

‘Holy men of God spake’

General Introduction

The Bible Its Own Expositor

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the Word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God’s original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.

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

The book of Revelation, in connection with the book of Daniel, especially demands study. Let every God-fearing teacher consider how most clearly to comprehend and to present the gospel that our Saviour came in person to make known to His servant John, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Revelation 1:1. None should become discouraged in the study of the Revelation because of its apparently mystical symbols. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not.” James 1:5.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Revelation 1:3.

When a real love for the Bible is awakened, and the student begins to realise how vast is the field and how precious its treasure, he will desire to seize upon every opportunity for acquainting himself with God’s word. Its study will be restricted to no special time or place. And this continuous study is one of the best means of cultivating a love for the Scriptures. Let the student keep his Bible always with him. As you have opportunity, read a text and meditate upon it. While walking the streets, waiting at a railway station, waiting to meet an engagement, improve the opportunity to gain some precious thought from the treasure house of truth.

Education, pages 190-192

Lesson 1: ‘A light that shineth in a dark place’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.’ 2 Peter 1:19.

STUDY HELP: *Desire of Ages*, pages 211-213.

Introduction

‘It is not a small matter that the counsels and purposes and plans of God have been so clearly opened to us. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to understand the will of God as revealed in the sure word of prophecy. This places on us a heavy responsibility. God expects us to impart to others the knowledge He has given us. It is His purpose that divine and human instrumentalities shall unite in the proclamation of the warning message.’ *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 28, 1904.

‘A more sure word’

1. What event confirmed the faith of Peter, James and John in Jesus? 2 Peter 1:16-18.

NOTE: ‘They were given a clearer insight into the work of the Redeemer. They saw with their eyes and heard with their ears things that were beyond the comprehension of man. They were “eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16), and they realised that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, to whom patriarchs and prophets had witnessed, and that He was recognized as such by the heavenly universe.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 425.

2. What even stronger evidence do we have today to confirm our faith? 2 Peter 1:19.

NOTE: ‘Yet convincing as was this evidence of the certainty of the believers’ hope, there was another still more convincing in the witness of prophecy, through which the faith of all might be confirmed and securely anchored. “We have also,” Peter declared, “a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the daystar arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private

interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” *Acts of the Apostles*, page 534.

‘Beginning at Moses and all the prophets’

3. How did Jesus persuade the doubting disciples of His resurrection? Luke 24:25-27.

NOTE: ‘Jesus began with the first book written by Moses, and traced down through all the prophets the inspired proof in regard to His life, His mission, His suffering, death, and resurrection. He did not deem it necessary to work a miracle to evidence that He was the risen Redeemer of the world; but He went back to the prophecies, and gave a full and clear explanation of them to settle the question of His identity, and the fact that all which had occurred to Him was foretold by the inspired writers. Jesus ever carried the minds of His hearers back to the precious mine of truth found in the Old-Testament Scriptures. The esteem in which He held those sacred records is exemplified in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, where He says, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.”’ *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 3*, page 208.

4. What testimony did the two disciples give to the power of Christ’s exposition of the prophecies? Luke 24:32.

NOTE: ‘God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone should be heard from the pulpit. But the Bible has been robbed of its power, and the result is seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In many sermons of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul. The hearers cannot say, “Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?”’ Luke 24:32. There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Let the word of God speak to the heart. Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life.’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 626.

‘Ye do well that ye take heed’

5. What counsel did Peter give concerning ‘the more sure word of prophecy’? 2 Peter 1:19. Compare Proverbs 4:18.

NOTE: ‘It was not the scholarly theologians who had an understanding of this truth, and engaged in its proclamation. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayerfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies would have opened to them the events about to take place. But they did not occupy this position, and the message was given by humbler men. Said Jesus: “Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you.” John 12:35. Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour declares: “He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12. Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do God’s will, earnestly heeding the light already given, will receive greater light; to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all truth.’ *Great Controversy*, page 312.

6. Why can we depend on ‘the more sure word of prophecy’? 2 Peter 1:21.

NOTE: ‘Prophecy has been fulfilling, line upon line. The more firmly we stand under the banner of the third angel’s message, the more clearly shall we understand the prophecy of Daniel; for the Revelation is the supplement of Daniel. The more fully we accept the light presented by the Holy Spirit through the consecrated servants of God, the deeper and surer, even as the eternal throne, will appear the truths of ancient prophecy; we shall be assured that men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Men must themselves be under the influence of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Spirit’s utterances through the prophets. These messages were given, not for those that uttered the prophecies, but for us who are living amid the scenes of their fulfilment.’ *Selected Messages Book 2*, page 114.

‘He revealeth His secret’

7. What assurance are we given of the certainty of prophetic guidance? Amos 3:7.

NOTE: ‘In His providence the Lord has seen fit to teach and warn His people in various ways. By direct command, by the sacred writings, and by the spirit of prophecy has He made known unto them His will. In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue. Of special value to God’s church on earth today, the keepers of His vineyard, are the messages of counsel and admonition given through the prophets who have made plain His eternal purpose in behalf of mankind. In the teachings of the prophets His love for the lost race and His plan for their salvation are clearly revealed.’ *My Life Today*, page 40.

8. Are the prophecies too hard for God’s people to understand? Deuteronomy 29:29.

NOTE: ‘Men, professing to be ministers of God, raise their voices against the investigation of prophecy, and tell the people that the prophecies, especially of Daniel and John, are obscure, and that we cannot understand them. But some of the very men who oppose the investigation of prophecy because it is obscure, eagerly receive the suppositions of geologists, which dispute the Mosaic record.’ *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 1*, page 90.

‘God has given these things to us, and His blessing will attend the reverent, prayerful study of the prophetic scriptures. 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. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge

shall be increased.” “The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” Dan. 12:4, 10.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 234.

‘Believe His prophets’

9. What promise is made to those who are willing to believe God’s prophets? 2 Chronicles 20:20.

NOTE: ‘The light of prophecy still burns for the guidance of souls, saying, “This is the way, walk ye in it.” It shines on the pathway of the just to commend, and on the way of the unjust to lead to repentance and conversion. Through its agency sin will be rebuked and iniquity unmasked. It is progressive in the performance of its duty to reflect light on the past, the present, and the future. If those who have received the light will appreciate and respect the testimonies of the Lord, they will see the religious life in a new light. They will be convicted. They will see the key that unlocks the mysteries that they have never understood. They will lay hold of the precious things that God has given them to profit withal and will be translated from the kingdom of darkness into God’s marvellous light.’ *My Life Today*, page 42.

10. How did Jesus describe His disciples because they had not believed what the prophets had foretold? Luke 24:25.

NOTE: ‘The word of God, spoken to the heart, has an animating power. Those who fail of becoming acquainted with this word cannot fulfil God’s requirements. Deformity of character is the result of their neglect. Their words and acts are a reproach to their Saviour. The apostle tells us that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” If we would search the Scriptures, our hearts would burn within us as the truths revealed therein are opened to our understanding. Our hopes would brighten as we claim the precious promises strewn like pearls through the Sacred Writings. As we study the history of patriarchs and prophets, men who loved and feared God, walking with Him, our souls would glow with the spirit that animated them.’ *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 31, 1903.

‘Private interpretation’

11. What warning did Peter give concerning prophecy? 2 Peter 1:20.

NOTE: ‘We see and feel the importance of each having an understanding of the Scriptures. There may be those who will tell us of the things contained in the Word of God, but that will not meet the requirements. We must search the Scriptures for ourselves. There are special points that we must understand pertaining to our own time. We are living in an age of error and heresy on every hand. Christ has told us that “there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, who shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matt. 24:24. These teachers spoken of by Christ will come in sheep’s clothing, and will delude the people with their heresies, and this we shall see more and more as we draw nearer the end. Consequently it is of the great necessity that we search the Scriptures for ourselves, and learn their contents.’ *Manuscript Releases Volume 3*, page 88.

12. What sound principle may we follow in seeking to study the prophecies of the Bible? Isaiah 28:10.

NOTE: ‘When you search the Scriptures with an earnest desire to learn the truth, God will breathe His Spirit into your heart and impress your mind with the light of His word. The Bible is its own interpreter, one passage explaining another. By comparing scriptures referring to the same subjects, you will see beauty and harmony of which you have never dreamed. There is no other book whose perusal strengthens and enlarges, elevates and ennoble the mind, as does the perusal of this Book of books. Its study imparts new vigour to the mind, which is thus brought in contact with subjects requiring earnest thought, and is drawn out in prayer to God for power to comprehend the truths revealed.’ *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 499.

Lesson 2: ‘Take heed that no man deceive you’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.’ Luke 16:31.

STUDY HELP: *Last Day Events*, pages 177-182.

Introduction

‘Many would go out from us, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The Lord desires that every soul who claims to believe the truth shall have an intelligent knowledge of what is truth. False prophets will arise and will deceive many. Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken. Then does it not become everyone to understand the reasons of our faith? In place of having so many sermons there should be a more close searching of the Word of God, opening the Scriptures, text by text, and searching for the strong evidences that sustain the fundamental doctrines that have brought us where we now are, upon the platform of eternal truth.’ *Selected Messages Book 2*, page 392.

‘A more sure word’

1. What warning did Christ give concerning the last days? Matthew 24:11.

NOTE: 'Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His Church. He says, "I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticise, and condemn, and falsify." Let the sin of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is. Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.' *1888 Materials*, page 1646..

2. How did Christ describe false prophets? Matthew 7:15.

NOTE: 'Christ has warned us: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits." The class of religious teachers here described profess to be Christians. They have the form of godliness and appear to be labouring for the good of souls, while they are at heart avaricious, selfish, ease-loving, following the promptings of their own unconsecrated hearts. They are in conflict with Christ and His teachings, and are destitute of His meek and lowly spirit. The preacher who bears the sacred truth for these last days must be the opposite of all this and, by his life of practical godliness, plainly mark the distinction existing between the false and the true shepherd. The Good Shepherd came to seek and to save that which was lost. He has manifested in His works His love for His sheep. All the shepherds who work under the Chief Shepherd will possess His characteristics; they will be meek and lowly of heart. Childlike faith brings rest to the soul and also works by love and is ever interested for others. If the Spirit of Christ dwells in them, they will be Christlike and do the works of Christ. Many who profess to be the ministers of Christ have mistaken their master. They claim to be serving Christ and are not aware that it is Satan's banner under which they are rallying. They may be worldly wise and eager for strife and vainglory, making a show of doing a great work; but God has no use for them.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, pages 376-377.

'If they hear not Moses and the prophets'

3. Why is it essential to believe what the prophets have written? Luke 16:31.

NOTE: 'The law and the prophets are God's appointed agencies for the salvation of men. Christ said, Let them give heed to these evidences. If they do not listen to the voice of God in His word, the testimony of a witness raised from the dead would not be heeded. Those who heed Moses and the prophets will require no greater light than God has given; but if men reject the light, and fail to appreciate the opportunities granted them, they would not hear if one from the dead should come to them with a message. They would not be convinced even by this evidence; for those who reject the law and the prophets so harden their hearts that they will reject all light.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 265.

4. How did Jesus show that even faith in Him must be based on the teachings of Moses and the prophets? Luke 24:25-27, 44.

NOTE: 'Many professed Christians now discard the Old Testament, claiming that it is no longer of any use. But such is not Christ's teaching. So highly did He value it that at one time He said, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31. It is the voice of Christ that speaks through patriarchs and prophets, from the days of Adam even to the closing scenes of time. The Saviour is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. It is the light from the prophetic past that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty. The miracles of Christ are a proof of His divinity; but a stronger proof that He is the world's Redeemer is found in comparing the prophecies of the Old Testament with the history of the New.' *Desire of Ages*, page 799.

'The testimony of Jesus'

5. How are we shown that the remnant church will be guided by the Spirit of prophecy? Revelation 12:17. Compare Revelation 19:10 & 22:9. See also Acts 2:17-18.

NOTE: 'It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets "prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 366.

6. Since there are to be true and false prophets in the last days, how are we to respond to their messages? 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21.

NOTE: 'Faith in a lie will not have a sanctifying influence upon the life or character. No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it. Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error. Without sincerity there is no true religion, but sincerity in a false religion will never save a man. I may be perfectly sincere in following a wrong road, but that will not make it the right road, or bring me to the place I wished to reach. The Lord does not want us to have a blind credulity, and call that the faith that sanctifies. The truth is the principle that sanctifies, and therefore it becomes us to know what is truth. We must compare spiritual things with spiritual. We must prove all things, but hold fast only that which is good, that which bears the divine credentials, which lays before us the true motives and principles which should prompt us to action.' *Selected Messages Book 2*, page 56.

‘His own received Him not’

7. What example do we have of those who failed to discern prophecy being fulfilled before their eyes? Luke 4:21, 28-29. Compare John 1:11.

NOTE; ‘When the Jews took the first step in the rejection of Christ, they took a dangerous step. When afterward evidence accumulated that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, they were too proud to acknowledge that they had erred. So with the people of our day who reject the truth. They do not take time to investigate candidly, with earnest prayer, the evidences of the truth, and they oppose that which they do not understand. Just like the Jews, they take it for granted they have all the truth, and feel a sort of contempt for anyone who should suppose they had more correct ideas than themselves of what is truth. All the evidence produced they decide shall not weigh a straw with them, and they tell others that the doctrine is not true, and afterward, when they see as light evidence they were so forward to condemn, they have too much pride to say “I was wrong”; they still cherish doubt and unbelief, and are too proud to acknowledge their convictions. Because of this, they take steps that lead to results of which they have never dreamed.’ *1888 Materials*, page 169.

8. How did the Jews respond when the prophecies were explained to them? Acts 7:54, 57-58.

NOTE: ‘As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in time of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith.’ *Lift Him Up*, page 211.

‘When the law of God is made void, and the church is sifted by the fiery trials that are to try all that live upon the earth, a great proportion of those who are supposed to be genuine will give heed to seducing spirits, and will turn traitors and betray sacred trusts. They will prove our very worst persecutors. “Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them;” and many will give heed to seducing spirits. Those who apostatise in time of trial will bear false witness and betray their brethren, to secure their own safety. They will tell where their brethren are concealed, putting the wolves on their track. Christ has warned us of this, that we may not be surprised at the cruel, unnatural course pursued by friends and relatives.’ *Maranatha* page 197.

‘No light in them’

9. How much attention should we give to those who do not uphold the Law of God or the testimony of Jesus? Isaiah 8:20.

NOTE: ‘The Spirit was not given, nor can it ever be bestowed, to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. Says the apostle John, “Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1. And Isaiah declares, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. Great reproach has been cast upon the work of the Holy Spirit by the errors of a class that, claiming its enlightenment, profess to have no further need of guidance from the word of God. They are governed by impressions which they regard as the voice of God in the soul. But the spirit that controls them is not the Spirit of God. This following of impressions, to the neglect of the Scriptures, can lead only to confusion, to deception and ruin. It serves only to further the designs of the evil one.’ *Great Controversy*, page vii.

10. What precious promise may we claim when we are faced with difficult choices? Isaiah 30:21.

NOTE: ‘When Nathanael came to Jesus, the Saviour exclaimed, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said, “Whence knowest Thou me?” Jesus answered, “When thou wast under the fig-tree, I saw thee.” [John 1:47, 48.] And Jesus will see us also in the secret places of prayer, if we seek Him for light that we may know what is truth. If a brother is teaching error, those who are in responsible positions ought to know it; and if he is teaching truth, they ought to take their stand at his side. We should all know what is being taught among us; for if it is truth, we need to know it. The Sabbath-school teacher needs to know it, and every Sabbath-school scholar ought to understand it. We are all under obligation to God to understand what He sends us. He has given directions by which we may test every doctrine, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” [Isaiah 8:20.] But if it is according to this test, do not be so full of prejudice that you cannot acknowledge a point simply because it does not agree with your ideas.’ *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed. page 130.

‘Despise not prophesyings’

11. What warning does Paul give of false prophecy and doctrine in the last days? 1 Timothy 4:1. Compare 2 Peter 2:1-2.

NOTE: ‘We are in grave danger when we lightly regard any truth; for then the mind is opened to error. We must take heed how and what we hear. We need not seek to understand the arguments that men offer in support of their theories, when it may be readily discerned that these theories are not in harmony with the Scriptures. Some who think that they have scientific knowledge are by their interpretations giving wrong ideas both of science and of the Bible. Let the Bible decide every question that is essential to man’s salvation.’ *Medical Ministry*, page 96.

'We are not to enter into controversy over these spiritualistic theories, because such controversy will only confuse minds. These things are not to be brought into our meetings. We are not to labour to refute them. If our ministers and teachers give themselves to the study of these erroneous theories, some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. It is not the work of the gospel minister to voice Satan's theories. Hold up the truth; magnify the truth; say, "It is written." The apostle Paul warns us that "some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." This is what we may expect. Our greatest trials will come because of that class who have once advocated the truth, but who turn from it to the world, and trample it under their feet in hate and derision.' *Evangelism*, page 624.

12. What conclusive test did Christ give to discern between true and false prophets? Matthew 7:15-20.

NOTE: 'Let the Testimonies be judged by their fruits. What is the spirit of their teaching? What has been the result of their influence? All who desire to do so can acquaint themselves with the fruits of these visions. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. He will bring in spurious visions, to mislead and mingle the false with the true, and so disgust people that they will regard everything that bears the name of visions, as a species of fanaticism; but honest souls, by contrasting false and true, will be enabled to distinguish between them. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 297.

Lesson 3: 'Moved by the Holy Ghost'

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

STUDY HELP: *Selected Messages book 1*, pages 15-23.

Introduction

'The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. God, as a writer, is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God's penmen, not His pen.' *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 21.

'The Spirit of prophecy'

1. Who is the source of the prophetic messages? 2 Peter 1:21. Compare 1 Corinthians 12:10, Romans 12:6.

NOTE: 'God committed the preparation of His divinely inspired Word to finite man. This Word, arranged into books, the Old and New Testaments, is the guidebook to the inhabitants of a fallen world, bequeathed to them that, by studying and obeying the directions, not one soul would lose its way to heaven. The Bible points to God as its author; yet it was written by human hands; and in the varied style of its different books it presents the characteristics of the several writers. The truths revealed are all "given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16); yet they are expressed in the words of men. The Infinite One by His Holy Spirit has shed light into the minds and hearts of His servants. He has given dreams and visions, symbols and figures; and those to whom the truth was thus revealed, have themselves embodied the thought in human language.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 10.

2. What examples are we given of this process? Acts 1:16, 2 Samuel 23:2.

NOTE: 'The writers of the Bible had to express their ideas in human language. It was written by human men. These men were inspired of the Holy Spirit. Because of the imperfections of human understanding of language, or the perversity of the human mind, ingenious in evading truth, many read and understand the Bible to please themselves. It is not that the difficulty is in the Bible. The Scriptures were given to men, not in a continuous chain of unbroken utterances, but piece by piece through successive generations, as God in His providence saw a fitting opportunity to impress man at sundry times and divers places. Men wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. There is not always perfect order or apparent unity in the Scriptures. The truths of the Bible are as pearls hidden. They must be searched, dug out by painstaking effort. Those who take only a surface view of the Scriptures will, with their superficial knowledge, which they think is very deep, talk of the contradictions of the Bible, and question the authority of the Scriptures. But those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 11.

'The testimony of Jesus'

3. How are we shown that Christ is the source of the prophets' messages? 1 Peter 1:10-11.

NOTE: 'It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets "prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 366.

4. How are we shown that Christ is not only the Source but also the Subject of prophecy? John 5:39, 46.

NOTE: Christ 'presented himself as the One referred to by the prophets, especially stating, "They wrote of Me." He came to represent the Father; He was the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person. He was the subject of all the lessons He gave His disciples, the theme to which their attention must be riveted. He was the great centre of all, and faith in Him was to bring eternal life to all who would receive Him. When He presented before them illustrious persons, it was simply to impress them with the fact that He was greater than all the wise and great of earth. He sought to make them understand the significance of the rites of the Jewish church, and as their dull comprehension became more and more enlightened, He impressed them with the thought that He was the originator and substance of all truth. The types and rites of the Jewish church were all connected with Himself; He was the glory of the whole system. Everything that was attractive, either in nature or revelation, was found in Him; He was the all-absorbing theme of patriarchs and prophets, the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega of all things.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, October 14, 1890.

'The word of the Lord'

5. In what various ways may the prophet receive the word of the Lord? Numbers 12:6.

NOTE: 'The multitude of dreams arise from the common things of life, with which the Spirit of God has nothing to do. There are also false dreams, as well as false visions, which are inspired by the spirit of Satan. But dreams from the Lord are classed in the word of God with visions and are as truly the fruits of the spirit of prophecy as visions. Such dreams, taking into the account the persons who have them and the circumstances under which they are given, contain their own proofs of their genuineness.' *Testimonies Volume 1*, page 569.

6. What examples are we given of visions and prophetic dreams? Isaiah 6:1, Daniel 10:5-8, Genesis 37:5-9.

NOTE: 'He [God] "gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." The promise was fulfilled, "Them that honour Me I will honour." 1 Samuel 2:30. As Daniel clung to God with unwavering trust, the spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While receiving instruction from man in the duties of court life, he was being taught by God to read the mysteries of the future and to record for coming generations, through figures and symbols, events covering the history of this world till the close of time.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 484.

'He shall show you things to come'

7. How did Jesus speak of the Holy Spirit's prophetic work? John 16:13.

NOTE: 'Here is a precious promise; the purposes and plans of God are to be opened to his disciples. What is a disciple? A learner, ever learning. Coming events, of solemn character, are opening before us, and God would not have any one of us think that in these last days there is no more that we need to know. This is a continual snare of Satan. He would have us meet coming events without that special preparation which is essential to guide them through every difficulty. He would have all stumbling their way along in ignorance, making self-conceit, self-esteem, self-confidence, take the place of true knowledge. The more satisfied any one is with himself, and his present knowledge, the less earnestly and humbly will he seek to be guided into all truth. The less of the Holy Spirit of God he has, the more self-satisfied and complacent he will feel. He will not search earnestly and with the deepest interest to know more truth. But unless he keeps pace with the Leader, who is guiding into all truth, he will be left behind, belated, blinded, confused, because he is not walking in the light.' *Paulson Collection*, page 56.

8. What supreme example of the fulfilment of this promise are we shown? Revelation 1:9-10.

NOTE: 'I have been instructed that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be printed in small books, with the necessary explanations, and should be sent all over the world. Our own people need to have the light placed before them in clearer lines. Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God will bring from the books of Daniel and Revelation truth that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed. The lips of children will be opened to proclaim the mysteries that have been hidden from the minds of men. Many of the prophecies are about to be fulfilled in quick succession. Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life, and peril will beset God's people on every side. Intensity is taking hold of the human family. It is permeating everything upon the earth. Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated. We, with all our religious advantages, ought to know far more today than we do know.' *Maranatha*, page 30.

'Just and devout'

9. What sort of people may receive the gift of prophecy? Acts 21:8-9, Luke 2:25, 36-37.

NOTE: 'God wants men and women who are willing to give themselves entirely to him, even as Elisha did, when as he was ploughing, Elijah came to him, and bade him follow him. Elisha obeyed, and we read that his first service was to pour water on

the hands of the prophet. He willingly took up the work of ministering to him, and thus he became acquainted with the work in which he was afterward to have a leading part.' *General Conference Bulletin*, April 22, 1901.

10. What solemn warning does the Lord give to those who falsely claim the prophetic gift? Deuteronomy 18:20.

NOTE: 'While exalting the "sure word of prophecy" as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by "false teachers," who would privily bring in "damnable heresies, even denying the Lord." These false teachers, arising in the church and accounted true by many of their brethren in the faith, the apostle compared to "wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever." "The latter end is worse with them," he declared, "than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 535.

'Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His Church. He says, "I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticise, and condemn, and falsify." Let the sin of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is. Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.' *1888 Materials*, page 1646.

'I will pour out My Spirit'

11. What promise is made concerning the gift of prophecy in the last days? Acts 2:17-18.

NOTE: 'The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the Investigative Judgement], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus." [Acts 3:19, 20.] Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [Revelation 13:13.] Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.' *Great Controversy*, 1888 ed., page 612.

12. What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy and the other spiritual gifts? Ephesians 4:12-15.

NOTE: 'God's gifts are not to be used for the exaltation of self, but are to be put out to the exchangers, so that He shall receive His own with usury. Let not one attempt to secure greatness, happiness, or self-gratification by diverting from their proper use the powers with which he is endowed; for by so doing he dishonours the Giver, and fails of fulfilling the purpose for which he was created. All our powers come from God, and should be used to His glory.' *This Day With God*, page 132.

Lesson 4: 'Prove all things'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.' 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21.

STUDY HELP: *Reflecting Christ*, page 221.

Introduction

'The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony. He will bring in spurious visions, to mislead and mingle the false with the true, and so disgust people that they will regard everything that bears the name of visions, as a species of fanaticism; but honest souls, by contrasting false and true, will be enabled to distinguish between them.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 296.

'All things continue as they were'

1. What particular false teaching did Peter warn against? 2 Peter 3:4-5.

NOTE: 'Were I to assert that if the *Principles of Geology* [by Charles Lyell] had not been written, we should never have had *The Origin of Species* [by Charles Darwin], I should not be going too far; at all events, I can safely assert, after several conversations I had with Darwin, that he would have most unhesitatingly agreed with that opinion.' J.W.Judd, quoted in *Britain's Heritage of Science*, page 279.

Lyell proposed the idea that the condition of the physical world and the history of life can be entirely explained by processes going on at present. In other words, that 'all things continue as they were from the beginning.'

'Geology has been thought to contradict the literal interpretation of the Mosaic record of the creation. Millions of years, it is claimed, were required for the evolution of the earth from chaos; and in order to accommodate the Bible to this supposed revelation of science, the days of creation are assumed to have been vast, indefinite periods, covering thousands or even millions of years.' *Education*, page 128.

2. What deliberate fault in their thinking did Peter draw attention to? 2 Peter 3:5-6.

NOTE: 'The wisdom of men may or may not be valuable, as experience shall prove, but the wisdom of God is indispensable; and yet many who profess to be wise are willingly ignorant of the things that pertain to eternal life. Miss what you may in the line of human attainments, but you must have faith in the pardon brought to you at infinite cost, or all of wisdom attained in earth, will perish with you. Were the Sun of Righteousness to withdraw His beams of light from the world, we should be left in the darkness of eternal night. Jesus spake as never man spake. He poured out to men the whole treasure of heaven in wisdom and knowledge. He is the light that lighteth every man who cometh into the world. Every phase of truth was evident to Him. He did not come to utter uncertain sentiments and opinions; but only to speak truth established upon eternal principles. Then why take the unstable words of men as exalted wisdom, when a greater and certain wisdom is at your command? Men take the writings of scientists, falsely so-called, and seek to make their deductions harmonize with the statements of the Bible. But where there is no agreement, there can be no harmony. Christ declares, "No man can serve two masters." Their interests are sure to clash. Again and again men have attempted to put the Bible and the writings of men upon a common basis; but the attempt has proved a failure; for we cannot serve God and mammon.' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 181.

'By the word of the Lord'

3. Of what particular aspect of truth are men 'willingly ignorant'? 2 Peter 3:5.

NOTE: 'He who studies most deeply into the mysteries of nature will realise most fully his own ignorance and weakness. He will realise that there are depths and heights which he cannot reach, secrets which he cannot penetrate, vast fields of truth lying before him unentered. He will be ready to say, with Newton, "I seem to myself to have been like a child on the seashore finding pebbles and shells, while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me." The deepest students of science are constrained to recognise in nature the working of infinite power. But to man's unaided reason, nature's teaching cannot but be contradictory and disappointing. Only in the light of revelation can it be read aright. "Through faith we understand." Hebrews 11:3.' *Education*, page 133-134.

4. How does the Word of God describe the theories and speculations of men? 1 Timothy 6:20.

NOTE: 'Akin to the theory concerning the evolution of the earth is that which attributes to an ascending line of germs, molluscs, and quadrupeds the evolution of man, the crowning glory of the creation. When consideration is given to man's opportunities for research; how brief his life; how limited his sphere of action; how restricted his vision; how frequent and how great the errors in his conclusions, especially as concerns the events thought to antedate Bible history; how often the supposed deductions of science are revised or cast aside; with what readiness the assumed period of the earth's development is from time to time increased or diminished by millions of years; and how the theories advanced by different scientists conflict with one another, considering all this, shall we, for the privilege of tracing our descent from germs and molluscs and apes, consent to cast away that statement of Holy Writ, so grand in its simplicity, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him"? Genesis 1:27.' *Education*, page 130.

'The world that then was perished'

5. What other aspect of truth attracts the same scepticism? 2 Peter 3:6.

NOTE: 'It is true that remains found in the earth testify to the existence of men, animals, and plants much larger than any now known. These are regarded as proving the existence of vegetable and animal life prior to the time of the Mosaic record. But concerning these things Bible history furnishes ample explanation. Before the Flood the development of vegetable and animal life was immeasurably superior to that which has since been known. At the Flood the surface of the earth was broken up, marked changes took place, and in the re-formation of the earth's crust were preserved many evidences of the life previously existing. The vast forests buried in the earth at the time of the Flood, and since changed to coal, form the extensive coalfields, and yield the supplies of oil that minister to our comfort and convenience today. These things, as they are brought to light, are so many witnesses mutely testifying to the truth of the word of God.' *Education*, page 129.

6. To what vital truth do these things point? 2 Peter 3:7.

NOTE: 'Great and learned men declared that such a flood of waters as [Noah] foretold had never been known, and that it would never come. Today God's word is little heeded. Men laugh at its warnings. Multitudes are saying, "All things continue as they were from the beginning of the world. There is nothing to fear." At this very time, destruction is coming. While men ask in scorn, "Where is the promise of His coming?" the signs are fulfilling. "When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:3.' *The Story of Jesus*, page 181.

'Private interpretation'

7. Against what method of dealing with prophecy did Peter warn the church? 2 Peter 1:20.

NOTE: In the 1820s, John Nelson Darby, founder of the Plymouth Brethren, developed his own 'private interpretation' of Bible prophecy. The central element of Darby's theory was that, before the 'great tribulation', the church will be secretly

'raptured' from the earth and thus spared the final persecution. The 'Rapture' begins the 70th week of the prophecy of Daniel 9. (This prophecy, according to this theory, was suspended at the conclusion of the 69th week, which Darby taught coincided with the crucifixion.) Following the 'Rapture', the entire Jewish people will be converted to Christ and become missionaries to the world. The antichrist would next appear and make a covenant with the Jewish people but, three and a half years after the 'Rapture', he would break the covenant and start the 1260 days of 'the great tribulation', which would only end with the return of Christ in glory to begin His millennial reign on earth. Darby's views, often known as 'Dispensationalism', though initially rejected by many of the Brethren Movement, are now accepted by the majority of the Evangelical and Fundamentalist Movements today, thanks in no small part to the wide circulation of the Scofield bible.

8. What passages of scripture show the falsity of a secret return of Christ? Matthew 24:24-27, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

NOTE: It is worth noting that the advocates of the 'Secret Rapture' often quote 1 Thessalonians 4 in support of their theory! 'In our day as in Christ's day, there may be a misreading and misinterpreting of the Scriptures. If the Jews had studied the Scriptures with earnest, prayerful hearts, their searching would have been rewarded with a true knowledge of the time, and not only the time, but also the manner of Christ's appearing.' *Evangelism*, page 612.

'The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His second coming. "There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth; behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known, witnessed by the whole world.' *Great Controversy*, page 625.

'The kingdom shall be taken from you'

9. What further deception are we warned against? Revelation 2:9.

NOTE: It is commonly taught today that the Jews remain God's chosen people, despite their rejection of Christ. This view was taught by Darby, as well as others. Many teach that the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 was a fulfilment of prophecy and that closing events of history, foretold in prophecy, will centre on the land of Israel, where the Battle of Armageddon will take place on the plain of Megiddo.

'Christ recognised no virtue in lineage. He taught that spiritual connection supersedes all natural connection. The Jews claimed to have descended from Abraham; but by failing to do the works of Abraham, they proved that they were not his true children. Only those who prove themselves to be spiritually in harmony with Abraham by obeying the voice of God, are reckoned as of true descent.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 268.

10. What Bible passages show the falsity of this theory? Galatians 3:28-29, Romans 9:8, John 8:39-44.

NOTE: 'Christ declares that lineal connection is superseded by spiritual connection. The Jews were indeed Abraham's seed according to the flesh, but they manifested a spirit very different from the spirit of righteous Abraham. By their unbelief and persistent rejection of truth they disinherited themselves. Abraham obeyed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. By their works the Jews showed that they bore no real relationship to Abraham.' *Signs of the Times*, August 29, 1900.

'My word shall not pass away'

11. What other problem did Christ warn against? Mark 7:13.

NOTE: One important teaching of Dispensationalism is that, at the beginning of each dispensation, God makes a new covenant with man and everything of the previous dispensation is superseded. Many dispensationalists teach that Christ's words apply to the Jewish dispensation and have no direct relevance to the Dispensation of Grace. Thus they believe that we should focus only on the teachings of the apostles, ignoring the Old Testament and the Gospels as pertaining to the Jews alone. Similarly, they believe that, in the Jewish Dispensation, man was saved by keeping God's law, while in the present dispensation, man is saved by grace alone, the law of God being a part of a past dispensation.

'The work of salvation in both the Old and the New Testament dispensation is the same. Christ was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. The types and shadows under which the Jews worshipped all pointed forward to the world's Redeemer. It was by faith in a coming Saviour that sinners were saved then. It is through faith in Christ that they are justified today.' *Bible Echo*, February 8, 1897.

'It is the sophistry of Satan that the death of Christ brought in grace to take the place of the law. The death of Jesus did not change, or annul, or lessen in the slightest degree, the law of ten commandments. That precious grace offered to men through a Saviour's blood, establishes the law of God. Since the fall of man, God's moral government and His grace are inseparable. They go hand in hand through all dispensations. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.'" *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 8, 1881.

12. How can we be certain that the words of Christ apply to us today? Matthew 24:35. Compare 1 Peter 1:23.

NOTE: 'It does not become believers in God or the Bible to pour contempt on the age that has led step by step to the present. In the life and death of Christ, a light flashes back upon the past, giving significance to the whole Jewish economy, and making of the old and the new dispensations a complete whole. Nothing that God has ordained in the plan of redemption can be

dispensed with. It is the working out of the divine will in the salvation of man.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 2, 1886.

Lesson 5: 'Now I am come to make thee understand'

MEMORY VERSE: 'I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.' Hosea 12:10.

STUDY HELP: *Selected Messages Book 2*, pages 319-320, *Great Controversy*, pages 319-328.

Introduction

'God Himself employed pictures and symbols to represent to His prophets lessons which He would have them give to the people, and which could thus be better understood than if given in any other way. He appealed to the understanding through the sense of sight. Prophetic history was presented to Daniel and John in symbols, and these were to be represented plainly upon tables, that he who reads might understand.' *Selected Messages Book 2*, page 319.

'Similitudes by the ministry of the prophets'

1. What reason did Christ give for conveying His teaching in parables and symbols? Matthew 13:10-16.

NOTE: 'With intense interest he [William Miller] studied the books of Daniel and the Revelation, employing the same principles of interpretation as in the other scriptures, and found, to his great joy, that the prophetic symbols could be understood. He saw that the prophecies, so far as they had been fulfilled, had been fulfilled literally; that all the various figures, metaphors, parables, similitudes, etc., were either explained in their immediate connection, or the terms in which they were expressed were defined in other scriptures, and when thus explained, were to be literally understood. "I was thus satisfied," he says, "that the Bible is a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein." Link after link of the chain of truth rewarded his efforts, as step by step he traced down the great lines of prophecy. Angels of heaven were guiding his mind and opening the Scriptures to his understanding.' *Great Controversy*, page 320.

2. What principle may we use to understand the symbolism used in Bible prophecy? Isaiah 28:10.

NOTE: 'In order to sustain erroneous doctrines or unchristian practices, some will seize upon passages of Scripture separated from the context, perhaps quoting half of a single verse as proving their point, when the remaining portion would show the meaning to be quite the opposite. With the cunning of the serpent they entrench themselves behind disconnected utterances construed to suit their carnal desires. Thus do many wilfully pervert the word of God. Others, who have an active imagination, seize upon the figures and symbols of Holy Writ, interpret them to suit their fancy, with little regard to the testimony of Scripture as its own interpreter, and then they present their vagaries as the teachings of the Bible.' *Great Controversy*, page 521.

'A day for a year'

3. How did God employ the principle of day representing a literal year? Ezekiel 4:4-6. Compare Numbers 14:34.

NOTE: 'An important principle in prophetic interpretation in connection with the time prophecies is the year-day principle, under which a day of prophetic time is counted as a calendar year of historic time. Before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan they sent twelve spies ahead to investigate. The spies were gone forty days, and upon their return the Hebrews, frightened at their report, refused to go up and occupy the Promised Land. The result was a sentence the Lord passed upon them: "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years." Numbers 14:34. A similar method of computing future time is indicated through the prophet Ezekiel. Forty years of punishment for iniquities awaited the kingdom of Judah. The Lord said through the prophet: "Lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year." Ezekiel 4:6.' *Great Controversy*, page 681.

4. What important prophecies require this prophetic key to interpret them? Daniel 8:14, Daniel 9:24-27, Daniel 7:25. See also Daniel 12:7, 11-12.

NOTE: 'This year-day principle has an important application in interpreting the time of the prophecy of the "two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings" (Daniel 8:14, RV) and the 1260-day period, variously indicated as "a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel 7:25), the "forty and two months (Revelation 11:2, 13:5) and the "thousand two hundred and threescore days" (Revelation 11:3, 12:6).' *Great Controversy*, page 681.

'The time of the first advent and of some of the chief events clustering about the Saviour's lifework was made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel. "Seventy weeks," said the angel, "are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy." Daniel 9:24. A day in prophecy stands for a year. See

Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6. The seventy weeks, or four hundred and ninety days, represent four hundred and ninety years.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 698.

'These beasts are four kings'

5. What symbol is used in a number of Bible prophecies? Daniel 7:3, Daniel 8:3, 5, Revelation 13:1-2, 11.

NOTE: 'Prophecy has plainly stated the nature of Christ's kingdom. He planned a government which would use no force; His subjects would know no oppression. The symbols of earthly governments are wild beasts, but in the kingdom of Christ, men are called upon to behold, not a ferocious beast, but the Lamb of God. Not as a fierce tyrant did He come, but as the Son of man; not to conquer the nations by His iron power, but "to preach good tidings unto the meek;" "to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" "to comfort all that mourn." He came as the divine Restorer, bringing to oppressed and downtrodden humanity the rich and abundant grace of Heaven, that by the power of His righteousness, man, fallen and degraded though he was, might be a partaker of divinity.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, August 18, 1896.

6. What do these beasts symbolise? Daniel 7:17.

NOTE: 'In Daniel's vision these representative predators were not normal. They were hybrids of animals and birds. This suggests a disregard of God's law that His creatures should reproduce "after their kind". Rebellion brought about these amalgams of the incongruous – a lion with parts of an eagle and a leopard with four heads and four bird wings... Beasts are wild and ferocious and unpredictable. Their lives revolve around sustenance, shelter and sex, and they stop at little to obtain them. Predators are cruel and remorseless, ready to devour the helpless. They are undisciplined and noisy. Through these combinations of parts of rapacious animals and birds of prey the Lord made cartoons of the four world empires.' Hardinge: *Jesus is My Judge*, pages 137-138.

'Peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues'

7. From where did most of these beasts arise? Daniel 7:2-3, Revelation 13:1.

NOTE: 'Daniel watched four winds "striving" upon the "Great Sea," – the direct object of their raging force. These "winds" picture the struggles of invisible human passions stirred up by greed and rage, and recognised by their devastation... "The four winds" specifically depict the four major wind storms which blew away the four predators one by one. Jehovah identified the first: "I will raise up a destroying wind against Babylon." [Jeremiah 51:1] Spawned by the Medes and Persians, this tornado blew the lion-eagle empire off the world scene.' Hardinge: *Jesus is My Judge*, page 136.

8. What does this symbol of stormy waters mean? Revelation 17:15. Compare Isaiah 8:7, Isaiah 17:12-13, Isaiah 57:20-21

NOTE: 'The great kingdoms that have ruled the world were presented to the prophet Daniel as beasts of prey, rising when "the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." Daniel 7:2. In Revelation 17 an angel explained that waters represent "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Revelation 17:15. Winds are a symbol of strife. The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution by which kingdoms have attained to power.' *Great Controversy*, page 439.

'The ten horns are ten kings'

9. What further symbol is found in these prophecies? Daniel 7:8, Daniel 8:3, 5.

NOTE: The beasts of these prophecies are often pictured as having horns. The fourth beast of Daniel 7 has ten horns at first; then a further horn arises, uprooting three of the preceding horns. The ram of Daniel 8 is pictured with two horns, one higher than the other. The goat which destroys the ram has a single, notable horn, which is then broken and replaced by four horns. Finally another horn comes on the scene and becomes far greater than Medo-Persia or Alexander's Greece. The dragon of Revelation 12 has ten horns, as does the first beast of Revelation 13. The second beast of Revelation 13 has 'two horns like a lamb.' Since a creature's horns are often used for aggressive purposes, the meaning of this symbol is not hard to deduce.

10. How is the significance of horns explained to the prophet? Daniel 8:20-21. Compare 1 Kings 22:11, Psalm 75, Zechariah 1:18-21.

NOTE: The horn is clearly a symbol of power. It is explained by Gabriel as a prophetic symbol for kings or kingdoms, sometimes parts of a larger kingdom. Often in Scripture the symbol is applied to the Lord, e.g. 2 Samuel 22:3, Psalm 18:2, Luke 1:68-69. Sometimes it is applied to individuals, e.g. 1 Samuel 2:1, 10, Psalm 132:17.

'Blessed is he that readeth'

11. What blessing is promised to those who persevere in their study of the prophecies? Revelation 1:3.

NOTE: 'Let none think, because they cannot explain the meaning of every symbol in the Revelation, that it is useless for them to search this book in an effort to know the meaning of the truth it contains. The One who revealed these mysteries to John will give to the diligent searcher for truth a foretaste of heavenly things. Those whose hearts are open to the reception of truth will be enabled to understand its teachings, and will be granted the blessing promised to those who "hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 584.

12. For whom especially were the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation intended? Daniel 12:4, 9, Revelation 22:10. (Compare Revelation 1:3.)

NOTE: 'In the Revelation are portrayed the deep things of God. The very name given to its inspired pages, "the Revelation," contradicts the statement that this is a sealed book. A revelation is something revealed. The Lord Himself revealed to His servant the mysteries contained in this book, and He designs that they shall be open to the study of all. Its truths are addressed to those living in the last days of this earth's history, as well as to those living in the days of John. Some of the scenes depicted in this prophecy are in the past, some are now taking place; some bring to view the close of the great conflict between the powers of darkness and the Prince of heaven, and some reveal the triumphs and joys of the redeemed in the earth made new... In the Revelation all the books of the Bible meet and end. Here is the complement of the book of Daniel. One is a prophecy; the other a revelation. The book that was sealed is not the Revelation, but that portion of the prophecy of Daniel relating to the last days. The angel commanded, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." Daniel 12:4.' *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 584-585.

Lesson 6: 'The time is at hand'

MEMORY VERSE: 'As they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.' 2 Chronicles 20:20, last part.

STUDY HELP: *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 578-592.

Introduction

'Our lesson for the present time is, How may we most clearly comprehend and present the gospel that Christ came in person to present to John on the Isle of Patmos, the gospel that is termed "the revelation of Jesus Christ"? We are to present to our people a clear explanation of Revelation. We are to give them the word of God just as it is, with as few of our own explanations as possible. No one mind can do this work alone. Although we have in trust the grandest and most important truth ever presented to the world, we are only babes, as far as understanding truth in all its bearings is concerned. Christ is the great teacher, and that which He revealed to John, we are to tax our minds to understand and clearly to define.' *Counsels to Writers & Editors*, page 29.

'The revelation of Jesus Christ'

1. Who was the One who revealed the future to the apostle John? Revelation 1:13.

NOTE: 'Richly favoured was this beloved disciple. He had seen his Master in Gethsemane, His face marked with the blood drops of agony, His "visage . . . marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men." Isaiah 52:14. He had seen Him in the hands of the Roman soldiers, clothed with an old purple robe and crowned with thorns. He had seen Him hanging on the cross of Calvary, the object of cruel mockery and abuse. Now John is once more permitted to behold his Lord. But how changed is His appearance! He is no longer a Man of Sorrows, despised and humiliated by men. He is clothed in a garment of heavenly brightness. "His head and His hairs" are "white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes . . . as a flame of fire; and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace." Revelation 1:14, 15, 17. His voice is like the music of many waters. His countenance shines as the sun. In His hand are seven stars, and out of His mouth issues a sharp two-edged sword, an emblem of the power of His word. Patmos is made resplendent with the glory of the risen Lord.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 582.

2. When did the Lord give John this revelation? Revelation 1:10.

NOTE: 'It was on the Sabbath that the Lord of glory appeared to the exiled apostle. The Sabbath was as sacredly observed by John on Patmos as when he was preaching to the people in the towns and cities of Judea. He claimed as his own the precious promises that had been given regarding that day. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day," John writes, "and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. . . . And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks One like unto the Son of man.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 581.

3. How do we know that the Lord's day is the Sabbath? Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5.

NOTE: 'These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord's day. It belongs to Christ. For "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3. Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,"--make them holy. Ezekiel 20:12. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God.' *Desire of Ages*, page 288.

‘Blessed is he that readeth’

4. What blessing is granted to those who study the Revelation of Jesus Christ? Revelation 1:3.

NOTE: ‘This revelation was given for the guidance and comfort of the church throughout the Christian dispensation. Yet religious teachers have declared that it is a sealed book and its secrets cannot be explained. Therefore many have turned from the prophetic record, refusing to devote time and study to its mysteries. But God does not wish His people to regard the book thus. It is “the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” “Blessed is he that readeth,” the Lord declares, “and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” Verses 1, 3. “I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 583.

5. How does the title of this book show us that it is meant to be understood? Revelation 1:1. Compare Deuteronomy 29:29.

NOTE: ‘In the Revelation are portrayed the deep things of God. The very name given to its inspired pages, “the Revelation,” contradicts the statement that this is a sealed book. A revelation is something revealed. The Lord Himself revealed to His servant the mysteries contained in this book, and He designs that they shall be open to the study of all. Its truths are addressed to those living in the last days of this earth’s history, as well as to those living in the days of John. Some of the scenes depicted in this prophecy are in the past, some are now taking place; some bring to view the close of the great conflict between the powers of darkness and the Prince of heaven, and some reveal the triumphs and joys of the redeemed in the earth made new.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 584.

‘One like unto the Son of man’

6. How is Christ depicted in the opening verses of the Book of Revelation? Revelation 1:13-16.

NOTE: ‘Christ is spoken of as walking in the midst of the golden candlesticks. Thus is symbolised His relation to the churches. He is in constant communication with His people. He knows their true state. He observes their order, their piety, their devotion. Although He is high priest and mediator in the sanctuary above, yet He is represented as walking up and down in the midst of His churches on the earth. With untiring wakefulness and unremitting vigilance, He watches to see whether the light of any of His sentinels is burning dim or going out. If the candlesticks were left to mere human care, the flickering flame would languish and die; but He is the true watchman in the Lord’s house, the true warden of the temple courts. His continued care and sustaining grace are the source of life and light. Christ is represented as holding the seven stars in His right hand. This assures us that no church faithful to its trust need fear coming to nought, for not a star that has the protection of Omnipotence can be plucked out of the hand of Christ.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 586.

7. To whom especially are the messages of the Book of Revelation addressed? Revelation 2:1 first part. Compare first parts of verses 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7 & 14 and see Revelation 1:20.

NOTE: “These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand.” Revelation 2:1. These words are spoken to the teachers in the church, those entrusted by God with weighty responsibilities. The sweet influences that are to be abundant in the church are bound up with God’s ministers, who are to reveal the love of Christ. The stars of heaven are under His control. He fills them with light. He guides and directs their movements. If He did not do this, they would become fallen stars. So with His ministers. They are but instruments in His hands, and all the good they accomplish is done through His power. Through them His light is to shine forth. The Saviour is to be their efficiency. If they will look to Him as He looked to the Father they will be enabled to do His work. As they make God their dependence, He will give them His brightness to reflect to the world.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 586.

‘The seven churches’

8. What is the subject of John’s first vision? Revelation 1:11.

NOTE: ‘The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the word.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 585.

9. In each age of the church’s history, to whom are promises especially addressed? Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12 & 21.

NOTE: ‘And to all the faithful ones who were striving against evil, John heard the promises made: “To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.” “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 588.

‘The remnant’

10. How is the church described in this prophecy? Revelation 12:13-17.

NOTE: '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?"' (1 Corinthians 15:55), 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.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 590.

11. How does the prophecy depict the ultimate triumph of the church? Revelation 14:1-5.

NOTE: "'And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads.'" Revelation 14:1. 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 for ever and ever." Revelation 22:5. 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." Matthew 25:34, 21. "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Revelation 14:4. The vision of the prophet pictures them as standing on Mount Zion, girt for holy service, clothed in white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. But all who follow the Lamb in heaven must first have followed Him on earth, not fretfully or capriciously, but in trustful, loving, willing obedience, as the flock follows the shepherd.' *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 590-591.

'I know thy works'

12. What picture does the prophecy give of God's care for His people? Revelation 2:2-3, 9-10, 19, 3:2, 10, 20-21.

NOTE: 'And for those who in the midst of conflict should maintain their faith in God, the prophet was given the words of commendation and promise: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name." "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." The believers were admonished: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die." "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 587-588.

13. What prophetic promise is made to those who win the victory? Revelation 7:16-17.

NOTE: 'If the church will put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, withdrawing from all allegiance with the world, there is before her the dawn of a bright and glorious day. God's promise to her will stand fast forever. He will make her an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Truth, passing by those who despise and reject it, will triumph. Although at times apparently retarded, its progress has never been checked. When the message of God meets with opposition, He gives it additional force, that it may exert greater influence. Endowed with divine energy, it will cut its way through the strongest barriers and triumph over every obstacle.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 601.

Lesson 7: 'For our learning'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.' Joel.2.32.

STUDY HELP: *Counsels to Teachers, Parents & Students*, pages 462-463.

Introduction

'Prophecies were not written *merely* as milestones to the kingdom of God. While the church may find joy in measuring the distance still to travel on the highway of time, by noting how many milestones have passed and how many more there are yet to pass before the coming of Christ, it should be emphasised that this is not their greatest purpose.' *Were: The Moral Purpose of Prophecy*, page 56.

'When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realise the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 345.

'There is a God in heaven'

1. How was Daniel shown that God is in control of the affairs of nations? Daniel 2:21-22.

NOTE: 'In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and through all the play and counterplay of human

interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 250.

2. What assurance did Daniel give that God will intervene to bring to an end the power of those who persecute His people? Daniel 2:44. Compare Psalm 72:4.

NOTE: 'The power exercised by every ruler on the earth is Heaven-imparted; and upon his use of the power thus bestowed, his success depends. To each the word of the divine Watcher is, "I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me." Isaiah 45:5. And to each the words spoken to Nebuchadnezzar of old are the lesson of life: "Break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor: if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity." Daniel 4:27. To understand these things, to understand that "righteousness exalteth a nation;" that "the throne is established by righteousness," and "upholden by mercy;" to recognize the outworking of these principles in the manifestation of His power who "removeth kings, and setteth up kings," this is to understand the philosophy of history. Proverbs 14:34; 16:12; 20:28; Daniel 2:21. In the word of God only is this clearly set forth. Here it is shown that the strength of nations, as of individuals, is not found in the opportunities or facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. It is measured by the fidelity with which they fulfil God's purpose.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 502.

'He revealeth His secret'

3. How did Daniel describe God to Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:28. Compare Amos 3:7.

NOTE: 'In His providence the Lord has seen fit to teach and warn His people in various ways. By direct command, by the sacred writings, and by the spirit of prophecy has He made known unto them His will. In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.' *My Life Today*, page 40.

4. What reason does God often have for revealing the future? Daniel 4:27.

NOTE: 'Shall we not break off our sins by righteousness, and have our conversation in heaven, whence we look for our Saviour? Shall we not talk of our Saviour until it becomes natural for us to do so? If we do not order our conversation aright, we shall not see the salvation of God. Satan will take possession of the heart, and we shall become low and sensual. Let us elevate the thoughts, and take hold upon things that are of real value, gaining an education here that will be of value in the world to come. Shall we not seek the Lord with earnestness, repent of our backslidings, mourn that we have neglected His Word, that we do not know the truth better, and turn to Him will all the heart, that He may heal us, and love us freely? Today let us take a step toward heaven.' *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 295.

'Worship the golden image'

5. What was the great challenge to God's people while in captivity in Babylon? Daniel 3:4-6, Daniel 6:7.

NOTE: 'What a test was brought on the three associates of Daniel, when they were required to worship the great image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar in the plain of Dura! The three Hebrews were called upon to confess Christ in the face of the burning fiery furnace. It cost them something to do this, for their lives were at stake. These youth, imbued with the Holy Spirit, declared to the whole kingdom of Babylon their faith, that He whom they worshiped was the only true and living God. The demonstration of their faith on the plain of Dura was a most eloquent presentation of their principles.' *Youth's Instructor*, July 12, 1904.

6. How will this test be repeated for God's people in the last days? Revelation 13:14-17. (See Revelation 14:9-11.)

NOTE: 'An apostate church will unite with the powers of earth and hell to place upon the forehead or in the hand, the mark of the beast, and prevail upon the children of God to worship the beast and his image. They will seek to compel them to renounce their allegiance to God's law, and yield homage to the papacy. Then will come the times which will try men's souls; for the confederacy of apostasy will demand that the loyal subjects of God shall renounce the law of Jehovah, and repudiate the truth of His word. Then will the gold be separated from the dross, and it will be made apparent who are the godly, who are the loyal and true, and who are the disloyal, the dross and the tinsel. What clouds of chaff will then be borne away by the fan of God! Where now our eyes can discover only rich floors of wheat, will be chaff blown away with the fan of God. Every one who is not centred in Christ will fail to stand the test and ordeal of that day. While those who are clothed with Christ's righteousness will stand firm to truth and duty, those who have trusted in their own righteousness will be ranged under the black banner of the prince of darkness. Then it will be seen whether the choice is for Christ or Belial.' *Maranatha*, page 204.

'Thy people shall be delivered'

7. What is one of the major themes of the Book of Daniel? Daniel 3:28. (Compare Daniel 12:1, Daniel 6:20.)

NOTE: 'The world has become bold in transgression of God's law. Because of His long forbearance, men have trampled upon His authority. They have strengthened one another in oppression and cruelty toward His heritage, saying, "How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?" Psalm 73:11. But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass. The time is near when they will have reached the prescribed limit. Even now they have almost exceeded the bounds of the long-suffering of God, the limits of His grace, the limits of His mercy. The Lord will interpose to vindicate His own honour, to deliver His people, and to repress the swellings of unrighteousness.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 177.

8. What is the condition for God to deliver His people? Daniel 6:16. (Compare verse 10 and see verse 20.)

NOTE: 'Daniel in the lions' den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favour of God and of man beam upon him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances, and to triumph through divine grace.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 255.

'Come out of her, My people'

9. What spiritual significance does prophecy reveal in the return of God's captive people from Babylon? Revelation 18:1-4. Compare Isaiah 48:20, Jeremiah 50:8.

NOTE: 'Today, as in the days of Elijah, the line of demarcation between God's commandment-keeping people and the worshipers of false gods is clearly drawn. "How long halt ye between two opinions?" Elijah cried; "if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). And the message for today is: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen. . . . Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:2-5). The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.' *Lift Him Up*, page 164.

10. What does it mean to come out of Babylon? 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

NOTE: 'In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark. Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, "both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond," to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. Revelation 13:16. The prophet of Patmos beholds "them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God," and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:2. Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming, a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation, God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them. God's word to His people is: "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters." "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 2 Corinthians 6: 17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9. God's people are to be distinguished as a people who serve Him fully, wholeheartedly, taking no honour to themselves, and remembering that by a most solemn covenant they have bound themselves to serve the Lord and Him only.' *Testimonies Volume 9*, pages 16-17.

'At that time'

11. What picture of conflict is revealed in the closing scenes of this world's history? Daniel 11:40-45, Revelation 16:12-16.

NOTE: 'All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies. But they are to be kept under control till the time shall come for the great battle of Armageddon. Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity. Evil angels unite their powers with evil men, and as they have been in constant conflict and attained an experience in the best modes of deception and battle, and have been strengthening for centuries, they will not yield the last great final contest without a desperate struggle. All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps. The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth. Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us.' *Maranatha*, page 257.

12. What promise is made to God's people in that time of test? Revelation 3:10.

NOTE: 'In the time of trial before us God's pledge of security will be placed upon those who have kept the word of His patience. Christ will say to His faithful ones: "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment until the indignation be overpast" (Isaiah 26:20). The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejectors of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful. The pillar of cloud which speaks wrath and terror to the transgressor of God's law is light and mercy and deliverance to those who have kept His commandments. The arm strong to smite the rebellious will be strong to deliver the loyal. Every faithful one will surely be gathered. "He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31).' *Conflict & Courage*, page 91.

Lesson 8: 'Heirs according to the promise'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine.' Exodus 19:5.

STUDY HELP: *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 374-382.

Introduction

'Give to Jesus your devotion where He is in the heavenly sanctuary; seek for the Holy Spirit as His representative wherever His people bow to worship Him. It becomes us to know Jesus by an experimental knowledge, as a personal Saviour. We should be gathering up every ray of divine light, not looking to old Jerusalem where Christ was once, but to the New Jerusalem where He is now. Let us be gathering from the tree of life that God has planted, leaves that shall be for the healing of the nations, and fruit, precious, life-giving fruit as food to the soul.' *Paulson Collection*, page 138.

'A light to the Gentiles'

1. What did God say about His choice of Israel as His chosen people? Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

NOTE: 'Those to whom the message of truth is spoken, seldom ask, "Is it true?" But, "Who are the men that present these doctrines?" They judge of the truth by the character of its advocates. Multitudes estimate it by the numbers who accept it; and the question is often asked, as of old, "Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed?" We cannot boast of large numbers, or of the patronage of the wealthy, or the great in the world's estimation. Here is not the source of our strength. God declared to Israel, through Moses, "The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people." The advocates of truth must hide in Jesus; He is their greatness, their power and efficiency.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, April 12, 1892.

2. What purpose were the people of Israel to fulfil? Isaiah 42:6. Compare Isaiah 43:9-10.

NOTE: 'It was God's purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him. To all the world the gospel invitation was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial service Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live. All who, like Rahab the Canaanite, and Ruth the Moabitess, turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God, were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, until their kingdom should embrace the world.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 290.

'If ye turn from Me'

3. What choice did God place before His people? Nehemiah 1:8-9.

NOTE: 'The law of God is simple, and easily understood. If the children of men would, to the best of their ability, obey this law, they would gain strength of mind and power of discernment to comprehend still more of God's purposes and plans. And this advancement would be continued, not only during the present life, but during eternal ages; for however far he may advance in the knowledge of God's wisdom and power, there is always an infinity beyond. Since "the law of the Lord is perfect," every variation from it must be evil. Obedience was the only condition upon which ancient Israel was to receive the fulfilment of the promises that made them the highly favoured people of God; and obedience to that law will bring as great blessings to individuals and nations now as it would have brought to the Hebrews.' *Sons & Daughters of God*, page 39.

4. What promises were made to the people of Israel on condition of their obedience? Exodus 19:4-6.

NOTE: 'They pledged themselves to obey all the words which the Lord had said. Moses then wrote their solemn pledge in a book and offered sacrifice unto God for the people. "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." The people repeated their solemn pledge to the Lord to do all that He had said, and to be obedient. (Exodus 24:7, 8.)' *The Story of Redemption*, page 144.

'We have sinned'

5. What was the reason for God permitting His people to be carried away into captivity? Daniel 9:5-6, 10-12.

NOTE: 'Because Israel had been chosen to preserve the knowledge of God in the earth, they had been, from their first existence as a nation, the special objects of Satan's enmity, and he had determined to cause their destruction. He could do them no harm while they were obedient to God; therefore he had bent all his power and cunning to enticing them into sin. Ensnared by his temptations they had transgressed the law of God and thus separated from the Source of their strength, and had been left to become the prey of their heathen enemies. They were carried into captivity to Babylon, and there remained for many years.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 467.

6. Upon what condition would God permit His chosen people to return to their land? 2 Chronicles 6:37-39.

NOTE: 'Yet they were not forsaken of the Lord. His prophets were sent to them with reproofs and warnings. The people were awakened to see their guilt, they humbled themselves before God, and returned to Him with true repentance. Then the Lord sent them messages of encouragement, declaring that He would deliver them from their captivity and restore them to His favour.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 467.

'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people'

7. What period of probation was allocated to the people of Israel to demonstrate their obedience to God? Daniel 9:24.

NOTE: 'The commandment of Artaxerxes for the restoration and building of Jerusalem went into effect in the autumn of 457 B.C. Taking this as the starting point, there was perfect harmony in the application of all the events foretold in the explanation of that period in Daniel 9:25-27. Sixty-nine weeks, the first 483 of the 2300 years, were to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One; and Christ's baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit, A.D. 27, exactly fulfilled the specification. In the midst of the seventieth week, Messiah was to be cut off. Three and a half years after His baptism, Christ was crucified, in the spring of A.D. 31. The seventy weeks, or 490 years, were to pertain especially to the Jews. At the expiration of this period the nation sealed its rejection of Christ by the persecution of His disciples, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles, A.D. 34.' *Great Controversy*, page 410.

8. What would happen to the city of Jerusalem and the temple as a result of the people's disobedience? Daniel 9:26-27. Compare Matthew 23:36-24:2.

NOTE: 'Jerusalem had been the child of His care, and as a tender father mourns over a wayward son, so Jesus wept over the beloved city. How can I give thee up? How can I see thee devoted to destruction? Must I let thee go to fill up the cup of thine iniquity? One soul is of such value that, in comparison with it, worlds sink into insignificance; but here was a whole nation to be lost. When the fast westering sun should pass from sight in the heavens, Jerusalem's day of grace would be ended. While the procession was halting on the brow of Olivet, it was not yet too late for Jerusalem to repent. The angel of mercy was then folding her wings to step down from the golden throne to give place to justice and swift-coming judgement. But Christ's great heart of love still pleaded for Jerusalem, that had scorned His mercies, despised His warnings, and was about to imbrue her hands in His blood. If Jerusalem would but repent, it was not yet too late. While the last rays of the setting sun were lingering on temple, tower, and pinnacle, would not some good angel lead her to the Saviour's love, and avert her doom? Beautiful and unholy city, that had stoned the prophets, that had rejected the Son of God, that was locking herself by her impenitence in fetters of bondage, her day of mercy was almost spent!' *Desire of Ages*, pages 577-578.

'The kingdom shall be taken from you'

9. With what words did Christ announce the rejection of the Jews as God's chosen people? To whom will the kingdom be given? Matthew 21:43.

NOTE: 'Christ would have averted the doom of the Jewish nation if the people had received Him. But envy and jealousy made them implacable. They determined that they would not receive Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. They rejected the Light of the world, and thenceforth their lives were surrounded with darkness as the darkness of midnight. The doom foretold came upon the Jewish nation. Their own fierce passions, uncontrolled, wrought their ruin. In their blind rage they destroyed one another. Their rebellious, stubborn pride brought upon them the wrath of their Roman conquerors. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple laid in ruins, and its site ploughed like a field. The children of Judah perished by the most horrible forms of death. Millions were sold, to serve as bondmen in heathen lands. As a people the Jews had failed of fulfilling God's purpose, and the vineyard was taken from them. The privileges they had abused, the work they had slighted, were entrusted to others.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 295-296.

10. Who are the ones to whom the kingdom has been committed? 1 Peter 2:7-9.

NOTE: 'The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organised for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvellous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places" (Ephesians 3:10), the final and full display of the love of God.' *Reflecting Christ*, page 196.

'Not all Israel which are of Israel'

11. How does Paul show that mere physical descent from Abraham is not sufficient to inherit God's promise? Romans 9:8.

NOTE: 'All who through Christ should become the children of faith were to be counted as Abraham's seed; they were inheritors of the covenant promises; like Abraham, they were called to guard and to make known to the world the law of God and the gospel of His Son.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 476.

'Christ declares that lineal connection is superseded by spiritual connection. The Jews were indeed Abraham's seed according to the flesh, but they manifested a spirit very different from the spirit of righteous Abraham. By their unbelief and persistent

rejection of truth they disinherited themselves. Abraham obeyed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. By their works the Jews showed that they bore no real relationship to Abraham.’ *Signs of the Times*, August 29, 1900.

12. Who are the heirs of the promise today? Galatians 3:28-29.

NOTE: ‘That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has “let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen,” even to His covenant-keeping people, who faithfully “render Him the fruits in their seasons.” Never has the Lord been without true representatives on this earth who have made His interests their own. These witnesses for God are numbered among the spiritual Israel, and to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people.’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 713.

Lesson 9: ‘The Everlasting Gospel’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.’ Revelation 14:6.

STUDY HELP: *God’s Amazing Grace*, pages 29-36.

Introduction

‘The gospel is the power and wisdom of God, if it is correctly represented by those who claim to be Christians. Christ crucified for our sins should humble every soul before God in his own estimation. Christ risen from the dead, ascended on high, our living Intercessor in the presence of God, is the science of salvation, which we need to learn and teach.’ *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 262.

‘The power of God unto salvation’

1. What message does the prophet foretell is to be given to the world before Jesus returns? Revelation 14:6.

NOTE: ‘It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ’s grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a sceptical world. If we would draw sinners out of the swift-running current, our own feet must be firmly set upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and loveable Christian.’ *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pages 99-100.

2. How does Paul define the gospel? Romans 1:16.

NOTE: ‘The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 826.

‘The gospel is too often presented in so indifferent a manner as to make but little impression upon the consciences or the lives of men. Everywhere there are hearts crying out for something which they have not. They long for a power that will give them mastery over sin, a power that will deliver them from the bondage of evil, a power that will give health and life and peace.’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page. 32.

‘The fear of the Lord’

3. What is the first component of the everlasting gospel? Revelation 14:7, first part.

NOTE: ‘By the first angel, men are called upon to “fear God, and give glory to Him” and to worship Him as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. In order to do this, they must obey His law. Says the wise man: “Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13. Without obedience to His commandments no worship can be pleasing to God. “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.” “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” 1 John 5:3; Proverbs 28:9.’ *Great Controversy*, page 436.

4. What does it mean to fear God? Psalm 34:11-14. Compare Deuteronomy 6:2, 8:6, 13:4, 17:19, 28:58, 31:12, Psalm 111:10, Ecclesiastes 12:13.

NOTE: ‘That men may be prepared to stand in the judgement, the message commands them to “fear God, and give glory to Him,” “and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” The result of an acceptance of these messages is given in the word: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” In order to be prepared for the judgement, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the judgement. The apostle Paul declares: “As many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law, . . . in the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.”’ *Great Controversy*, page 436.

‘Glorify your Father which is in heaven’

5. What is the second component of the everlasting gospel? Revelation 14:7, first part. See Exodus 33:18-19, 34:6-7.

NOTE: 'False views of God, and hence of Christ, are largely entertained today. Well may we offer the prayer of Moses, "Show me Thy glory." What did the Lord answer? "I will make all My goodness pass before thee." God might have answered Moses: "Why do you ask this question? Have I not revealed to you My glory in the deliverance of My people from Egyptian bondage? Did I not deliver you by the right arm of My power, and lead you dry shod through the midst of the Red Sea? Did I not reveal My glory in giving you bread from heaven? Did I not bring you water out of the flinty rock? Have you not looked upon My glory in the pillar of fire by night, and the cloud by day?" Moses might have answered that all this only kindled his desire for greater manifestations of God's power. The Lord granted the prayer of Moses, and He desires to answer us in the same way. We need to have our perceptions quickened, our hearts enlarged, that we may comprehend His glory, His goodness, His forgiveness, His forbearance, His inexpressible love.' *Signs of the Times*, October 17, 1892.

6. How may people give glory to God? Matthew 5:16.

NOTE: 'Oh, how much we have lost as a people by our lack of faith! We have suffered loss to our own souls, and have failed to reveal to others, by our words and in our character, what Christ is and will be to everyone who comes to Him believing. He is "made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." To give glory to God is to reveal His character in our own, and thus make Him known. And in whatever way we make known the Father or the Son, we glorify God.' *Signs of the Times*, October 17, 1892.

'The Lord made the heavens'

7. What is the third component of the everlasting gospel? Revelation 14:7, last part.

NOTE: 'The prophet [Isaiah] exalted God as Creator of all. His message to the cities of Judah was, "Behold your God!" Isaiah 40:9. "Thus saith God the Lord, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it;" "I am the Lord that maketh all things;" "I form the light, and create darkness;" "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even My hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded." Isaiah 42:5; 44:24; 45:7, 12. "To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." Isaiah 40:25, 26.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 315.

8. How does the Lord ask us to worship Him as Creator of all? Exodus 20:8-11.

NOTE: 'It [the fourth commandment] is the only one of the ten which defines the living God who created the heavens and the earth and all things that are therein. When the foundations of the earth were laid, then was also laid the foundation of the Sabbath. I was shown that if the true Sabbath had been kept there would never have been an infidel or an atheist. The observance of the Sabbath would have preserved the world from idolatry. The fourth commandment has been trampled upon, therefore we are called upon to repair the breach in the law and plead for the broken down Sabbath. The man of sin who exalted himself above God, and thought to change times and laws, brought about the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. In doing this he made a breach in the law of God. Just prior to the great day of God, a message is sent forth to warn the people to come back to their allegiance to the law of God which antichrist has broken down. Attention must be called to the breach in the law by precept and example. I was shown that the third angel proclaiming the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, represents the people who receive this message and raise the voice of warning to the world, to keep the commandments of God and His law as the apple of the eye, and that in response to this warning many would embrace the Sabbath of the Lord.'" *Life Sketches (1888 ed.)* page 236.

'The gospel of peace'

9. What means has been provided to enable mankind to be obedient to God? Psalm 119:11.

NOTE: 'So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character. And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. "It is written," He said. And unto us are given "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. Every promise in God's word is ours. "By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours. "Thy word," says the psalmist, "have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." "By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer." Psalm 119:11; 17:4.' *Desire of Ages*, page 123.

10. How may we lay hold on this power to make us Christlike in character? 2 Peter 1:3-4.

NOTE: "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what [is] His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.' *Desire of Ages*, page 121.

‘The just shall live by faith’

11. How does the prophet describe the experience of living the gospel? Habakkuk 2:4, last part.

NOTE: ‘Every Christian must stand on guard continually, watching every avenue of the soul where Satan might find access. He must pray for divine help and at the same time resolutely resist every inclination to sin. By courage, by faith, by persevering toil, he can conquer. But let him remember that to gain the victory Christ must abide in him and he in Christ.’ *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 47.

‘This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. Paul admonishes believers: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13. The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, but he will maintain a constant warfare against it. Here is where Christ’s help is needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims: “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.’ *Great Controversy*, page 469.

12. What warning is given concerning those who fail to obey the gospel? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, 1 Peter 4:17.

NOTE: ‘It is difficult to exercise living faith when we are in darkness and discouragement. But this of all others is the very time when we should exercise faith. “But,” says one, “I do not feel at such times like praying in faith.” Well, then, will you allow Satan to gain the victory, simply because you do not feel like resisting him? When he sees that you have the greatest need of divine aid, he will try the hardest to beat you back from God. If he can keep you away from the Source of strength, he knows that you will walk in darkness and sin. There is no sin greater than unbelief. And when there is unbelief in the heart, there is danger that it will be expressed. The lips should be kept in as with bit and bridle, lest by giving expression to this unbelief you not only exert an injurious influence over others, but place yourselves upon the enemy’s ground.’ *My Life Today*, page 14.

13. What assurance are we given that the gospel work will be complete in God’s people by the time Jesus comes? 1 John 3:2.

NOTE: ‘Those who are looking for the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, in life and character will seek to represent Him to the world. “And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure” (1 John 3:3). They will hate sin and iniquity, even as Christ hated sin. They will keep the commandments of God, as Christ kept His Father’s commandments. They will realise that it is not enough to acquiesce in the doctrines of truth, but that the truth must be applied to the heart, practised in the life, in order that the followers of Christ may be one with Him, and that men may be as pure in their sphere as God is in His sphere.’ *Faith & Works*, page 115.

‘Then, in the results of His work, Christ will behold its recompense. In that great multitude which no man could number, presented “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24), He whose blood has redeemed and whose life has taught us, “shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied.” Isaiah 53:11.’ *Education*, page 309.

Lesson 10: ‘Babylon is fallen’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ Revelation 18:4.

STUDY HELP: *Great Controversy*, pages 381-390.

Introduction

‘The term “Babylon” is derived from “Babel,” and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion. In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church.’ *Great Controversy*, page 381.

‘The beginning of his kingdom was Babel’

1. What are we told about the origins of Babylon? Genesis 10:8-10.

NOTE: ‘Those who desired to forget their Creator and to cast off the restraint of His law felt a constant annoyance from the teaching and example of their God-fearing associates, and after a time they decided to separate from the worshipers of God. Accordingly they journeyed to the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the river Euphrates. They were attracted by the beauty of the situation and the fertility of the soil, and upon this plain they determined to make their home. Here they decided to build a city, and in it a tower of such stupendous height as should render it the wonder of the world. These enterprises were designed to prevent the people from scattering abroad in colonies. God had directed men to disperse throughout the earth, to replenish and subdue it; but these Babel builders determined to keep their community united in one body, and to found a monarchy that should eventually embrace the whole earth. Thus their city would become the metropolis of a universal empire; its glory would command the admiration and homage of the world and render the founders illustrious. The magnificent tower, reaching to the

heavens, was intended to stand as a monument of the power and wisdom of its builders, perpetuating their fame to the latest generations.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 118.

2. What went wrong in early Babylon? Genesis 11:2-6.

NOTE: 'The dwellers on the plain of Shinar disbelieved God's covenant that He would not again bring a flood upon the earth. Many of them denied the existence of God and attributed the Flood to the operation of natural causes. Others believed in a Supreme Being, and that it was He who had destroyed the antediluvian world; and their hearts, like that of Cain, rose up in rebellion against Him. One object before them in the erection of the tower was to secure their own safety in case of another deluge. By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the Flood, they thought to place themselves beyond all possibility of danger. And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain the cause of the Flood. The whole undertaking was designed to exalt still further the pride of its projectors and to turn the minds of future generations away from God and lead them into idolatry. When the tower had been partially completed, a portion of it was occupied as a dwelling place for the builders; other apartments, splendidly furnished and adorned, were devoted to their idols.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 119.

'The dragon gave him his power'

3. How did Babylon treat the sacred things of God's temple? Daniel 5:2-4.

NOTE: 'How were those punished who in olden time made light of what God had chosen as sacred to Himself? Belshazzar and his thousand lords profaned the golden vessels of Jehovah and praised the idols of Babylon. But the God whom they defied was a witness of the unholy scene. In the midst of their sacrilegious mirth a bloodless hand was seen tracing mysterious characters upon the palace wall. Filled with terror, king and courtiers heard their doom pronounced by the servant of the Most High. Let those who delight to trace words of calumny and falsehood against the servants of Christ remember that God is a witness of their deeds. Their slanderous touch is not profaning soulless vessels but the characters of those whom Christ has purchased by His blood. The hand which traced the characters upon the walls of Belshazzar's palace keeps faithful record of every act of injustice or oppression committed against God's people.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 244.

4. How are we shown that Satan is the real power behind Babylon? Isaiah 14:12-15. Compare verse 4 and see Revelation 13:2.

NOTE: 'Today, as in the days of Babylon, the accuser of the brethren is working through human agencies to hurt and destroy those who are dear to the Lord. Men in power do not realize that they cannot in justice control the minds of their fellowmen, and Satan works through them to corrupt right dealing. Those who try to keep the commandments of God will meet with much opposition. Satanic attributes will take possession of the hearts of men, making them as hard as steel; and all who depart from evil will make themselves a prey to the hatred of those that refuse to obey the law of God.' *Signs of the Times*, May 13, 1897. 'The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord, Satan will work "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness;" and they that "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved," will be left to receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete.' *Great Controversy*, page 389.

'Is not this great Babylon?'

5. How did the greatest king of Babylon show his rebellion against the God of heaven? Daniel 3:1-6.

NOTE: 'The symbolic representation by which God had revealed to king and people His purpose for the nations of earth was now to be made to serve for the glorification of human power. Daniel's interpretation was to be rejected and forgotten; truth was to be misinterpreted and misapplied. The symbol designed of Heaven to unfold to the minds of men important events of the future, was to be used to hinder the spread of the knowledge that God desired the world to receive. Thus through the devisings of ambitious men, Satan was seeking to thwart the divine purpose for the human race. The enemy of mankind knew that truth unmixed with error is a power mighty to save; but that when used to exalt self and to further the projects of men, it becomes a power for evil. From his rich store of treasure, Nebuchadnezzar caused to be made a great golden image, similar in its general features to that which had been seen in vision, save in the one particular of the material of which it was composed.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 505.

6. What characteristic did Nebuchadnezzar manifest? Daniel 4:30.

NOTE: 'The king failed of recognising the power that had exalted him. Nebuchadnezzar in the pride of his heart said: "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" Daniel 4:30. Instead of being a protector of men, Babylon became a proud and cruel oppressor. The words of Inspiration picturing the cruelty and greed of rulers in Israel reveal the secret of Babylon's fall and of the fall of many another kingdom since the world began: "Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them." Ezekiel 34:3, 4. To the ruler of Babylon came the sentence of the divine Watcher: O king, "to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee." Daniel 4:31.' *Education*, pages 175-176.

'Drunken with the blood of the saints'

7. How was spiritual Babylon pictured to John in vision? Revelation 17:3-5.

NOTE: 'The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet colour, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome. And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation. Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolised churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt.' *Great Controversy*, page 382.

It is interesting to note that, while spiritual Babylon manifests some of the ornaments of the sanctuary, purple, scarlet, gold and precious stones, the blue, which represents God's law (see Numbers 15:38-40), is nowhere to be found.

8. What characteristic especially did John see as he contemplated Babylon? Revelation 17:6.

NOTE: 'In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy, the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human eyes. "Babylon the great" was "drunken with the blood of the saints." The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power.' *Great Controversy*, page 59.

'Satan's agents have not been sparing of the blood of the saints. Christ's true followers are kind, tender, pitiful.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 19*, page 159.

'I will tell thee the mystery'

9. What does an impure woman signify in Bible prophecy? Jeremiah 3:6-8, Ezekiel 23:1-5,11.

NOTE: 'The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow. The sin of Israel in departing from the Lord is presented under this figure; and the wonderful love of God which they thus despised is touchingly portrayed: "I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest Mine." "And thou wast exceeding beautiful and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee. . . . But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown." "As a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord;" "as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!" Ezekiel 16:8, 13-15, 32; Jeremiah 3:20. In the New Testament, language very similar is addressed to professed Christians who seek the friendship of the world above the favour of God. Says the apostle James: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." *Great Controversy*, pages 381-382.

10. What did the prophet John see in Babylon's hand? Revelation 17:4, last part. Compare Revelation 14:8, Revelation 18:3.

NOTE: 'The great sin charged against Babylon is, that she "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world, represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth. Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ... The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abominations of Babylon, of which she makes all nations drink. That ministers of Christ should have accepted this heresy and proclaimed it from the sacred desk, is indeed a mystery. They received it from Rome, as they received the false sabbath... Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.' *Great Controversy*, pages 388, 536, 382.

'The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy, sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches.' *Evangelism*, page 365.

'Come out of her, My people'

11. What call must be given to those of God's people who are still in Babylon? Revelation 18:4.

NOTE: 'God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgements these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and "receive not of her plagues." Hence the movement symbolised by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In

connection with his message the call is heard: "Come out of her, My people." These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.' *Great Controversy*, page 604.

12. What peril awaits those who choose to remain in Babylon? Revelation 18:4, 8. Compare Revelation 16:19, Revelation 17:16.

NOTE: "The warning from heaven is: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." Revelation 14:9, 10. But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.' *Great Controversy*, pages 604-605.

Lesson 11: 'And the third angel followed them'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12.

STUDY HELP: *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 90-96.

Introduction

'There is much light yet to shine forth from the law of God and the gospel of righteousness. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will lighten the earth with its glory. The great decisive question is to be brought before all nations, tongues, and peoples. The closing work of the third angel's message will be attended with a power that will send the rays of the Sun of Righteousness into all the highways and byways of life, and decisions will be made for God.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 2*, page 58.

'If any man worship the beast and his image'

1. What final message of warning is given to mankind just before the return of Jesus? Revelation 14:9-12.

NOTE: 'We each have work to do, the work of proclaiming to the world the last message of warning. In clear, distinct tones we must give this message; but I greatly fear that, though we have had such great light, we are not as earnest as we should be. Let us study the words: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10. Just such an experience as this is what we need today. We need the Holy Spirit and assurance. Living power must attend the message of Christ's second coming in the clouds of heaven. We must not rest until we see many souls converted to the blessed hope of the Lord's appearing. The message wrought a real work that turned souls from idols to serve the living God. The work to be done today is just as real, and the truth is just as much truth; only we are to give the message with as much more earnestness as the coming of the Lord is nearer. The message for this time is positive, simple, and of the deepest importance. We must act like men and women who believe. We are not half awake to the perils and the dangers that we must be prepared to meet. Waiting, watching, working, praying, warning the world, this is our work.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 10*, page 383.

2. What momentous event immediately follows the close of the Third Angel's message? Revelation 14: 14-20.

NOTE: 'Men are rushing on in the chase for gain and selfish indulgence as if there were no God, no heaven, and no hereafter. In Noah's day the warning of the flood was sent to startle men in their wickedness and call them to repentance. So the message of Christ's soon coming is designed to arouse men from their absorption in worldly things. It is intended to awaken them to a sense of eternal realities, that they may give heed to the invitation to the Lord's table. The gospel invitation is to be given to all the world, "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6. The last message of warning and mercy is to lighten the whole earth with its glory. It is to reach all classes of men, rich and poor, high and low. "Go out into the highways and hedges," Christ says, "and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled." The world is perishing for want of the gospel. There is a famine for the word of God. There are few who preach the word unmixed with human tradition. Though men have the Bible in their hands, they do not receive the blessing that God has placed in it for them. The Lord calls upon His servants to carry His message to the people. The word of everlasting life must be given to those who are perishing in their sins.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 228.

'The beast and his image'

3. Who is the beast? Revelation 14:9. Compare Revelation 13:1-8, 18, Daniel 7:8, 24-25.

NOTE: 'In chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, "like unto a leopard," to which the dragon gave "his power, and his seat, and great authority." This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire. Of the leopardlike beast it is declared: "There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy.' *Great Controversy*, page 439.

4. What is the image to the beast? Revelation 14:9, Revelation 13:15-17.

NOTE: 'When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of 'heresy.' In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.' *Great Controversy*, page 443.

'The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.' *Great Controversy*, page 445.

'He causeth all to receive a mark'

5. What effort will be made to enforce the worship of the beast and the image to the beast? Revelation 13:14-17.

NOTE: 'The change of the Sabbath is the sign or mark of the authority of the Romish church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God's appointment. No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come. There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.' *Evangelism*, page 234.

6. What parallel work is done for God's people? Revelation 7:1-3.

NOTE: 'Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads, it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved, just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgements of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.' *Maranatha*, page 200.

'The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord's memorial of creation. 'The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you.' Exodus 31:12, 13. Here the Sabbath is clearly designated as a sign between God and His people. The mark of the beast is the opposite of this - the observance of the first day of the week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God.' *Testimonies Volume 8 page 117*.

'Receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand'

7. How may the mark of the beast be received? Revelation 13:16.

NOTE: 'The Sabbath is the sign of God; it is the seal of His Law. Isaiah 8:16. It is the token of His authority and power. It is a sign whereby 'we may know' that He is God, and therefore it is appropriately said to be placed 'in the forehead.' The worshippers of the Beast (Revelation 13) are said to receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands. As the forehead represents the intellect, the hand represents power, as Psalm 89:48, 'Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?' Compulsory worship is not acceptable to God; His servants are sealed only in their foreheads. But it is acceptable to wicked powers; it has always been craved by the Romish hierarchy.' *Spirit of Prophecy Volume Four, Appendix, page 505*.

8. What solemn warning is to be given to those who receive the mark of the beast? Revelation 14:9-11.

NOTE: 'The world and the churches are breaking God's law, and the warning must be given, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation." With such a curse hanging over the transgressors of God's holy Sabbath, should we not show greater earnestness, greater zeal? Why are we so indifferent, so selfish, so engrossed in temporal interests? Is our interest separated from Jesus? Has the truth become too pointed, too close in its application to our souls; and like the disciples of Christ who were offended, have we turned away to the beggarly elements of the world? We spend money for selfish purposes, and gratify our own desires, while souls are dying without a knowledge of Jesus and the truth. How long shall this continue?' *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 51.

'The wrath of God'

9. What is the wrath of God? Revelation 15:1. Read Revelation 16:1-21.

NOTE: 'Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God, or be cut down by the destroying weapons. Already a few drops of God's wrath have fallen upon the earth; but when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever too late to repent, and find shelter. No atoning blood will then wash away the stains of sin.' *Christian Experience & Teachings*, page 187.

'These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgements upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgement, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 340.

10. What distinguishes this outpouring from previous expressions of God's wrath? Revelation 14:10, first half.

NOTE The Greek word 'akratos' means 'undiluted,' full strength. The fire and brimstone, mentioned in the second part of the verse recalls the judgement of God upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

'That wrath "is poured out without mixture;" for then judgement falls upon the incorrigible without mercy, because our Saviour will then have finished His priestly work and He will come, not to offer salvation but to take vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9. But the throne of God will be clear and sinners will be without excuse; for the warnings of the Scriptures are given in no uncertain language. To the impious the Lord says: "Because I have called and ye refused, I have stretched out My hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all My counsel and would none of My reproof: I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call on Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find Me." Proverbs 1:24-28. And the warning of the last message is going to all the world. It also is clear and decisive in its utterance. "The Commandments of God," which it enforces, are not obscure or hard to be understood. The Fourth says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." This was the Lord's day, His holy day, from the Creation of the world. He claims no other as His; He sanctified no other; He never commanded any other to be observed. They who turn away from a truth so plain, who reject a warning so solemn, will have no answer to make when the Lord commands them to depart. But terrible as these words of threatening are, the message is given in mercy. It is a last effort on the part of the Lord to arouse men to a sense of their danger, to induce them to turn from their evil ways, from their transgressions of His holy law, that they may have eternal life. The Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Ezekiel 33:11. But if they will not come unto Him that they may have life, if they follow the multitude to do evil, rather than to walk in the way of God's Commandments, then they must bear their iniquity. Their blood will be upon their own heads. God gives them the power to choose and warns them against the evil which lies before them. Against all His entreaties, they do despite to the Spirit of grace and trample on the precious blood of Christ, which was shed for their redemption.' *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 4, Appendix*, pages 500-501.

11. What does Jude say about the fire of Sodom and Gomorrah and how does this help us to understand the smoke of torment ascending forever and ever? Jude verse 7.

NOTE: The fire that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah is not burning today, but the destruction that fire caused is eternal. Those cities will never be rebuilt.

"The Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." Isaiah 26:21. "And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold everyone on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour." Zechariah 14:12, 13. In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God's unmingled wrath, fall the wicked inhabitants of the earth, priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. "And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried." Jeremiah 25:33. At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth, consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory.' *Great Controversy*, pages 656-657.

'Here are they'

12. In contrast to those who have worshipped the beast and his image, what three qualities identify God's saints? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: **Patience:** 'It is difficult to hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; and the difficulty increases when there are hidden influences constantly at work to bring in another spirit, a counterworking element, on Satan's side of the question. In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds. Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds. When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine.' *Maranatha*, page 28.

Keep the commandments of God: 'But when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous? Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, will God's commandment-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never! Not one who

is abiding in Christ will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority than that of any earthly potentate. While the contempt placed upon God's commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths. We are not left to our own direction. We should consult His Word with humble hearts, ask His counsel, and give up our will to His. We can do nothing without God.' *Maranatha*, page 28.

Have the faith of Jesus: 'What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.' *Selected Messages Book 3*, page 172.

'You must plant your feet on the promises of God's word, you must walk after the example of Jesus, and learn to live by faith.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 5, 1891.

Lesson 12: 'The time of the end'

MEMORY VERSE: 'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.' Isaiah 25:8.

STUDY HELP: *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 507-512.

Introduction

'I should rejoice greatly to see the spirit of confession followed up throughout the church. Many are now obtaining a glimpse of their true condition and of their real necessities. If they persevere, make thorough work, and continue to draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to them and will lift up for them a standard against the enemy. There will certainly be an outpouring of the Spirit of God.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 3*, page 197.

'At the time of the end'

1. What term does the Bible use for the closing period of this world's history? Daniel 8:17. Compare Daniel 11:35, 40, Daniel 12:4, 9.

NOTE: 'We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord's coming in glory as near at hand.' *Desire of Ages*, page 235.

'We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgements are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.' *Lift Him Up*, page 356.

2. What things were predicted to happen at the time of the end? Daniel 12:4.

NOTE: 'The prediction of Daniel, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4), is to be fulfilled in our giving of the warning message; many are to be enlightened regarding the sure word of prophecy.' *The Upward Look*, page 37.

'The primary or literal meaning here is that of a movement of people hither and thither. The same language appears in Jeremiah 5:1 and in Amos 8:12. It is not difficult to see in this language a vivid description of our modern times, with air travel and automobiles in every part of the world... The connection of this passage with what has gone before and what follows strongly suggests that it may more especially refer to a searching back and forth through these prophecies of Daniel to know their true meaning. [See Daniel 12:9.] In either case the statement here has been strikingly fulfilled... Remarks similar to those above might be made concerning ["knowledge shall be increased"]. In both the literal and the secondary senses, it has been most strikingly fulfilled. Knowledge in general, also knowledge of the meaning of the prophecies, has been enormously increased.' Price: *The Greatest of the Prophets*, page 331.

'The hour of His judgement is come'

3. What major event takes place at the time of the end? Revelation 14:6-7. Compare Daniel 8:14.

NOTE: 'In the typical system, which was a shadow of the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ, the cleansing of the sanctuary was the last service performed by the high priest in the yearly round of ministration. It was the closing work of the atonement, a removal or putting away of sin from Israel. It prefigured the closing work in the ministration of our High Priest in heaven, in the removal or blotting out of the sins of His people, which are registered in the heavenly records. This service involves a work of investigation, a work of judgement; and it immediately precedes the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; for when He comes, every case has been decided. Says Jesus: "My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. It is this work of judgement, immediately preceding the second advent, that is announced in the first angel's message of Revelation 14:7: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgement is come." *Great Controversy*, page 352.

4. What pronouncement is made to conclude the judgement? Revelation 22:11-12.

NOTE: 'We must work while the day lasts, for when the dark night of trouble and anguish comes, it will be too late to work for God. Jesus is in His holy temple and will now accept our sacrifices, our prayers, and our confessions of faults and sins and will pardon all the transgressions of Israel, that they may be blotted out before He leaves the sanctuary. When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy will be unjust and filthy still; for then there will be no Priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father's throne. Therefore what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath must be done before Jesus leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.' *Early Writings*, page 48.

'Ask ye of the Lord rain'

5. What will enable the church to finish the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel? Acts 2:17.

NOTE: "Every individual must realise his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognise the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 507.

6. What symbol is used to describe this final outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Joel 2:23, 28. Compare James 5:7.

NOTE: "In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilising showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 506.

'The removing of those things that are shaken'

7. How does the prophet Amos picture the process of sorting out the people of God? Amos 9:9. Compare Hebrews 12:24-27.

NOTE: 'God's people will be tested and proved. The plain and pointed testimony must act a prominent part in this work. In these days of darkness and peril who is able to stand and speak the whole truth? Multitudes of teachers prophesy smooth things. They see no special cause of alarm in the present condition of the professed people of God. The people are asleep, and the teachers are asleep. They cry, Peace, peace, and the multitude that hear believe their report and are at ease. This makes the necessity greater for faithful teachers to bear the pointed, faithful testimony. The present is a time of scouring and purifying, a time of warfare and trial. The house of Israel is being sifted, even as corn is sifted in a sieve. The chaff must be removed, and it will require close work to separate the chaff from the kernels of grain. God's discerning eye will detect the smallest particle of chaff, and yet He will not cause to fall upon the ground the least kernel of grain.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 26, 1861.

8. How did Jesus picture this sorting process? Matthew 12:24-30, Matthew 25:31-33, Matthew 7:21-27.

NOTE: 'In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them. The Lord has faithful servants, who in the shaking, testing time will be disclosed to view. There are precious ones now hidden who have not bowed the knee to Baal. They have not had the light which has been shining in a concentrated blaze upon you. But, it may be under a rough and uninviting exterior the pure brightness of a genuine Christian character will be revealed. In the daytime we look toward heaven, but do not see stars. They are there, fixed in the firmament, but the eye cannot distinguish them. In the night we behold their genuine lustre. The time is not far distant, when the test will come to every soul. In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.' *Testimonies*, Volume 5, pages 80, 81.

'I counsel thee'

9. What counsel especially does God's people need to heed? Revelation 3:15-20.

NOTE: "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will

lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.' *Early Writings*, page 270.

10. How does the prophet describe those who are ready for the coming of Jesus? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: "The counsel of the true Witness does not represent those who are lukewarm as in a hopeless case. There is yet a chance to remedy their state, and the Laodicean message is full of encouragement; for the backslidden church may yet buy the gold of faith and love, may yet have the white robe of the righteousness of Christ, that the shame of their nakedness need not appear. Purity of heart, purity of motive, may yet characterise those who are half-hearted and who are striving to serve God and mammon. They may yet wash their robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, Aug. 28, 1894.

'A time of trouble'

11. What period of test awaits the people of God before the coming of Christ? Daniel 12:1. Compare Revelation 13:15-17.

NOTE: "Many do not realise what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.' *Early Writings*, page 71.

12. What promise is given to God's people who live through the time of trouble? Daniel 12:1, Jeremiah 30:7.

NOTE: "From garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains and deserts, from the caves of the earth and the caverns of the sea, Christ will gather His children to Himself. On earth they have been destitute, afflicted, and tormented. Millions have gone down to the grave loaded with infamy because they refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals the children of God have been adjudged the vilest criminals. But the day is near when "God is judge Himself." (Psalm 50:6). Then the decisions of earth shall be reversed. "The rebuke of His people shall He take away." Isaiah 25:8. White robes will be given to every one of them. (Revelation 6:11.) And "they shall call them the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord." Isaiah 62:12. Whatever crosses they have been called to bear, whatever losses they have sustained, whatever persecution they have suffered, even to the loss of their temporal life, the children of God are amply recompensed. "They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads." Revelation 22:4.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 179-180.

Lesson 13: 'In like manner'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.' Isaiah 25:9.

STUDY HELP: *Great Controversy*, pages 635-652.

Introduction

'Shall we say we have been deceived in regard to the doctrine of Christ's near coming? Shall we declare that all our talking of His appearing has been in vain? Shall we say that all our work to make ready a people, prepared for His coming, has been for nought? Never. We are not to become impatient and fretful, because time still lingers. We are to wait patiently for the work of God to be accomplished.' *Second Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 31, 1888.

'I will come again'

1. What promise did Christ give concerning His return? John 14:1-3.

NOTE: 'While the attention of worldlings is turned to various enterprises, ours should be to the heavens; our faith should reach further and further into the glorious mysteries of the heavenly treasure, drawing the precious, divine rays of light from the heavenly sanctuary to shine in our hearts, as they shine upon the face of Jesus. The scoffers mock the waiting, watching ones, and inquire: "Where is the promise of His coming? You have been disappointed. Engage now with us, and you will prosper in worldly things. Get gain, get money, and be honoured of the world." The waiting ones look upward and answer: "We are watching." And by turning from earthly pleasure and worldly fame, and from the deceitfulness of riches, they show themselves to be in that position. By watching they become strong; they overcome sloth and selfishness and love of ease. Affliction's fire kindles upon them, and the waiting time seems long. They sometimes grieve, and faith falters; but they rally again, overcome their fears and doubts, and while their eyes are directed heavenward, say to their adversaries: "I am watching, I am waiting the return of my Lord. I will glory in tribulation, in affliction, in necessities.'" *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 194-195.

2. How did Christ describe the manner of His coming? Luke 21:27. Compare Matthew 16:27, Matthew 24:30, Luke 9:26.

NOTE: 'Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a "man of sorrows," to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. "Faithful and True," "in righteousness he doth judge and make war." And "the armies which were in heaven" (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms, "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendour. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. And His brightness was as the light." Habakkuk 3:3, 4. As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life.' *Maranatha*, page 288.

'Sudden destruction cometh upon them'

3. Will the world be prepared to meet Him? Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7.

NOTE: 'Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, "All things continue as they were from the beginning." "Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant." 2 Peter 3:4; Isaiah 56:12. We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But Christ says, "Behold, I come as a thief." Revelation 16:15. At the very time when the world is asking in scorn, "Where is the promise of His coming?" the signs are fulfilling. While they cry, "Peace and safety," sudden destruction is coming. When the scorner, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief.' *Desire of Ages*, page 635.

4. What will the majority be doing when Christ returns? Matthew 24:37-39.

NOTE: 'There are in the world today many who close their eyes to the evidences that Christ has given to warn men of His coming. They seek to quiet all apprehension, while at the same time the signs of the end are rapidly fulfilling, and the world is hastening to the time when the Son of man shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven. Paul teaches that it is sinful to be indifferent to the signs which are to precede the second coming of Christ. Those guilty of this neglect he calls children of the night and of darkness. He encourages the vigilant and watchful with these words: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 260.

'The Lord Himself'

5. What did the angels assure the disciples concerning the return of Jesus? Acts 1:10-11.

NOTE: 'The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service. The same voice that had said to them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end," would bid them welcome to His presence in the heavenly kingdom.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 33.

6. How did the apostle Paul describe Christ's return? 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

NOTE: 'Christ had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. The disciples had beheld the cloud receive Him. The same Jesus who had walked and talked and prayed with them; who had broken bread with them; who had been with them in their boats on the lake; and who had that very day toiled with them up the ascent of Olivet, the same Jesus had now gone to share His Father's throne. And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven, would come again even as He had ascended. He will come "with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise." "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." Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 25:31. Thus will be fulfilled the Lord's own promise to His disciples: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3. Well might the disciples rejoice in the hope of their Lord's return.' *Desire of Ages*, page 832.

‘Behold I have told you before’

7. What warnings did Jesus give about false teaching about the Second Coming? Matthew 24:23-26.

NOTE: ‘Satan is preparing his deceptions that, in his last campaign against the people of God, they may not understand that it is he. “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” Satan will go to the extent of his power to harass, tempt, and mislead God’s people. Satan will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. What shall we do? Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe, who is man’s worst enemy, yet who claims to be God. The time is coming when Satan will work miracles right in your sight, claiming that he is Christ; and if your feet are not firmly established upon the truth of God, then you will be led away from your foundation. In the last days he [Satan] will appear in such a manner as to make men believe him to be Christ come the second time into the world. He will indeed transform himself into an angel of light. But while he will bear the appearance of Christ in every particular, so far as mere appearance goes, it will deceive none but those who are seeking to resist the truth.’ *The Truth About Angels*, page 270.

8. How visible will Christ’s Second Coming be? Matthew 24:27.

NOTE: ‘Christ is coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Who will meet Him in peace? Who will be among that number to whom the words apply, “He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe”?’ It is called the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. His coming surpasses in glory all that the eye has ever seen. Far exceeding anything the imagination has conceived will be His personal revelation in the clouds of heaven. Then there will be a perfect contrast to the humility which attended His first advent. Then He came as the Son of the infinite God, but His glory was concealed by the garb of humanity. Then He came without any worldly distinction of royalty, without any visible manifestation of glory; but at His second appearing He comes with His own glory and the glory of the Father and attended by the angelic host of heaven. In the place of that crown of thorns which marred His brow, He wears a crown within a crown. No longer is He clad with the garments of humility, with the old kingly robe placed upon Him by His mockers. No: He comes clad in a robe whiter than the whitest white. Upon His vesture and thigh a name is inscribed, “King of kings, and Lord of lords.”’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 357.

‘A place for you’

9. What is the purpose of Christ’s return? John 14:2-3.

NOTE: ‘The object of Christ’s departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. He was going to prepare a place for them, that He might come again, and receive them unto Himself. While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 663.

‘Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with silver. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.’ *Last Day Events*, pages 287-288.

10. What part will the angels play in the coming of Jesus? Matthew 24:31.

NOTE: ‘Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ’s patience. With sympathising tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress, and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup, and be baptised with the baptism. The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavour to wait trustingly for the Lord to work, they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and before the time specified, will endeavour to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul.’ *The Truth About Angels*, page 275.

‘So shall we ever be with the Lord’

11. When the trumpet shall sound and the voice of the Archangel calls, what will happen? 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

NOTE: ‘Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: “Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!” Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”’ 1 Corinthians 15:55.’ *Great Controversy*, page 644.

12. What change will take place in both the living and sleeping saints? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

NOTE: 'He will change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body. The mortal, corruptible form, devoid of comeliness, once polluted with sin, becomes perfect, beautiful, and immortal. All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave. Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, the redeemed will "grow up" (Malachi 4:2) to the full stature of the race in its primeval glory. The last lingering traces of the curse of sin will be removed, and Christ's faithful ones will appear in "the beauty of the Lord our God," in mind and soul and body reflecting the perfect image of their Lord. Oh, wonderful redemption! Long talked of, long hoped for, contemplated with eager anticipation, but never fully understood. The living righteous are changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.' *Great Controversy*, page 644.

13. What promise is made to those who live to see the Lord return? 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

NOTE: 'Before entering the City of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own "new name," and the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord." In every hand are placed in the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skilful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and each voice is raised in grateful praise. Before the ransomed throng is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: "Your conflict is ended." "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). Now is fulfilled the Saviour's prayer for His disciples, "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am" (John 17:24). "Faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24), Christ presents to the Father the purchase of His blood. Oh, the wonders of redeeming love! The rapture of that hour when the infinite Father, looking upon the ransomed, shall behold His image!' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 357.

'To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and a familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and the glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven, for they have heaven in their hearts. With rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom, saying, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.'" *Sons & Daughters of God*, page 360.