old.
- Psa 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.
- Psa 25:8 Good and upright *is* the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
- Psa 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.
- Psa 25:10 All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- Psa 25:11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it *is* great.
- Psa 25:12 What man *is* he that fears the LORD? him shall he teach in the way *that* he shall choose.
- Psa 25:13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.
- Psa 25:14 The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.
- Psa 25:15 Mine eyes *are* ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.
- Psa 25:16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I *am* desolate and afflicted.
- Psa 25:17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: *O* bring thou me out of my distresses.
- Psa 25:18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.
- Psa 25:19 Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.
- Psa 25:20 O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.
- Psa 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.
- Psa 25:22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Monday – March 24th

1. Because He is eternal, what other characteristic does God have?

- James 1:17 —
- Malachi 3:6 —
- Hebrews 13:8 —

NOTE : “God always has been. He is the great I AM. The psalmist declares, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” Psalm 90:2. He is the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity. “I am the Lord, I change not,” He declares. With Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. He is “the same yesterday, and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8. He is infinite and omnipresent. No words of ours can describe His greatness and majesty. Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.”—*The Faith I Live By*, page 42

2. What is meant when we say that God does not change?

- Jeremiah 31:3 —

NOTE : “Wondrous love that God, the infinite God, has made it our privilege to approach Him by the name of Father! No earthly parent could plead more earnestly with an erring child than He who made us pleads with the transgressor. No human, loving interest has ever followed the impenitent with such tender invitations. His word is pledged. The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but His kindness shall not depart from His people, neither shall the covenant of His peace be removed. His voice is heard, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). “With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee” (Isaiah 54:8). How amazing is this love, that God condescends to remove all cause for doubt and questioning from human fears and weakness and takes hold of the trembling hand reached up to Him in faith; and He helps us to trust Him by multiplied assurances and securities. He has made us a binding agreement upon condition of our obedience, and He comes to meet us in our own understanding of things. We think that a pledge or promise from our fellow men, if recorded, still needs a guarantee. Jesus has met all these peculiar fears, and He has confirmed His promise with an oath: “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath.” What more could our Lord do to strengthen our faith in His promises?—*That I May Know Him*, page 262

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Monday, March 24th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 90

March 24th

Prayer in the Home

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Ephesians 6:18

If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and scepticism are prevailing. Iniquity abounds, and in consequence the love of many waxes cold....

And yet in this time of fearful peril some who profess to be Christians have no family altar. They do not honour God in the home nor teach their children to love and fear Him....

The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan's most successful devices to ruin souls. Prayer is addressing the mind to God, the Fountain of wisdom, the Source of strength and peace and happiness. Prayer includes acknowledgement of the divine perfections, gratitude for mercies received, penitential confession of sins, and earnest entreaty for the blessing of God, both for ourselves and for others.

Jesus prayed to the Father with strong crying and tears. Paul exhorts believers to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). “In everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6).... God has a right to command our devotions; His authority is sacred and unquestionable. We are under obligation to pray because He requires it; and in obeying His requirements we shall receive a gracious and precious reward....

Parents should make a hedge about their children by prayer; they should pray with full faith that God will abide with them and that holy angels will guard themselves and their children from Satan's cruel power....

Fathers and mothers, at least morning and evening lift up your hearts to God in humble supplication for yourselves and your children. Your dear ones are exposed to temptations and trials. There are frets and irritations that daily beset the path of old and young; and those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives amid daily annoyances must pray. This victory can be gained only by a resolute and unwavering purpose, constant watchfulness, and continual help from God.

Daily Scripture

Monday, March 24th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 26

I Will Bless the Lord

- Psa 26:1 ***A Psalm of David.*** Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; *therefore* I shall not slide.
- Psa 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.
- Psa 26:3 For thy lovingkindness *is* before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.
- Psa 26:4 I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.
- Psa 26:5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.
- Psa 26:6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:
- Psa 26:7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.
- Psa 26:8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.
- Psa 26:9 Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:
- Psa 26:10 In whose hands *is* mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.
- Psa 26:11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.
- Psa 26:12 My foot stands in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

Tuesday – March 25th

1. What other aspect of God is everlasting?

➤ **Matthew 24:35** —

➤ **Matthew 5:18** —

➤ **1 Peter 1:25** —

NOTE : “We accept not the authority of men's councils, but we go further back, even to the councils of heaven. "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89). We take a "Thus saith the Lord." Here we stand. Doctrine that has not a "Thus saith the Lord" may be accepted by the whole world, but that does not make it truth. If we want to know the way to heaven we must study the Bible, not man-made theories or man's suppositions. . . . We are waiting for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Men may scoff and ridicule our faith, but this should not provoke or surprise us. All these demonstrations do not make the truth error, neither do they make error truth. We take our stand firmly and immovably upon the platform of the Word of God.”—*That I May Know Him*, page 357

“The law of God in the sanctuary in heaven is the great original, of which the precepts inscribed upon the tables of stone and recorded by Moses in the Pentateuch were an unerring transcript. Those who arrived at an understanding of this important point were thus led to see the sacred, unchanging character of the divine law. They saw, as never before, the force of the Saviour's words: "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law." Matthew 5:18. The law of God, being a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, must forever endure, "as a faithful witness in heaven." Not one command has been annulled; not a jot or tittle has been changed. Says the psalmist: "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven." "All His commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever." [Psalm 119:89; 111:7-8]”—*Great Controversy*, page 434

2. In what way is God totally unique?

➤ **Isaiah 46:9-10** —

NOTE : “God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. 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.”—*The Faith I Live By*, page 64

3. Heaven's Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

***In Heavenly Places,
Chapter 3, p. 91***

March 25th

The Prayer Meeting a Precious Season

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19, 20

The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness their petitions to God.

Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty, and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.

We meet together to edify one another by an interchange of thoughts and feelings, to gather strength, and light, and courage by becoming acquainted with one another's hopes and aspirations; and by our earnest, heartfelt prayers, offered up in faith, we receive refreshment and vigour from the Source of our strength. These meetings should be most precious seasons....

All have not the same experience in their religious life. But those of diverse exercises come together and with simplicity and humbleness of mind talk out their experience. All who are pursuing the onward Christian course should have, and will have, an experience that is living, that is new and interesting. A living experience is made up of daily trials, conflicts, and temptations, strong efforts and victories, and great peace and joy gained through Jesus. A simple relation of such experiences gives light, strength, and knowledge that will aid others in their advancement in the divine life.

Educate your mind to love the Bible, to love the prayer meeting, to love the hour of meditation, and, above all, the hour when the soul communes with God.

Daily Scripture

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 27

The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

- Psa 27:1 **A Psalm of David.** The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- Psa 27:2 When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- Psa 27:3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.
- Psa 27:4 One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.
- Psa 27:5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.
- Psa 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.
- Psa 27:7 Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- Psa 27:8 *When thou said,* Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.
- Psa 27:9 Hide not thy face *far* from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- Psa 27:10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.
- Psa 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.
- Psa 27:12 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.
- Psa 27:13 *I had fainted,* unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Wednesday – March 26th

1. What aspect of the Bible especially shows us that God knows the end from the beginning?

➤ **2 Peter 1:19-21** —

NOTE : “The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.”—*Education, page 178*

2. Because God knows the end from the beginning, what does He know about us?

➤ **Psalms 139:1-4** —

NOTE : “The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon earth to share the watchful care of our heavenly Father, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son. "Thou understand my thought afar off," says the psalmist. "Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou know it altogether." "Thou tell my wanderings. Put Thou my tears in Thy bottle; are they not in Thy book?" Here we have a representation of the unsearchable greatness of God, while we can but be impressed with His intimate knowledge of all our ways, and with the great tenderness expressed for the objects of his creation.”—*Signs of the Times, August 21, 1884*

3. Heaven’s Hotline:

➤

In Heavenly Places

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025

In Heavenly Places,

Chapter 3, p. 92

March 26th

The Blessings of Fellowship in Prayer

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:16

If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God, and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed, and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus and less of self, we should have far more of His presence.

Let small companies assemble in the evening, at noon, or in the early morning to study the Bible. Let them have a season of prayer, that they may be strengthened, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.... If you yourselves will open the door to receive it, a great blessing will come to you. Angels of God will be in your assembly. You will feed upon the leaves of the tree of life.

The fact that the Lord has been represented as hearkening to the words spoken by His witnesses, tells us that Jesus is in our very midst. He says, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst.” One person is not to do all the witnessing for Jesus, but everyone who loves God is to testify of the preciousness of His grace and truth.

Praying together will bind hearts to God in bonds that will endure; confessing Christ openly and bravely, exhibiting in our characters His meekness, humility, and love, will charm others with the beauty of holiness.

God will remember those who have met together and thought upon His name, and He will spare them from the great conflagration. They will be as precious jewels in His sight.... It is not a vain thing to serve God. There is a priceless reward for those who devote their life to His service.

Daily Scripture

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 28

The Lord Is My Strength and My Shield

- Psa 28:1 ***A Psalm of David.*** Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, *if* thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.
- Psa 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.
- Psa 28:3 Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief *is* in their hearts.
- Psa 28:4 Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.
- Psa 28:5 Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.
- Psa 28:6 Blessed *be* the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.
- Psa 28:7 The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song will I praise him.
- Psa 28:8 The LORD *is* their strength, and he *is* the saving strength of his anointed.
- Psa 28:9 Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

Thursday – March 27th

1. How does Paul explain the extent of God's knowledge of us?

➤ Hebrews 4:13 —

NOTE : “Our God has heaven and earth at His command, and He knows just what we need. We can see only a little way before us; *“but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”* [Hebrews 4:13] Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best. Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without the Father's notice. Satan's hatred against God leads him to delight in destroying even the dumb creatures. It is only through God's protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy. But He does not forget even the sparrows. “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” [Matthew 10:31]”—*Counsels for the Church*, page 77

2. What must we remember about God's knowledge of us?

➤ Ecclesiastes 12:14 —

NOTE : “Let us individually consider what is the record made in the books of heaven concerning our life and character, and our attitude toward God. Has our love for God been increasing during the past year? If Christ is indeed abiding in our hearts, we shall love God, we shall love to obey all His commandments, and this love will continually deepen and strengthen. If we represent Christ to the world, we shall be pure in heart, in life, in character; we shall be holy in conversation; there will be no guile in our hearts or upon our lips. Let us examine our past life and see if we have given evidence of our love for Jesus by seeking to be like Him, and by working, as He worked, to save those for whom He died.”—*Lift Him Up*, page 325

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Thursday, March 27th, 2025

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Chapter 3, p. 93

March 27th

A Chain of Earnest, Praying Believers

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Among God’s people there should be at this time frequent seasons of sincere, earnest prayer. The mind should constantly be in a prayerful attitude. In the home and in the church let earnest prayers be offered in behalf of those who have given themselves to the preaching of the Word. Let believers pray as did the disciples after the ascension of Christ.

A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world. Let all pray in humility. A few neighbours may meet together to pray for the Holy Spirit. Let those who cannot leave home, gather in their children, and unite in learning to pray together. They may claim the promise of the Saviour: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God. We should hold convocations for prayer, asking the Lord to open the way for the truth to enter the strongholds where Satan has set up his throne, and dispel the shadow he has cast athwart the pathway of those whom he is seeking to deceive and destroy. We have the assurance, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

In the Lord’s Prayer we have an example of a perfect petition. How simple, yet how comprehensive it is! This prayer should be taught to the children. Let all study carefully the principles contained in it. In response to the prayers of God’s people, angels are sent with heavenly blessings.... Through daily prayer and consecration all may so relate themselves to their heavenly Father that He can bestow upon them rich blessings....

Oh, how differently many would act were God to draw aside the veil that hides Him from our eyes, and reveal Himself seated on His throne in the high and holy place, not in silent grandeur, but surrounded with ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of holy, happy beings, waiting to do His bidding!

Daily Scripture

Thursday, March 27th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 29

Ascribe to the Lord Glory

- Psa 29:1 **A Psalm of David.** Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Psa 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
Psa 29:3 The voice of the LORD *is* upon the waters: the God of glory thunders: the LORD *is* upon many waters.
Psa 29:4 The voice of the LORD *is* powerful; the voice of the LORD *is* full of majesty.
Psa 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; yea, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
Psa 29:6 He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.
Psa 29:7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.
Psa 29:8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
Psa 29:9 The voice of the LORD makes the hinds to calve, and discovers the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of *his* glory.
Psa 29:10 The LORD sits upon the flood; yea, the LORD sits King for ever.
Psa 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Preparation Day – March 28th

1. What change will take place in our lives when Jesus returns?

➤ **1 Corinthians 15:51-54** —

NOTE : “We may have a vision of the future, the blessedness of heaven. In the Bible are revealed visions of the future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, and these are dear to His church. By faith we may stand on the threshold of the eternal city, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life co-operate with Christ, regarding it as an honour to suffer for His sake. As the words are spoken, “Come ye blessed of My Father,” they cast their crowns at the feet of the Redeemer, exclaiming. “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.... Honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever” (Matthew 25:34; Revelation 5:12, 13). There the redeemed greet those who led them to the Saviour, and all unite in praising Him who died that human beings might have the life that measures with the life of God. The conflict is over. Tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the ransomed ones take up the joyful strain, Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again, a triumphant conqueror.”—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 349

2. How will our partial knowledge then be changed?

➤ **1 Corinthians 13:12** —

NOTE : “All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. 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. 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.”—*God's Amazing Grace*, page 368

3. Heaven's Hotline:

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In Heavenly Places

Preparation Day, March 28th, 2025

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Chapter 3, p. 94

March 28th

Reflecting God’s Love

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Psalm 67:3

As Christians we ought to praise God more than we do. We ought to bring more of the brightness of His love into our lives. As by faith we look to Jesus His joy and peace are reflected from the countenances. How earnestly we should seek so to relate ourselves to God that our faces may reflect the sunshine of His love! When our own souls are vivified by the Holy Spirit, we shall exert an uplifting influence upon others who know not the joy of Christ’s presence.

The Lord is not pleased to have His people a band of mourners. He wants them to repent of their sins, that they may enjoy the liberty of the sons of God. Then they will be filled with the praises of God, and will be a blessing to others.

The Lord Jesus was anointed also “to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).

“That he,” Christ Jesus, “might be glorified.” O that this might be the purpose of our lives! Then we should have regard even to the expression of our countenance, to our words, and even to the tone of our voice when we speak.

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

As our Redeemer leads us to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the glory of God, we may catch the themes of praise and thanksgiving from the heavenly choir round about the throne; and as the echo of the angel’s song is awakened in our earthly homes, hearts will be drawn closer to the heavenly singers. Heaven’s communion begins on earth. We learn here its keynote.

Daily Scripture

Preparation Day, March 28th, 2025

Psalms

Chapter 30

Joy Comes with the Morning

- Psa 30:1 **A Psalm and Song at the dedication of the house of David.** I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.
- Psa 30:2 O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.
- Psa 30:3 O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
- Psa 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
- Psa 30:5 For his anger *endures but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.
- Psa 30:6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.
- Psa 30:7 LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, *and* I was troubled.
- Psa 30:8 I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.
- Psa 30:9 What profit *is there* in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?
- Psa 30:10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.
- Psa 30:11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;
- Psa 30:12 To the end that *my* glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Adult Mission Story

Preparation Day, March 28th, 2025

By Andrew McChesney



Ever since she was a small girl, Hyun-hee [HYOUNG-hee] felt like she had to go to church on Sabbath. Her father was the pastor of a small church in South Korea, and she couldn't stay at home or do whatever she wanted.

As time passed, Hyun-hee grew tired of church and being a pastor's daughter. She couldn't understand why Dad answered the phone late at night and even worked on weekends and holidays. Feelings of bitterness and resentment filled her heart when a long-awaited family vacation was cancelled because Dad, as the church pastor, couldn't miss a funeral. She began to question her faith.

It was then that the 16-year-old girl arrived at a Seventh-day Adventist high school in South Korea's capital, Seoul. For the first time, she was far from home, living in a dormitory. For the first time, she was studying at an Adventist school. There was no Adventist school in the town where her parents lived.

At first, the Adventist school seemed to be the same as public school with the exception that the teachers believed in God and the students gathered regularly for worship.

At morning worship, however, Hyun-hee heard an announcement about something called "Kneelers." She was curious to know more and, because she was shy, asked another girl to go with her to "Kneelers."

"Kneelers" turned out to be a student-led prayer meeting in the conference room of the Adventist middle school located on the same campus as the high school. The conference room had pews like a church.

About 30 teens, half girls and half boys, were sitting in the pews and singing when Hyun-hee and her friend arrived. A boy was playing a piano.

Hyun-hee's mouth dropped open. She usually didn't sing during song service in her home church. She was the only teen there. But these teens were singing loudly. She had never seen such enthusiasm. Tears filled her eyes.

She was homesick, and the music was like balm to her soul. In an instant, all her loneliness disappeared, and she felt at peace.

After the last song, the young people knelt and prayed silently for a moment. Then several teens took turns speaking about what God was doing in their lives.

Hyun-hee’s mouth dropped open again. She had never heard people her age talk about God in such a personal way. She thought, “They’re young, but they have faith and believe in God. They love God despite the struggles in their lives.”

After that, the teens divided into small groups for prayer. At her home church, Hyun-hee’s mind usually drifted off to other things during a prayer. But these teens clearly enjoyed praying, and they spoke to God with passion and earnestness. Her mouth dropped open again.

As the hour long meeting ended with more songs, Hyun-hee thought with astonishment, “These young people are more sincere and devoted to God than me.” She couldn’t wait for the next meeting. She thought, “This is living faith. I have found it. This is how Christians really live.”

As she kept going to the weekly “Kneelers” meeting, she discovered joy in worshiping God. She began to spend hours with Him, singing, listening to worship songs, and praying. She sensed God’s presence for the first time. She wept as she reflected on Jesus’ incredible love and sacrifice on the cross.

As time passed, she saw that teens and teachers alike prayed earnestly and praised God even amid problems. She got involved in various spiritual programs at the school and joined a student-led Bible study group.

As she wrapped up her first year at the high school, Hyun-hee found great joy in the worship programs. She eagerly participated in the weekly prayer meeting, the Bible study group, and other spiritual activities. Church was no longer tiring, and she looked forward to going every Sabbath.

Her favourite Bible passage is Philippians 4:4–7, which says, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (NKJV).

She believes that God sent her to the Adventist high school to teach her to live according to those verses.

“God saw my wavering faith and helped me to understand His purpose,” she said. “I met God at the school, and I have learned to thank Him for everything.”

Hyun-hee goes to Hankook Sahmyook Academy, which will receive part of today’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a missionary training center and gym in Seoul, South Korea. Today’s offering also will support four other projects in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, including a shelter for single mothers in Ansan, South Korea; after-school centers at 14 schools in Japan; a children’s recreation center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; and the establishment of an Adventist elementary school system in Taiwan. Thank you for your generous offering.

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