

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

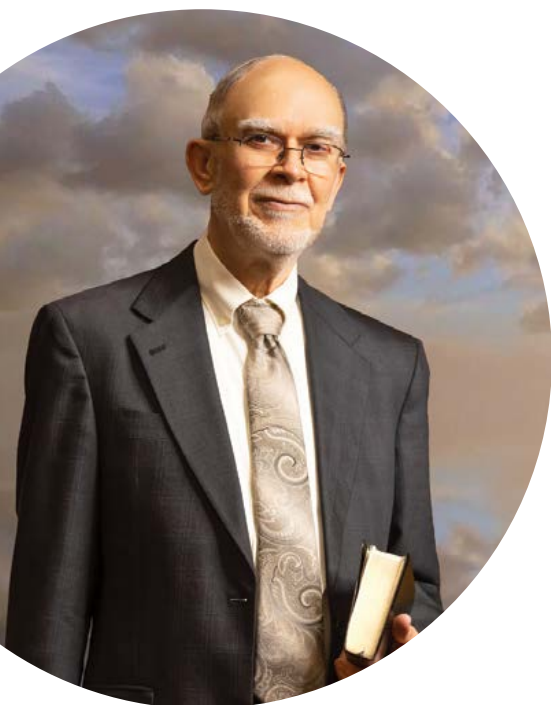
*The Temptations  
of Christ*

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*The Calvinist  
Reformation*

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## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# Have you left out of your life what is most important?

**T**hat which in the counsels of heaven the Father and the Son deemed essential for man's salvation is clearly presented in the Holy Scriptures." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 438

"Christ's words contain nothing that is nonessential. The Sermon on the Mount is a wonderful production, yet so simple that a child can study it without misunderstanding. ... Every word He uttered came from God, and He spoke with the authority of heaven. ... His teaching is full of ennobling, saving truth, to which men's highest ambitions and most profound investigations can bear no comparison. He was alive to the terrible ruin hanging over the race, and He came to save souls by His own righteousness, bringing to the world definite assurance of hope and complete relief.

"It is because Christ's words are disregarded, because the word of God is given a second place in education, that infidelity is riot and iniquity is rife. ... A mass of tradition, containing merely a semblance of truth, is brought into the courses of study given in the schools of the world. The force of much human teaching is found in assertion, not in

truth. ... There is a painful uncertainty, a constant searching, a reaching for assurance, that can be found only in God. The trumpet of human greatness may be sounded, but it is with an uncertain sound; it is not reliable, and the salvation of souls cannot be assured by it.

"In acquiring earthly knowledge, men have thought to gain a treasure; and they have laid the Bible aside, ignorant that it contains a treasure worth everything else. A failure to study and obey God's word has brought confusion into the world. Men have left the guardianship of Christ for the guardianship of the great rebel. ...

"When in difficulty, philosophers and men of science try to satisfy their minds without appealing to God. They ventilate their philosophy in regard to the heavens and the earth, accounting for plagues, pestilences, epidemics, earthquakes, and famines by their supposed science. Questions relating to creation and providence they attempt to solve by saying, This is a law of nature." *Ibid.*, 439, 440

If you are uncertain about why the world is in the mess it is in, read these predictions found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2 Timothy 3, 2 Thessalonians 2, 1 Peter 4, and 2 Peter 3. **LM**

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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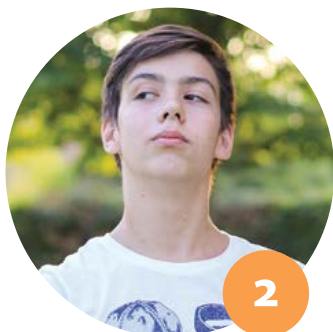
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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God's remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This magazine is designed to help believers to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days. It is the goal of LANDMARKS' editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine's editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

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# *The Temptations of Christ*

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By John R. Pearson

**W**hat was the first thing that Christ had to endure after He was baptized by John the Baptist? The more you think about that question, the harder it is to answer.

From a purely human perspective, you might think it was pride. Consider how your ego would have been affected if you heard God say that He was well pleased with you. Might you not feel some degree of pride?

Well, we know that pride is one of the seven deadly sins, and in Christ there was no sin. Thus we can know that He felt no hint of pride when God spoke of being pleased with His Son.





“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” Matthew 3:16, 17

Then what is the very next thing that happened?

Matthew 4:1 says, “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

This very same Spirit that had anointed Him after His baptism led him into the wilderness. Why? Scripture answers: “To be tempted by the devil.”

It is unlikely that the temptations that Christ experienced in the desert immediately following His baptism were the first temptations that He had experienced in His life. After all, Satan was after Him from the very day of His birth. However, these wilderness temptations were likely the most serious and difficult temptations that He had ever experienced up to that point in His life, exceeded only by the agony He experienced in the garden of Gethsemane and the events that followed, up to and including the crucifixion.

The three temptations of Christ are recorded in detail in chapter 4 of both the gospels of Matthew and Luke and briefly referenced in the first chapter of Mark.

Quoting from Matthew, we read, “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread [lust of the flesh].’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*”’” Matthew 4:1–11

“Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the



temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: “He shall give His angels charge over you,” and, “in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone [presumption; pride of life].”’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*”’

“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me [lust of the eyes].’” Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*”’” Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.”

Others might interpret these temptations differently. However, it is clear that Satan knew the kinds of temptations with which he had had the greatest success in leading men astray.

The book *Confrontation* provides an incredible analysis of the wilderness temptations of Christ. In the foreword of the book, the trustees of the Ellen G. White estate explain its origin:

“Ellen G. White at different times wrote of the temptation and fall of

man, the plan of redemption, and of the victory of Christ in the wilderness of temptation. In 1874 and 1875 in a series of 13 articles published in the *The Review and Herald*, she treated these topics in depth. ...

“These articles, with some paragraphs added by the author, were later republished in a 96-page pamphlet and became the second of eight pamphlets to make up the Redemption series published in 1878. The other seven present materials published simultaneously in *Spirit of Prophecy* volumes two and three, later replaced by Ellen White’s masterpiece, *The Desire of Ages*.

“Number two of the Redemption series, written quite apart from the others, in its fullness in the treatment of temptation makes a unique contribution to Ellen G. White materials currently available.” *Confrontation*, 5

It is this second pamphlet that has become the book *Confrontation*. The first paragraph of this enlightening book states this: “After the baptism of Jesus in Jordan He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of the devil. When He had come up out of the water, He bowed upon Jordan’s banks and pleaded with the great Eternal for strength to endure the conflict with the

“  
*The Lord placed man upon probation, that he might form a character of steadfast integrity for his own happiness and for the glory of his Creator.*”

fallen foe. The opening of the heavens and the descent of the excellent glory attested His divine character. The voice from the Father declared the close relation of Christ to His Infinite Majesty: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” The mission of Christ was soon to begin. But He must first withdraw from the busy scenes of life to a desolate wilderness for the express purpose of bearing the three-fold test of temptation in behalf of those He had come to redeem.” Op. cit., 9

That threefold test consisted, as John stated in his first epistle, of “lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”

1 John 2:16

Why was this the first thing He had to experience before He began His ministry? What did each of these tests have in common?

Let’s look back at the garden of Eden. Again we will quote from *Confrontation*.

“The Lord placed man upon probation, that he might form a character of steadfast integrity for his own happiness and for the glory of his Creator. ...

“The first moral lesson given to Adam was that of self-denial. The reins of self-government were placed in his hands.”

What does that mean: “The reins of self-government were placed in his hands”?

God gave man the privilege of determining his own destiny. Man was not to be a robot, blindly carrying out the will of his Creator. Rather he was given, as Inspiration puts it, “the reins of self-government.”

“Judgment, reason, and conscience were to bear sway.” Op. cit., 12

It was God’s intention that man was to develop a divine character by exercising judgment and reason, guided by a pure conscience—one not “seared with a hot iron.”

Unfortunately, judgment, reason, and conscience did not bear sway, and man fell.

“Sin drove man from paradise; and sin was the cause of the removal of paradise

from the earth. In consequence of transgression of God’s law, Adam lost paradise.” Op. cit., 15

But, praise God, He has provided a way for man to regain paradise. It is a two-fold process.

“*In obedience to the Father’s law, and through faith in the atoning blood of His Son*, paradise may be regained. ‘Repentance toward God,’ because His law has been transgressed, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, as man’s only Redeemer, will be acceptable with God. Notwithstanding man’s sinfulness, the merits of God’s dear Son in his behalf will avail with the Father.” Op. cit.

How were the merits of God’s dear Son, Jesus Christ, established?

“The Majesty of heaven ... would bear man’s guilt. He would take the wrath of His Father upon Himself, which otherwise would have fallen upon man because of his disobedience.”

“Christ consented to leave His honor, His kingly authority, His glory with the Father, and humble Himself to humanity, and engage in contest with the mighty prince of darkness in order to redeem man.” Op. cit., 17

“He would overcome on man’s account, and conquer the tempter, that, through His obedience, His purity of character and steadfast integrity, His righteousness might be imputed to man, that, through His name, man might overcome the foe on his own account.” Op. cit., 18

“He would overcome on man’s account ... .” What, exactly, was it that Christ had to overcome?

“Every temptation that seems so afflicting to man in his daily life, so difficult to resist and overcome, was brought to bear upon the Son of God in as much greater degree as His excellence of character was superior to that of fallen man.” Op. cit., 31

How and when were these every temptations brought to bear upon Christ?

Let’s examine a few verses from Psalm 22. Bible scholars have concluded that much of this psalm consists of Christ’s thoughts while He was being crucified.

My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?  
 Why are You so far from helping Me,  
 And from the words of My groaning?  
 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;  
 And in the night season, and am not silent.

But You are holy,  
 Enthroned in the praises of Israel.  
 Our fathers trusted in You;  
 They trusted, and You delivered them.  
 They cried to You, and were delivered;  
 They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

But I am a worm, and no man;  
 A reproach of men, and despised of the people.  
 All those who see Me ridicule Me;  
 They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,  
 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him;  
 Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

I am poured out like water,  
 And all My bones are out of joint;  
 My heart is like wax;  
 It has melted within Me.  
 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
 And My tongue clings to My jaws;  
 You have brought Me to the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded Me;  
 The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.  
 They pierced My hands and My feet;  
 I can count all My bones.  
 They look and stare at Me.  
 They divide My garments among them,  
 And for My clothing they cast lots.

Psalms 22, 1-8, 14-18

Now let's turn to Matthew's account of this event.

"Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?'" Matthew 27:45, 46

The darkness that occurred from noon till 3:00 PM may well be symbolic of the light of heaven being withdrawn not only from the earth, but also from the Saviour of mankind—the reason for His question, "Why have you forsaken Me?"

We know that in the counsels of heaven, an agreement had been made, referenced in Zechariah 6:13. "Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Some, but interestingly, not all, of the details of this counsel of peace are provided in this passage from *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 63

"The Son of God, heaven's glorious Commander, was touched with pity for the fallen race. His heart was moved with infinite compassion as the woes of the lost world rose up before Him. But divine love had conceived a plan whereby man might be redeemed. The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe there was but One who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin—sin so offensive to a holy God that it must separate the Father and His Son. Christ would reach to the depths of misery to rescue the ruined race.

"Before the Father He pleaded in the sinner's behalf, while the host of heaven awaited the result with an intensity of interest that words cannot express. Long continued was that mysterious communing—the counsel of peace' (Zechariah 6:13) for the



fallen sons of men. The plan of salvation had been laid *before the creation of the earth*; for Christ is ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’ (Revelation 13:8); yet it was a struggle, even with the King of the universe, to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race.” Op. cit.

It is written here that “The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth.” Returning to *Confrontation*, Sister White writes about Satan’s success in causing the fall of a multitude of the angels. She states that the fallen angels “failed to endure the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. Adam was then created in the image of God and placed upon probation. . . . If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would, after a time, be made equal to the angels.” Op. cit., 18

Here we have reference to the laying of the plan of salvation before the creation of the earth. Inspiration also gives us a glimpse of the extent of that plan—but, again, not all of the details.

The Father and the Son agreed, that the Son would pay the penalty if man should fall, but it was an agonizing struggle even for the King of the universe to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race.

Is it possible that Christ took comfort in knowing that if He was going to have to die for man, He was going to be resurrected afterwards? That might be a logical conclusion, now that we know all of the story. However, Inspiration tells us: “The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father’s wrath upon Him as man’s substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the

heart of the Son of God.” *The Desire of Ages*, 753

It was here that Christ experienced the guilt of every sin that man has ever committed. Imagine the Son of God hanging on the cross and being so overwhelmed with the sinfulness of sin that His heart—anticipating eternal separation from His Father—breaks, and He utters His last words, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” and breathes His last.

At the beginning of this article, the question was asked, What did the three temptations of Christ have in common? We have discussed why these temptations were necessary, but have not directly addressed the question of their common bond.

That common bond is a reaction, a character trait, that Christ not only manifested in response to each of the three temptations, but one that He manifested throughout His life. And it is a character trait that every follower of Christ must master to perfection. Only faith in the promises in God’s word and dependence on the cleansing blood of Christ will avail in the perfection of this essential character trait.

This trait was manifested by the widow who put her two mites, “all her living,” into the church treasury. It was manifested in the daily life of John the Baptist, who “was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.” It was manifested by Matthew, who left the lucrative table of the tax collector. It was manifested by Mary, who broke the alabaster box and anointed Christ with its expensive contents. It is to be manifested in the life of every follower of Christ.

Mrs. White explains it so clearly: “In this life we must meet fiery trials and make costly sacrifices, but the peace of Christ is the reward. There has been so little *self-denial*, so little suffering for Christ’s sake, that the cross is almost entirely forgotten. We must be partak-

ers with Christ of His sufferings if we would sit down in triumph with Him on His throne. So long as we choose the easy path of self-indulgence, and are frightened at *self-denial*, our faith will never become firm, and we cannot know the peace of Jesus, nor the joy that comes through conscious victory.” *Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, 190, 191

Clearly, self-denial is the key. Think about the temptations of Christ and the opportunity each had of relieving Him of the trial that lay before Him. He denied Himself, as alluded to in 1 John 2:16 of “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,” the ultimate examples of self-denial, to be our perfect example in overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Through His self-denial, “He obtained for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam that strength which it is impossible for them to gain for themselves, that in His name they might overcome the temptations of Satan” (*Confrontation*, 45)—the ultimate source of every temptation that any man or woman ever faces.

Paul clearly understood the source of our strength to overcome Satan’s temptations when he wrote, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

May the Lord help us as we strive to manifest the self-denial of Christ in our daily lives as we successfully resist Satan’s temptations, through faith in the grace that Christ so freely and abundantly imparts, so that we may reside with Him in eternal glory. [Emphasis supplied.] LM

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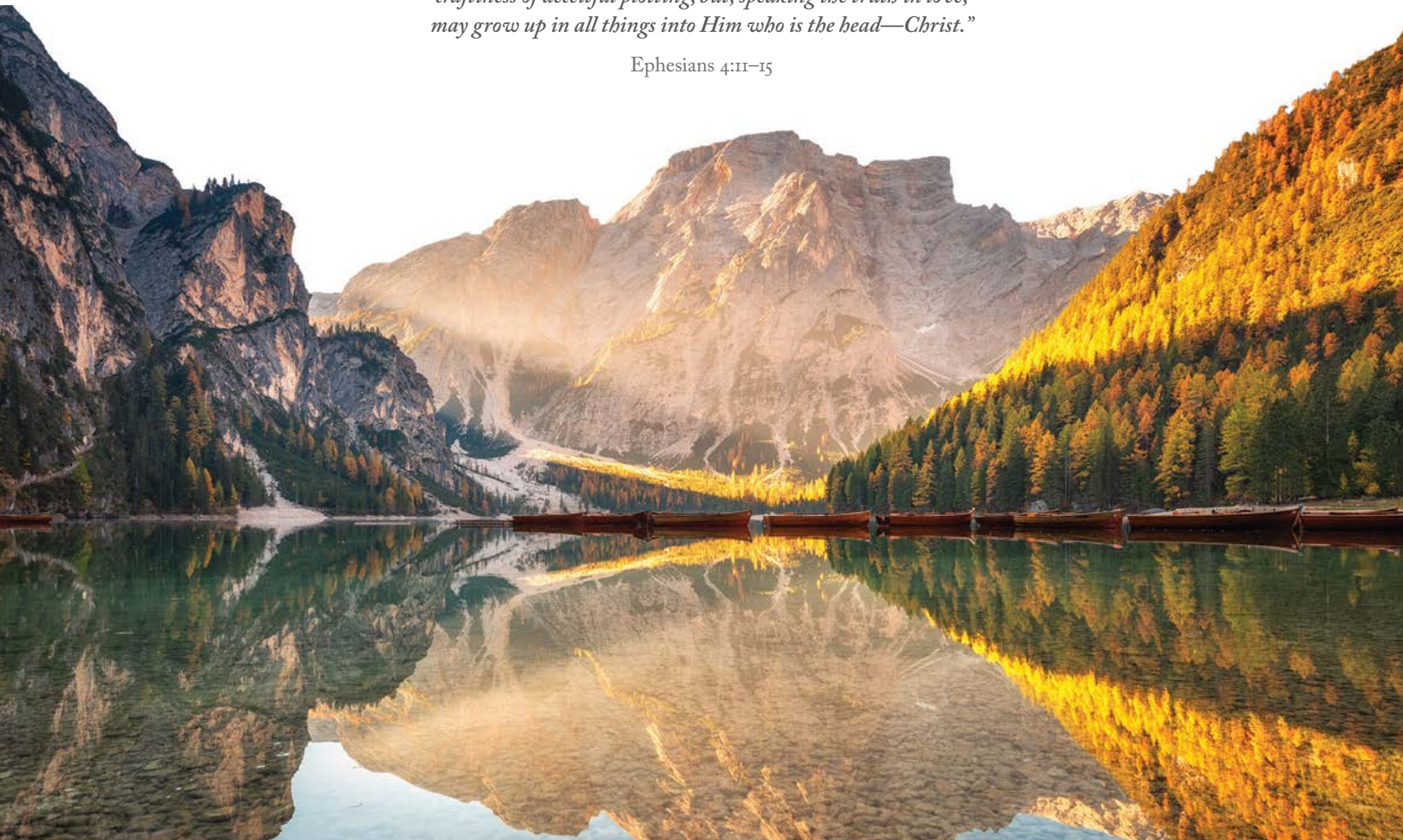
# Gaining Primitive Godliness

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By John J. Grosboll

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11–15



When Jesus left this world, He gave spiritual gifts to His church. The New Testament enumerates in three places what these gifts of the Holy Spirit were.

One is the text above in Ephesians 4, and the other two are found in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12. Ephesians 4:13, gives the reason why He gave these gifts to the church, "... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Continuing in Ephesians 4:15, it says, "speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ." "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*" Ephesians 5:25–27. This is Christian perfection. So, when Jesus comes again, will there be a church that has reached Christian perfection?

We are living in the last days, and now is the time for the church to prepare to be presented to Jesus without blemish. Each of us must be striving to reach this Christian perfection if we want to be part of God's final church. Isaiah says, "And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem." Isaiah 4:3. Pastor W. D. Frazee expressed the same idea when he said, "There

are some people who will be cleaned out because they won't get cleaned up." God will have a perfected church.

So let's ask ourselves a question. Does Christian perfection occur in the blink of an eye or is it a process that takes time? If you are fighting the fight of faith, then you know it takes time. Every one of us has sinful habits that must be overcome. It takes prayer and struggle to gain control and overcome them.

Striving for Christian perfection is not to be put off to some far distant time with the expectation of being made perfect at the last minute, all the while continuing to sin and committing the same sinful acts over and over. This is unrealistic thinking, and anyone who studies the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and with much prayer struggles to overcome sinful habits knows it.

As we come closer to the end of this world, we should be seeking the Lord more and prayerfully asking for this perfection of character. People all over the world, even in Adventism, say it can't be done; Christian perfection is impossible. However, Inspiration tells us that regardless of what the world says, there *will be* a perfected people and they will receive the truth and take it to the world.

"Those who strive lawfully will have complete victory at last, but there is too much striving that is not done in the Spirit of Christ. We should strive to obtain the victory over every unholy passion of the soul, over every spiritual weakness, over every defect of character." *The Signs of the Times*, April 14, 1890

"[E]ach one [must] strive with all his might to keep the victory over self and over every besetment, every wrong word and action." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 8, 224

We can see how this happens in this statement from *The Great Controversy*, 464: "Before the final visitation of God's judgments [the seven last plagues] upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times."

Religious history records that over the last 2,000 years there have been some very godly people in the world as well as periods of revival and reformation. Probably the



*Husbands,  
love your  
wives, just as  
Christ also loves  
the church.*





greatest reformation in the last 1,500 years occurred in the 1830s and 1840s, but what is coming will be greater than anything since apostolic times.

“The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming.” Ibid.

God is building an army and we need to work as hard as we can right now to be a part of it to increase its ranks. This army is to take the three angels’ messages to the whole world, but to be part of that army, we must have primitive godliness given to us by the Holy Spirit.

Let’s look closely at what primitive godliness is. Before Jesus came the first time, the Pharisees believed that if they perfectly kept the law, they would reach this higher level of godliness and then the Messiah would come. They decided that they needed to help the people by creating new rules. In fact, they created books full of rules. These rules were very specific in how the ten commandments were to be kept. For example, you couldn’t spit on a plant on the Sabbath

because you would be watering it. You’ve read in the Bible about a Sabbath day’s journey. That simply meant that on Sabbath you could only walk so far and if you went farther, you would be breaking the fourth commandment.

But Jesus said of their rules, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20. They were working their way toward godliness but doing so in a manner in which it would be impossible to keep God’s law.

So here was the problem. “He [Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God *because of your tradition*?’” Matthew 15:3. In the process of making their rules, those very rules became more important to them than the ten commandments, causing the people to transgress them—the very thing they were trying not to do. How do you end up doing the exact opposite of what you intended? Could we end up doing it again?

The problem for the Jews was that they were keeping all these man-made rules and regulations, but neglecting to keep the most basic rule of all. Jesus said that the whole law hangs on two prin-

ciples—to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind—the first four commandments—and to love your neighbor as yourself—the last six.

So what is primitive godliness and how do we get it? The word *godliness* means Godlikeness. What is it like to be like God? *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 18, says, “Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God.” So righteousness is the same as holiness, and holiness is likeness to God. It is conformity to the law of God, for “all Thy commandments are righteousness,” and “love is the fulfilling of the law.” Psalm 119:172; Romans 13:10. The apostle John also tells us that “God is love.” 1 John 4:16. So, righteousness is love. When we love God, we will keep His commandments. In keeping His commandments, we become righteous and holy. We will have a godly nature.

Under the old covenant, the law was written on tables of stone. But under the new covenant, God said, “This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, ... *I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.*” Hebrews 10:16. This suggests something more than just going to church on Sabbath, not telling a lie, or using bad language. Having the law of God written in your heart means

“  
*Righteousness is  
a miraculous change  
occurring within you. Now  
the law is no longer a list of  
dos and don'ts.*”

that it becomes a part of you. A miraculous change occurs within you. Yes, you still go to church, and you don't lie or use bad language, but now the law is no longer a list of dos and don'ts that get checked off on a daily or weekly basis. It becomes as natural to obey the law as it is to take a breath or blink an eye.

Jesus explained in the Sermon on the Mount that what is in the heart determines whether I am truly keeping the law. He said, “You have heard that it was said of those of old, ‘You shall not murder,’ ... but I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause is in danger of the judgment. He that says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ is in danger of the counsel. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ is in danger of hell fire.”

Matthew 5:21, 22

It isn't enough that I don't kill someone. My heart must have no hatred or anger toward my brother. John states the same in 1 John 3:15, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

It took the crucifixion of Christ before the disciples understood this. For over three years, Jesus had taught them by word and action, what it meant to be Godlike. They did not truly understand how to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind, nor how to love others as God loves them. After His death, they all realized what true love was, and that they themselves lacked the inward change necessary to be like Jesus. It is at this point that Mrs. White says they had never loved Him more.

Jesus had promised the disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. “The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. The Infinite One revealed Himself in power to His church [those in the upper room]. It was as if for ages this influence had been held in restraint, and now heaven rejoiced in being able to pour out upon the church the

riches of the Spirit's grace. And under the influence of the Spirit, words of penitence and confession mingled with songs of praise for sins forgiven. Words of thanksgiving and of prophecy were heard. All heaven bent low to behold and to adore the wisdom of matchless, incomprehensible love.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 38

All together in the upper room, in one accord, God's church waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He brought penitence and confession, unity and incomprehensible love. They now understood the governing principles of God's law. They loved God with all their being and would spend the remainder of their lives doing His will. This is primitive godliness.

“Lost in wonder, the apostles exclaimed, ‘Herein is love.’ They grasped the imparted gift. And what followed? The sword of the Spirit, newly edged with power and bathed in the lightnings of heaven, cut its way through unbelief. Thousands were converted in a day.” *Ibid.*, 39

Unbelief was a problem that continues to this day. The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that men's hearts today are harder than they have ever been. Without the Holy Spirit, do you think we will ever be able to convert anyone?

“What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world. As the disciples proclaimed the message of redeeming grace, hearts yielded to the power of this message. The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. Some who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its champions. The prophecy was fulfilled, ‘He that is feeble ... shall be as David; and the house of David ... as the angel of the Lord.’ Zechariah 12:8.” *Ibid.*, 48

Mrs. White predicts in *Testimonies*, Vol. 5 that this prophecy will be fulfilled again—that the feeble will be like David and the strong will be like the angel of the Lord.



When the church is full of the Holy Spirit, when each member is filled with primitive godliness and there is unity and harmony among God's people, the Lord will work in a way that we have never seen before. Far beyond keeping the letter of the law, we can only be a part of this work if we are filled with the righteousness that comes from loving God supremely and obeying His law. "Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 48. Friend, this *will* happen again, more powerfully than ever before.

"One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom." Ibid.

The believers had two purposes after the Day of Pentecost: to be like Christ and to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. As powerful as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was at Pentecost, a day is coming when the latter rain will fall and by its power, God's work will be finished.

When the latter rain falls, it will be just a short time until we will see Jesus in the clouds of heaven. Are you eager to see Jesus come, or are you afraid to see Him?

If we are afraid for Jesus to come, then we are not *ready* for Him to come. We fear to see His face because we realize that there is something in our character, the way we think, or talk, or act, that must change. We want whatever makes us fearful of His coming to be removed. We cannot be taken to heaven with sin-blighted characters. But He can take our character imperfections away and help us overcome.

We must be overcomers of sin in our lives if we want to receive the latter rain, but we can only receive a perfect character by cooperating with the Holy Spirit. Sadly, Mrs. White says that the latter rain can be falling on people all around



and yet we may not realize it. Our best friend in church could be receiving the latter rain and if we ourselves are not ready to receive it, we wouldn't even know it is falling.

There is one important aspect of the outpouring of the former rain at Pentecost that is not discussed much in Adventist circles today. Acts 2:1 says, "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." The Holy Spirit brings unity, but on the Day of Pentecost unity existed among those gathered in the upper room before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This wasn't an ecumenical kind of unity, nor the kind where people just don't talk about their differences, or the kind that covers up sin. Surrendered and united to God, in that upper room, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon each soul and they were made new, bringing a greater unity to this group that would become God's church.

Friend, we need to pray. We need to have unity in our local church and our families, in our ministries and institutions, and we need to have unity around the world before we can have the power of the Holy Spirit. God will not give His Holy Spirit to us until we have been

tested and God knows that He can trust us. We must pray, prepare, and persevere. We must overcome by the grace of God. We must ask the Lord to help us come into a spirit of unity and harmony.

It will take work, but God is equal to the task. He has promised that we are able to do everything He asks by His power and grace, if we trust in Him. He wouldn't have asked us to do these things were it not His purpose to provide the way. All we must do is cooperate, surrender.

We must have victory in our lives if we want to receive the latter rain. We must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind—to have primitive godliness. The motive for our obedience must be because we love the Lord and our fellow men. We cannot have strife and hatred for each other. We must pray that the Lord will bring us to that condition of unity that we must have so that the Holy Spirit can be poured out and miracles can happen.

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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*John Calvin, 1509–1564*

# *The Calvinist Reformation*

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By Marcin Watras

**W**e know that thanks to the Reformation, Christianity changed irreversibly and thus also man's religious and spiritual understanding of God.

## Sola Scriptura

Thanks to the Reformation, the Bible as God's word gained its due authority as the only rule of Christian faith and practice of Christianity.

## Sola Gratia

It was the Reformation that showed us that the way to man's salvation was not through religious rituals, sacraments, or works, but only through the grace of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

## Sola Fide

God's grace alone is the basis for a sinner's justification, and that only through faith.

## Solus Christus

In reading the Bible, the Christian reformers discovered the hidden truth that it is not the Catholic church and its saints who mediate our salvation, but that Jesus Christ alone, being both God and man, is the only One who can reconcile us with God and thus save us.

## Relationship with Jesus

Freedom and forgiveness is in Christ. For free. All I need is to come to Christ and entrust my life to Him. It is very personal, but this is Christianity. Thanks to the Reformation, we understand that Christianity is inherently a personal confession. Christianity based on the Bible must always be an individual, personal relationship with God. Since we are the subject of God's grace, we have incredible value as individuals. The Reformation therefore also restored individual human dignity.

## The Impact on the World

It is worth noting that the Reformation also had an equally significant impact in the political, socio-economic, and civilizational dimensions. If philosophers influence the world, it seems that it is all the more true of religious ideas and especially of the Reformation. In this sense we can say that the

Reformation became the antithesis of the previous world order, leading to an irreversible change in the world. From this point on, we can observe the development of two distinct models of societies in the Western world—the Roman civilization model and the Protestant civilization model. Living in one of these societies, belonging to one or the other circle of civilization, it can be difficult to see on how many levels these social models differ in their assumptions. This is all the more difficult since both these models belong to the broader Euro-Atlantic civilization.

## Corruption

Transparency International has published the Corruption Perceptions Index 2021, which measures the level of perceived corruption in the public sector in 180 countries. Research conducted since 1995 has consistently shown the regularity that countries that were directly or indirectly influenced by the Reformation are the least susceptible to corruption. The same cannot be said of Catholic countries, which show greater susceptibility to corruption. A patient going to a doctor in Denmark or Switzerland is unlikely to think about giving the doctor a bribe, while in countries low on the Corruption Perceptions Index it is much more likely.

## Human Dignity and Worth

One of the characteristics of Protestant religiosity is the social valuing of the individual and the primacy of the individual over the collective. This approach to the individual is something that distinguishes the West from all other civilizations and cultures. In the rest of the world, the collective is always more important than the individual. Whether we are talking about Russia (especially in the context of Russia's bandit attack on Ukraine), China, or Muslim countries, where the value of a single human life is practically none.

## The Social Thought of Calvinism

The driving force behind the Reformation's efforts to change social relations was the Reformed theology, whose founder was John Calvin. It is John Calvin more than Martin Luther whom we recognize as the real father of modern civilization. This may sound paradoxical, but it is the Reformers, as men full of passion for God and the gospel, who became the founders of the modern world more than the atheistic philosophers of the Enlightenment. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that Reformed theology was written by people who were not free from their sinful nature. Therefore, one can find tendencies in Calvinism that are anti-liberal. As John Witte accurately notes, Calvinism became the leading force in the drafting of many important constitutional acts, which gradually expanded the Western system of human rights in the modern era.

## Law, Democracy, Freedom

John Calvin transformed the church by combining three principles: the rule of law, democracy, and spiritual freedom.

## The Rule of Law

Calvin drafted laws that defined the church's teaching and rules of discipline, the rights and duties of officials and believers. These were intended to protect the church from interference from the outside as well as from within. In addition, the introduction of new laws was accompanied by public discussion.

## Democracy

Calvin ended the hierarchical church based on the feudal power of the clergy. Church officials were to be elected by the congregation, and delegates to church synods were appointed by their members.

## Freedom

Every believer should be free to join or leave a church, to practice his or her faith without compulsion, to assemble, or

to act freely in matters of faith left to the judgment of the individual. This meant mutual respect for each other's freedom.

Calvin's brilliant integration of these three principles allowed the church to achieve a constant balance between law and liberty, structure and spirit, order and innovation, doctrine and the sphere of freedom in faith.

### Political Practice

The adoption of these principles became possible in those countries influenced by the reformed theology. The theories and practice of the first Calvinist congregations would in fact become the foundation for liberal political ideas such as individualism, egalitarianism, and democratism, which together will form republicanism—seeing the state as a common good for all inhabitants. For example, in Switzerland, if you park your car at the wrong place, the helpful citizens, aware of the rules they have worked out and the institutions they have created, will call to the police to make you understand the common good of all inhabitants.

### Human Rights

It is evident that society has also been irreversibly changed by the Reformation because man's view of others and of himself has changed. The history of human rights did not begin in the minds of the secularized eighteenth-century philosophers of the Enlightenment. The foundations of human rights owe much to the bearded Calvinist thinkers. Human rights, grounded in and derived from the decalogue, were respected in early Protestantism before it became fashionable in the Age of Enlightenment and liberalism.

The biblical formulas of rights spread and continued to be spread among all factions of the Reformation.

### Catholic and Protestant Approaches to Human Rights

It is not hard to guess that the approach to human rights in Catholicism



is different than in Protestantism. This can also be seen in the approach to political liberalism. Human rights are its component. Liberalism is derived from the ideas of the Calvinist Reformation. The different attitude of the Roman church towards human rights and liberal values is not dictated only by the natural historical opposition to the Reformation. It is, of course, about the very nature of Catholicism, which by definition rejects liberal ideas such as individualism, egalitarianism, and democratism because the Roman church is inherently collectivist, hierarchical, and undemocratic.

### Separation of Church and State

Freedom of conscience, pluralism of beliefs, religious tolerance—these values are principles of the separation of church and state and are the fundamental political principles of political liberalism. This meant that the traditional Catholic teaching on the primacy of the church over the secular order was finally over-

thrown, at least in those countries that embraced the Reformation. Hence, the critical attitude of the Catholic church towards liberalism, described as the “civilization of death,” is not surprising.

### The Image of the Beast

The papacy does not change. Wherever the Roman church has the upper hand and the constitution does not guarantee the separation of church and state, as in some Latin countries, there is also persecution of Christian minorities. In this context, it is extremely sad that in the United States, the Protestant religious right is striving to tear down the wall separating the sphere of religion from the state. Where there is no separation of church and state, there is always persecution of those who think differently. The book of Revelation calls the system the image of the beast (Revelation. 13:14, 15). By allusions to the medieval order of things, where power was at the service of the church, the clergy manipulated the majority, and minorities were oppressed.

### Capitalist Economy = Protestant Economy?

What about the economy? Was this sphere of society also transformed by the ideas of the Reformation? The answer is a firm yes. Ideas are contagious and can spread very quickly, changing reality.

Coca-Cola is just a drink, but thanks to the idea of freedom it contains (due to marketing) it is much more than that. How did the Reformation influence the economic system in Europe and the United States? What ideas of the Reformation led to the birth of capitalism? The answer was given by a famous German sociologist Max Weber in his work entitled “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.” Weber does not claim that Protestantism created modern capitalism, but it was Protestantism that created the conditions for the



transformation of economic relations in Europe. Protestantism gave birth to these new ideas:

1. Free labor (as opposed to slavery)
2. Saving and investing
3. Activity and entrepreneurship
4. Work as a vocation

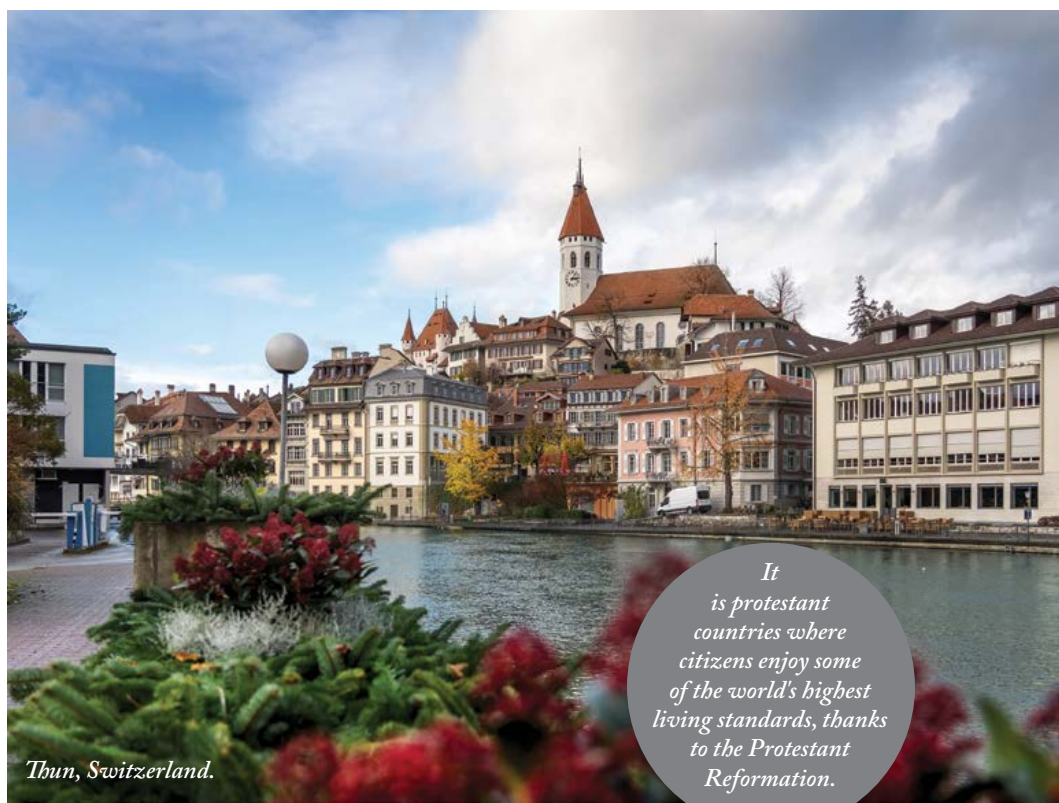
Consequently, countries that were influenced by Protestantism rank today as the world's richest and most developed.

### The Evolution of the Spirit of Capitalism

Since Weber's time, the spirit of capitalism has evolved and the ascetic ethic has been replaced by unbridled consumerism. However, the changes in capitalism are as natural as the fact that the church, according to Calvin's desire, was to be a constantly reforming church, per the thesis: *Ecclesia Reformata et Semper Reformanda*. In the context of the transformation of the economy by Protestantism, one can see a measurable difference between the countries of Roman civilization and the countries of Protestant civilization—check the rankings of the richest countries in the world! Yes, capitalism has its flaws, especially when it is reduced to the mechanisms of an economic system without Protestant ethics or any ethics at all. Nevertheless, it is within capitalist economies with a balanced social policy where it's possible for the standard of living to rise for all.

### The Counter-Reformation and the Plans of the Papacy

It should come as no surprise that the Catholic church, with its program of the Counter-Reformation, seeks the removal of all that the world owes to the Reformation. This includes the social and economic system that emerged in the wake of the Protestant Reformation. Just as the Reformation is not over and is still ongoing, the Counter-Reformation is also ongoing.



Thun, Switzerland.

During a speech in Asuncion, Paraguay, the pope called on world leaders to change the global economic order. Pope Francis' predecessor, Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, wrote: "There is an urgent need for a true world political authority—already spoken of by my predecessor, Blessed John XXIII—to govern the world economy. The integral development of nations and cooperation require the establishment of a higher-level international order based on the principle of subsidiarity to manage globalization."

### Gratitude and Hope

We owe much to the Protestant Reformation. And we owe it all to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The heritage of the Reformation is still alive in the minds and hearts of men and women, in their religious and social lives. As long as the ideas of the Reformation are alive in their bearers, we can be sure that the system foretold in Revelation will not arise.

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## Bible Trivia

### Across

- B12 We are a \_\_\_\_\_ to the world..... 1 Corinthians 4:9  
 C2 What was the healed man to take up and walk? ..... John 5:12  
 C21 What was used to heal Hezekiah? ..... 2 Kings 20:7, Isaiah 38:21  
 E2 Used to anoint the sick. .... James 5:14  
 E16 What was Isaiah's occupation?..... 2 Kings 20:14  
 F4 What kind of drink brings woe to men?..... Isaiah 5:22  
 H12 Who were Paul and Apollos?..... 1 Corinthians 3:5  
 I4 Eat honey only as much as you \_\_\_\_\_. .... Proverbs 25:16  
 J2 \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom! \_\_\_\_\_ understanding!..... Proverbs 4:5  
 K4 Who is slow to anger?..... Psalm 103:8  
 K13 What has God appointed us to obtain through Jesus?..... 1 Thessalonians 5:9  
 M9 Craved intensely for meat in the wilderness (two words)..... Numbers 11:4  
 O4 What did Paul say was destroying the church? ..... 1 Corinthians 5:1  
 P14 If we have the Son, we also have what?..... 1 John 5:12  
 R2 The original food for man. .... Genesis 1:29  
 R12 What of this world is foolishness to God?..... 1 Corinthians 3:19  
 U7 God's name is to be \_\_\_\_\_ in all the earth..... Romans 9:17

### Down

- A7 Where did the men come from who visited Hezekiah? ..... 2 Kings 20:14  
 A22 He who \_\_\_\_\_ the house has more honor than the house..... Hebrews 3:3  
 C4 How were the Israelites to heed the voice of the Lord?..... Exodus 15:26  
 C24 Who were brought to Jesus? ..... Matthew 4:24  
 D10 For which crown do we strive?..... 1 Corinthians 9:25  
 D18 The Bible describes wine as a \_\_\_\_\_. .... Proverbs 20:1  
 H2 What did Hezekiah require from Isaiah? ..... 2 Kings 20:8  
 L12 What part was given as a tithe by Abraham?..... Hebrews 7:2  
 L22 God requires a \_\_\_\_\_ if meat is eaten with its blood..... Genesis 9:4, 5  
 M17 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to \_\_\_\_\_ away sin. .... Hebrews 10:4  
 N8 What did Hezekiah show the men? ..... 2 Kings 20:15  
 O5 What are the leaves of the trees good for? ..... Ezekiel 47:12  
 O19 What are sick people in need of? ..... Matthew 9:12  
 P16 To whom is it a waste of time to speak?..... Proverbs 23:9  
 Q3 What saves the sick? ..... James 5:14, 15  
 Q13 How many more years were given to Hezekiah? ..... 2 Kings 20:6

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Answer Key:

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## *Proper Diet*

“The only hope of better things is in the education  
of the people in right principles.”

*The Ministry of Healing, 127*

**G**od laid out in the garden of Eden the best diet for man, revealing basic principles that we can all implement. The fine tuning is up to each one. God’s diet is meant to nourish the human beings He created. The foods we eat provide the calories and nutrients required to live well, to have energy, and live healthy all the days of our lives.

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.

“In order to maintain health, a sufficient supply of good, nourishing food is needed.”  
*Counsels for the Church, 222*

Taste is important, and while much of today’s food tastes good, it is killing us. On the other hand, some food may not taste very good, but has all the nutrients necessary for a strong body. We need to marry good taste and good nutrition. When we give our bodies the proper fuel to operate, we are better able to follow that message laid out in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy to be in alignment with God’s will for our lives.

“Those foods should be chosen that best supply the elements needed for building up the body. In making this choice, appetite is not a safe guide. Through wrong habits of eating, the appetite has become perverted. Often it demands food that impairs health



and causes weakness instead of strength. We cannot be guided safely by the customs of society. The disease and suffering that everywhere prevail are largely due to popular errors regarding diet.

“In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God’s original plan for our diet. He who created human beings and understands their needs appointed Adam his food.” *The Ministry of Health and Healing*, 166

In Genesis 1:29, God said to Adam and Eve, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.” *Seed* includes all the grains: rice, millet, quinoa, kamut, oats, amaranth, wheat; and legumes. In addition, are chickpeas, lima beans, black-eyed peas and cannelloni beans, and seeds such as the sunflower seed, pumpkin seed, sesame seed, flax seed, chia seed; and many nuts, although not typically thought of as seeds: almonds, walnuts, pecans, hazelnuts and Brazil nuts. “Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also ‘the herb of the field [vegetables].’ Genesis 3:18.” *Counsels for the Church*, 222

“He [God] causes the grass to grow for the cattle; and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth.” Psalm 104:14

An herb is a plant or a plant part valued for its medicinal, savory, or aromatic qualities. Every herb affects different parts of the body and there is an herb for all of its different aspects and functions. Herbs work with the needs of the body. They come in and say to the body: Where would you like me? Where can I help you?

Herbs, fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables were given for meat and work with the body’s inherent ability to heal itself.

There are three essential food groups:

**Fiber** – All the foods mentioned above, as well as fruits and vegetables, are high in fiber.

**Protein** – 50% of the membrane around every cell is protein. Protein is the building block of the body. The body cannot heal without protein. The body cannot build without protein; protein is an essential nutrient. Vegetarian protein is a very clean burning fuel compared to animal protein which is not a clean burning fuel, and was not in the garden of Eden as there was no death. All foods mentioned above are high in protein.

**Fat** – Nuts and seeds particularly, as well as avocados, olives, olive and coconut oils, are excellent sources of the fat our body needs to function properly. Fifty percent of the membrane around every cell in the body is fat.

There must be a balance of these three essential nutrients incorporated into our daily diet.

The same blood that pulses through the body pulses through the brain. Thus our food absolutely affects our mind. “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. This takes us to a whole other level where the Bible says that our body is actually the temple of God.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20. We

are not our own. When we love God and want to please Him and want to live according to His ways, we will take better care of our bodies. The human body is designed to give glory to God because He owns it, and this means putting into our bodies food according to His design.

We have no right to hurt this body, and when we do hurt it, we are the ones who suffer. It is not pleasant living in a body that doesn’t work, and unfortunately, so many people are in that condition. One of the beauties of our health message is that we can live in a body that will serve us well, with a clear mind to more easily discern spiritual things.

God gives us an abundant variety of foods in a beautiful rainbow of color. Food is not only for necessity but for delight, richly to enjoy. How careful we should be that, as we live upon His bounty, we live to His glory. He who provided for Adam provides still for the creatures within His care. He satisfies the desire of every living being.

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them. For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.” Psalm 107:8, 9

The message that God brings us is simple—to **delight in what you eat and to eat what God has intended you to eat**. When you eat what is *right and good* for you, this will not only impact your physical body, but also your mental, emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm-Bhtr-oEx8&t=23s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm-Bhtr-oEx8&t=23s) <https://guardian.ng/features/principles-of-nutrition-gensis-1-29-diet> **LM**



## Ever Faithful



**M**any years ago we were given a young cat named Davie. He was fluffy and light as a feather. Before he came to us, he had been an indoor/outdoor cat. I am sure he was a little disoriented with a new owner, who kept him inside; so he hid under our futon for a few weeks.

Little by little he would spend more time out from under the futon, becoming friendlier every day. And then I was gifted! He chose me as his human, and stuck to me like glue. Everywhere I was, there was Davie. He could be asleep on the couch next to me and if I moved, he woke up and followed me. Such devotion.

As the years went by, one day I noticed that he was sitting a lot and seemed to have trouble walking, dragging his back leg. Not deterred, he still followed me everywhere. We took him to the vet and were told that he had very high blood sugar. But after several

visits, Davie was regulated on the right dose of insulin for his diabetes. It took about two months before his legs totally recovered.

Not long after this recovery, I noticed he was getting a cataract. After researching this, we finally realized we had to accept there was nothing we could do to remedy his situation. Davie seemed unfazed by his failing eyesight. Soon, however, a cataract began to cloud his other eye, but even with this very limited vision, he would follow me wherever I went.

With both eyes now clouded over for the most part, and the view of his world little more than shadows and faint light, it is very curious to us how he still walks around and continues to find his way up and down the basement steps, and that he knows where his water, food bowl, and cat box are—as if his sight was not affected at all.


Ever faithful, always by my side, no matter what his limitations appear to be, Davie is just a wonder of love, that's all. I keep wondering how he can do this. I can only reason he knows my voice, he remembers the floor plan in our small house, and he depends now more on his hearing than his eyesight.

If Davie can do all these things with such serious limitations, how much closer—hour by hour and day by day—should we follow our Saviour regardless of our challenges in this corrupt world? We must always remember that Jesus will be by our side no matter what. He never fails us.

Through Davie's unfailing devotion, he has taught me to be continually faithful to Jesus, to follow Him as He leads me. And in following Him, I am stepping away from the continual temptations and frightful evils so prevalent in this world, and moving ever closer to my heavenly home.

The words from this old hymn are brought to my mind, "And the things of earth will grow strangely dim (like Davie's eyesight), in the light of His glory and grace."

We can be assured that if we remain faithful, with our focus firmly fixed on Jesus, we will not fail.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen." Jude 24, 25 



# Obedience Brings Thanksgiving

**"**I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." Psalm 9:1

"We should ever remember that thanksgiving is the fruit of true, willing obedience. The Lord is the object of our worship, and to praise His holy name shows respect for His efficiency. God says, 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.' ...

"The absence of praise and thanksgiving pleases the enemy of God. The line of demarcation between those who utter the holy name of God in blasphemy, and those who praise Him with heart and with voice, is clear and distinct. He who is truly converted will glorify God as he beholds the wonderful things of His creation, the brightness of the sun, moon, and stars, the changing beauty of the heavens. To him all nature will declare God's mighty power. He will be led to give glory to His holy name. ...



"'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.' ...

"What greater encouragement and assurance than this could the Lord give His loyal, commandment-keeping people? Have we not every reason for changing our attitude toward God? Is it not our duty to show the world that we appreciate the love of Christ?

... He has done for His chosen people that which should inspire every heart with praise and thanksgiving; and it grieves Him that so little praise is offered. He desires to have a stronger expression of praise from His people, showing that they know they have reason for manifesting joy and gladness. ...

"We are to glorify God by keeping His commandments. Christ said: 'If ye love Me, keep My commandments.' ...

"... Christ is with His children, enlightening their minds and leading them to call upon Him. As they do this, He hears their prayers and purifies their hearts.

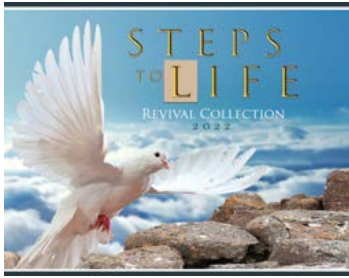
They see Him as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. They do not walk in accordance with the ways of the world. They ask God for Christ's sake to help them, and they receive the help they ask for. ...

"Christ has declared that the cross which makes the line of demarcation between His people and the world so distinct is not a cross of discouragement, but a cross of salvation. Love for the Saviour will lead us to acknowledge this. God has given human beings all that ministers to their happiness, and in return He asks them to lay their gifts and offerings on His altar. Shall we disregard this requirement? Shall we fail of offering God praise and thanksgiving in word and deed?" *The Review and Herald*, November 20, 1900

Dear Lord, for all the things that You have given to us, we ask that You also will bestow the strength and grace needed to be faithful commandment keepers, seeking always to do Your will. May we sing praises to You for Your marvelous works in this world and in our lives, now and throughout eternity. **LM**



## Camp Meeting DVDs



If you were able to attend the 2022 camp meeting, then you know that the Lord blessed both speakers and hearers in a mighty way.

Pastors John Grosboll, Ivan Plummer, Domingo Nunez, and Dr. Henrik Korinth presented sermons relevant to the time we live in now and how God is preparing a people for the end of time that rapidly is coming.

Watch for the November/December newsletter for the order form to purchase the Revival Collection 2022.

To order, call:

**1-316-788-5559**

Shipping and handling will be added to all orders.

### November Sermon of the Month

#### Enoch's Priority

By John J. Grosboll

Enoch walked alone with God, and we must have the same vital connection with God, for we may one day have to walk alone with Him, as Enoch did.

All who  
have donated in  
the past month will  
automatically receive this  
Sermon of the Month  
free of charge.

## November 2022

Dear Friend,

There are many reasons why Jesus, before He ascended to heaven, organized a church to finish the mission that He came to this earth to fulfill.

"He who was one with the Father stepped down from the glorious throne in heaven, laid aside His royal robe and crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity, thus bringing Himself to the level of man's feeble faculties. ... Infinite was the sacrifice on the part of the Father; infinite the sacrifice of the Son! The highest gift that heaven could bestow was given to ransom fallen humanity. O, what divine benevolence! ... The Son of God ... came to our world, that man through Him might have eternal life. ...

"Our Lord designed that His church should reflect to the world the fullness and sufficiency that we find in Him. ... [T]hey are to represent to the world the love and beneficence of Christ.

"The church of Christ is the only object on the earth upon which He bestows His supreme regard; yet it has grown feeble and inefficient through selfishness. While all heaven is astir, dispatching messengers to bear the divine will to every part of the earth, they expect the church of the living God also to be collaborators with Christ. ..." *The Review and Herald*, December 11, 1888

We are living in the last remnant of time when the final invitation of mercy and warning of coming judgment is to be given to all the world as explicitly stated in Revelation 14:6-12. Even a small church with only a few members can communicate the last message in many ways.

Our church in Derby arranged to have a booth at the annual fair in Mulvane, Kansas. The fair was small, but over the weekend we distributed over 300 pieces of literature, mostly books like *The Great Controversy*, *The Ministry of Healing*, and *Christ's Object Lessons* to adults and hundreds of packets filled with materials designed to interest children and youth. You or I could not have done this alone, but a small home church with less than ten members could. All over the United States, events like this occur every year affording God's remnant people opportunity to present the gospel to the deceived and lost in this dark, cold world.

Your brother in Christ,

John J. Grosboll



# Something Lost, Then Returned

By Judy Rebarchek



All my life I have been surrounded by music. My mother had a beautiful soprano voice and sang every Sabbath at church in one capacity or another. My brother sang and although I haven't heard him sing for a long time, what I remember was a voice with a soft, mellow depth.

I inherited my voice and never really had to work at singing. It seemed that I just opened my mouth and the sound came out, strong and clear. Like my mother, I was a soprano and started singing up front in church when I was about nine years old. I have sung in groups, choirs, and as a soloist for almost my whole life.

At one point, near the end of my school years in academy, I considered auditioning to sing with *The Heritage*

*Singers*. But later, at another point, I auditioned, not with *The Heritage Singers*, but with a worldly agent in hopes of succeeding in the music industry. Music was an incredibly large part of my life and I had people everywhere I went who commented on and complimented me regarding my voice. I don't believe that I became a "diva," but I will confess that it became more and more difficult not to want to pursue fame and fortune in the music industry in the midst of all this praise.

But one day I developed a cough. It got worse and I went to the doctor to see what it could be. He made his diagnosis and prescribed some medicine that stopped the cough and for several years things went well.


And then the cough returned only worse, much worse. My first doctor had retired, so I went to my new doctor and asked for an increased dose of my medicine. He doubted the original diagnosis and ran a battery of tests and procedures. It was something else, something that had done its work in silence and without detection, something bad that left my lungs permanently damaged.

To make a very long story short, during the process of making the new diagnosis, a surgical procedure paralyzed my left vocal cord; and that ended my singing, at least at the time. For three months I could barely talk above a

whisper or if I did, the sound sometimes came out like the honk of a goose or a high-pitched, silly sound.

My mother prayed for me, and she got all her friends to pray for me, and one morning, three months later, my voice was back; not a whispery or silly-sounding voice, just me. However, I could no longer sing the really high notes I had reached before, nor did I have the breath to "raise the roof off the church" as described by one pastor from many years ago.

I don't think I sing well or sound very good anymore, but I made a covenant with God. Singing was a talent He had given to me and He had, for a short time, taken away, likely to save my life, more spiritually than physically. I committed to use what He had given back to me in His service, singing when needed or asked, if He would make whatever came out of my mouth to bring glory to Him and not to me. I asked Him to send angels to sing with me so that it would always be a blessing to those who heard. I continue to faithfully fulfill that commitment, because He faithfully provides the angels.

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:4, 5 

*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



*Architectural rendering of the future evangelism headquarters in Bolivia.*

# *Evangelism Headquarters in Bolivia*

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By Pastor Domingo Nunez

**W**e are so pleased to provide this update for the mission project started in 2021. In the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, we have reached the final phase of construction of the Global Evangelism Headquarters. This multi-purpose building will be the center from which all of South America will be evangelized.



The workers in Santa Cruz have continued the gospel work during the building process, as we have shared in past updates, but to see that soon their hopes and plans to have a place to produce printed materials, tracts, and books for distribution is a cause for great excitement.

It is planned that the publishing ministry will include, along with tracts and other materials, the printing of 80 books that have been translated from English to Spanish, thanks to the faithful work of a group of brothers from different parts of South America.

Once the building is completed, the next challenge will be to furnish it with the equipment and supplies necessary for the publishing work, and to make it ready to welcome all those who are interested in worshiping God. Many souls will be reached and convicted of the truth of the three angels' messages through the publishing work and these will be invited to worship in the space designated for spiritual meetings.

The Lord has provided faithfully so that we are able to have this much-needed outpost in South America. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek the Lord's continued guidance and assistance. If you wish to be a part of this important project, please mark your donation *Missions-Bolivia*. **LM**

“  
*The Advent  
message..., must swell  
to a loud cry reaching the  
uttermost parts of the earth.*

*Ellen White*



# The Lamb: Invisible Things, Clearly Seen

*“So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth Your praise to all generations.”*

Psalm 79:13

In the Bible, we find sheep used in many ways, both literally and spiritually. Jesus is called the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). In the sanctuary system, a perfect lamb, one without blemish—representing Jesus’ future sacrifice for mankind—was brought as a sacrifice for the confession of sin. God’s people are called His sheep. And in the parable of the ninety and nine, Jesus the Shepherd went out in search of the one lost sheep to bring it safely again to the fold.

Sheep are thought to be timid, passive, and unintelligent. On the contrary, research shows that they are complex, individualistic, and social. They are even capable of problem solving and have an IQ similar to that of cattle and pigs. They display intelligence in their ability to self-heal when sick. Additionally, they have excellent memories and display emotions.

Newborn sheep are called lambs—a ram if male, a ewe if female. Mating typically takes place in the fall with births occurring from March to May, but can begin as early as February. Both ewes and rams can mate as early as 7-9 months after birth. Ewes are pregnant for approximately five months with the ewe’s major growth occurring in the last month of pregnancy. First-time mother ewes often have a single lamb, whereas a seasoned ewe may have one to three lambs.

Birthing the lambs is also known as lambing. The typical birth weight of a lamb is between 5-12 pounds. At

full-growth, a sheep can grow to approximately four feet in length and weigh 99-350 pounds. If the sheep remains healthy, it can have a lifespan of 10-12 years.

A normal lambing event occurs without any difficulty or intervention. Difficult births are often caused because a lamb is not in the right position for birthing, entanglement in the umbilical cord, the ewe’s pelvic area is small, or her cervix has not properly dilated. Size and weight of both lamb and ewe, disease, and stress can also result in difficult births. In these cases, human intervention may be required to prevent the death of the lamb, the ewe or both.

Once the lamb has been born, the ewe begins the bonding process by licking it dry. With multiple lambs, the ewe will often clean them in the order of birth. The ewe also bonds through the sense of smell which allows her to recognize her lamb(s) by amniotic fluid, diet, and organic compounds in the wool. This bond also contributes to the ewe’s ability to recognize her own lambs by their bleat (baaa) if they wander off.

By observing the lifecycle of sheep, we can more clearly see the effects and

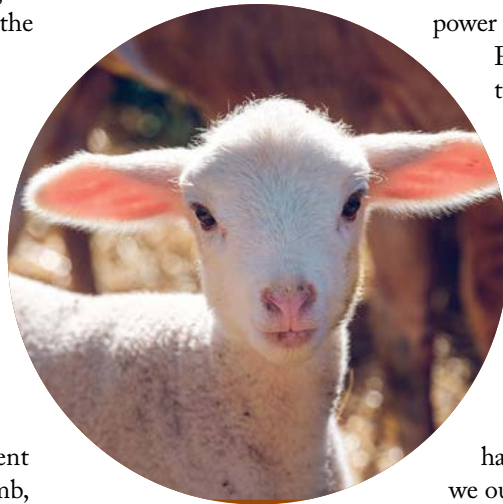
results of sin. When we consider the creation of this world up until Adam and Eve sinned, we can appreciate the natural order of how God intended the world and those who live in it to function and live. Before sin there was only the manifestation of God’s power and love. But even today, though marred by sin, all of nature still bears witness to His invisible divine attributes—eternal power and love.

Praise God for eyes to see! May we all look forward to experiencing nature in the new heaven and new earth with our precious Lord and Saviour.

“Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3

When one takes the time to enjoy the splendor, beauty, and intricate creations in nature, it is difficult to imagine that one cannot see that it is all by intelligent design. There are no “big bang theories” or “beautiful little accidents.” The Lord, our Creator and Sustainer of life, created all things to testify of His love and to supply our every need.

Sources: [christiantoday.com.au/news/sheep-are-pretty-dumb](http://christiantoday.com.au/news/sheep-are-pretty-dumb); [onekindplanet.org/animal/sheep](http://onekindplanet.org/animal/sheep); [sheeprox.info/lambing](http://sheeprox.info/lambing) LM



Q:

*How can I be thankful when everything is so bad?*

A:

Illness and death, grief and loneliness. Loss of a job and bills to pay. Violence, crime, hatred, crises, wars, and disasters. Temptation and trial. How is it possible, even for a moment, to be thankful in this world?

All evil is brought about by Satan. And while God allows hardships, misfortune, and trials to strengthen our faith and characters, He does not forsake us, providing the strength to bear the task, to carry the load.

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man ... but with the temptation will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. ... His heart of love is touched by our sorrows and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. ... Nothing that in any way concerns our

peace is too small for Him to notice.” *Steps to Christ*, 100

“Never allow Satan to discourage you. Trust yourself ... in the hands of God. ... [C]ommit the keeping of your soul to God. Depend in all that you do on the Holy Spirit, for He is our strength, our efficiency.” *This Day With God*, 22

“Educate the soul to cheerfulness, to thankfulness, and to the expression of gratitude to God for the great love wherewith He hath loved us. .... Christian cheerfulness is the very beauty of holiness.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 168

“Of all things that are sought, cherished, and cultivated, there is nothing so valuable in the sight of God as a pure heart, a disposition imbued with thankfulness and peace.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 559

“Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have any being. ... Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.” Psalm 146:1, *last part*, 2, 5 **LM**



# *The Garden of God's Promises*

“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”

Hebrews 10:36

**T**he promises of God are like precious flowers scattered through a garden. The Lord would have us linger over them, looking closely into them, taking in their loveliness, and appreciating the favor that God has bestowed upon us by making such rich provisions for our needs. Were it not for contemplation of the promises of God, we could not understand the gracious love and compassion of God toward us or realize how rich were the treasures prepared for those who love Him. He would have the soul encouraged to repose in faith upon Him, the only sufficiency of the human agent.

We are to send our petitions through the darkest clouds that Satan may cast

over us, and let our faith pierce to the throne of God encircled by the rainbow of promise, the assurance that God is true, that in Him is no variableness neither shadow of turning. The answer may appear to be delayed, but it is not so. The petition is accepted, and the answer given when it is essential for the best good of the petitioner and when the fulfillment of the request will work most for our eternal interest. God scatters His blessings all along our path to brighten our heavenward journey. ...

We are to come before the mercy seat with reverence, calling up to our mind the promises that God has given, contemplating the goodness of God, and offering up thankful praises for His unchangeable

love. We are not to trust in our finite prayers, but in the word of our heavenly Father, in His assurance of His love for us. Believing the promise of His unchanging love, we press our petitions to the throne of grace. Our faith may be tested by delay, but the prophet has given instruction as to what we should do. He says, “Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His Servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.” Isaiah 50:10

Wait upon the Lord; He has made the promise and is back of the assurance. ... He who hungers and thirsts after righteousness will be filled. *In Heavenly Places*, 125 **LM**





# Who Will be Saved and Who Will be Lost



By John J. Grosboll

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that in the last days not everyone who wants to go to heaven would be allowed entrance. Many of those who consider themselves His followers would be denied entrance to the kingdom. But what is the deciding factor that determines who will be saved and who will be lost?

The book of Revelation teaches us that heaven is for the overcomer. “Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. *He who overcomes* shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” Revelation 21:5–7

Those who do not overcome are described in verse 8: “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sex-

ually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

We see something very similar to this in Revelation 22:14, 15. “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

Verse 16 tells us, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” So we see that Jesus Himself is describing these two very different classes of people.

John’s letters to the seven churches, found in Revelation 2 and 3, lay out the Lord’s message to all of His professed followers in the Christian dispensation.

Speaking to the church of Ephesus, he says, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. *To him who overcomes* I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7. The person who overcomes is promised the ability to eat of the fruit of the tree of life.

The tree of life is alluded to in the very first chapters of the Bible. “The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” Genesis 2:16, 17

The Lord planted all manner of plants and trees to be food for Adam and Eve to eat, and they could eat of everything, as they pleased, except for the one tree. The Bible tells us in Genesis 3 that the woman, Eve, entered into conversation with a creature that looked like

a serpent, but was the devil, called in Revelation a dragon and that serpent of old, in disguise. “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” Genesis 3:1–5

The devil is a liar and always has been (John 8:44). However in this one thing he told the truth—once Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the tree, they did know good from evil. But when he told Eve that they would not die, this was a lie, for the Bible does not say that the soul of man is immortal. In fact, it says, “The soul who sins shall die.” Ezekiel 18:20, *first part*

“[W]hen the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” Genesis 3:6. As a result of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were driven from the garden, no longer allowed access to the tree of life, and they along with all of their descendants became subject to death.

After pronouncing a curse upon the serpent, we see God speak to Adam, “He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”: ‘Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ... In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.’” Genesis 3:17, 19



Adam was terrified when he heard the pronouncement that he would return to dust. “Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.” Genesis 3:22–24

So Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden that day and not a single member of the human race has been allowed back to eat of the tree of life.

The early generations of mankind would live for a very long time—several hundred years—and unless a person was murdered, such as Abel was by his brother Cain, people lived so long the Bible tells us that there were nine generations alive on the earth at the same time before the Flood (see Genesis 5).

But after the Flood, man’s lifespan rapidly decreased so that by the twentieth

generation, instead of living several hundred years, people only lived between one and two hundred years. Within a relatively short time after that, most people lived less than a hundred years until finally, as we find in the Psalms, the term of a man’s life had degenerated to around seventy years of age.

As many people have said, we scarcely start to live until we begin to die. And the truth is, that after sin entered the world, we began a downward slide from birth to death in just a few, short years. However, we have the divine promise that, if we are overcomers, we will once again be allowed access to the tree of life, whose fruit perpetuates life, and we need no longer fear death.

The second church John wrote to, the church of Smyrna, the Lord gave special promises regarding the problem of death. Smyrna was a persecuted church and many of its believers were martyred for the cause of Christ.

The Lord told them, “ ‘Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.’ ” Revelation 2:10, 11

In this world, regardless of whether we are good or bad, whatever our situation is, we all—except those alive at the second coming—will die the first death, because the Bible says, “[I]t is appointed for men to die once, ... after this the judgment ... ” Hebrews 9:27. But when Jesus comes, all those who are His children—all those who are overcomers—will be raised and given eternal life.

We find a description of this resurrection in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then they who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

All who have died in Christ will be raised from the dead and all who have lived in Christ and are alive at His coming will be gathered to Him. 1 Corinthians 15:53–55 tells us what happens to this group of people: “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ ”

But what happens to those who do not die in Christ, those who do not overcome, those who have not chosen to follow Him? “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’ ” Revelation 6:15–17

Once God’s children have been gathered into the clouds to be with Him and the wicked who are alive are destroyed by the brightness of His coming, Revelation 20 tells us, “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.” Verses 1–3

In verse 5, the Bible tells us what happens to the wicked who have died before Christ’s coming. It says, “But the rest



of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.” So, those who died before His coming, but did not die in Christ, will not be saved. They will not be raised when He returns, and the Bible says they will not live again until the millennium is finished.

If you are part of the first resurrection, verse 6 says, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Sin and death have no power over you anymore.

At the end of the thousand years, all of the unsaved will be raised.

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades [the grave] delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the book

of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Verses 11–15

Friend, if your name is not written in the book of life, you will not have eternal life; but if you are an overcomer, you will not be hurt by the second death. You will be taken to heaven to live with the Lord.

“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.” John 5:28, 29

Speaking about those who would be raised to the resurrection of life, Jesus said, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age ... and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” Luke 20:34–36

In the day of his great trial and distress, Job looked forward to that time, and said, “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth.” Job 19:25

Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam, predicted this same event. “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly



among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” Jude 14, *last part*, 15

Paul wrote that when the Lord would come, some would be saved while others would be lost. And writing to Timothy, he said, “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me at that day, and not to me only but also to all who love His appearing.”

2 Timothy 4:8

Revelation teaches that eternal life, heaven, and salvation are the reward of the one who overcomes. So what exactly must we overcome so that we can be in the kingdom of heaven?

The Bible is very specific about this. “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them [false spirits], because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of error.” 1 John 4:4–6

Then John comes more directly to the point, “Whoever is born of God *overcomes the world*. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” 1 John 5:4

What is John talking about when he says, “He that is born of God overcomes the world?” He explains himself in 1 John 2:15, 16: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not

in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

So what is in the world?

“The lust of the flesh” – the desire for unlawful sensual pleasure.

“The lust of the eyes” – the desire for possessions.

“The pride of life” – the desire for the praise and approbation of men.

Paul summarizes what the flesh causes men to do in Galatians

5:19–21, “Now

the works of the flesh are evident,

which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idol-

atry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish

ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Paul spells out exactly what the works of the flesh are, and over and over again he makes it clear that we must overcome them if we are to be in the kingdom of God. But if we have received the Holy Spirit, something completely different will happen in our lives. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Verses 22–25

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,

nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

The gospel is the most wonderful thing in the world. It can take people who have been involved in any kind of sin, and transform their lives so that they are no longer a slave to their evil habits and they will receive power to overcome.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us that were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ... [K]nowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ... Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present yourselves as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.” Romans 6:1–3, 6, 11–14

Friend, there will be only two categories of people when Jesus comes: those who are part of the resurrection to eternal life, and those who are part of the resurrection to condemnation. Which category will you be in?

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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*He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.*

*Revelation 21:7*

November 27 – December 3, 2022

# The Second Coming of Jesus

## Key Text

“In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:2, 3

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 638–652

## Introduction

“Soon Christ is coming for His people to take them to the mansions He is preparing for them. But nothing that defiles can enter those mansions. Heaven is pure and holy, and those who pass through the gates of the city of God must here be clothed with inward and outward purity.” *Counsels on Health*, 103

## Sunday

### 1 A WONDERFUL PROMISE

1.a. What was the expectation of all patriarchs, prophets, and faithful believers of old? Job 19:25–27

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**Note:** “The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the sacred Scriptures.” *The Great Controversy*, 299

1.b. What did Jesus promise to His disciples, and for what did He pray to the heavenly Father? John 14:1–3; 17:24. How did the angels repeat the promise of Jesus? Acts 1:10, 11

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**Note:** “None who truly love Jesus will be sorry that He is coming again. And as they approach nearer to the coming of the Son of man, the true lovers of Jesus will look forward with joyous hope, and will seek to get all ready to behold Him whom their souls loveth, who died to redeem them.” *Lift Him Up*, 379

## Monday

### 2 THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

2.a. Who will accompany Jesus at His coming and what will they be commanded to do? Matthew 24:31

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**Note:** “Christ is soon to come the second time. Of this we should often talk. It should be the uppermost thought in our minds. He is coming, with power and great glory, and every eye shall see Him.” *The Upward Look*, 311

“Christ will come in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and the glory of the holy angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful and triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way.” *The Desire of Ages*, 739

2.b. What is revealed in the Scriptures regarding those that died in the Lord? Isaiah 26:19. What event will take place when Jesus comes again? Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

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**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. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.” *The Great Controversy*, 644

“Do we believe with all the heart that Christ is soon coming and that we are now having the last message of mercy that is ever to be given to a guilty world? Is our example what it should be? Do we, by our lives and holy conversation, show to those around us that we are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shall change these vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body? I fear that we do not believe and realize these things as we should.”

*Early Writings*, 111

## Tuesday

### 3 THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

3.a. Who will see Jesus at His second coming? Matthew 24:30; Mark 14:60–62; Revelation 1:7

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**Note:** “Solemn hour when the servants are reckoned with, and retribution is awarded to all! There is no second trial. Probation is forever ended. All unbelief in regard to the claims of God’s law here ceases; for it is by this standard that all are judged. Every eye then sees Him; and every soul then realizes what has proved his ruin. It is then seen and acknowledged that God’s law governs all created intelligences. There is none to question His authority.” *The Review and Herald*, January 12, 1886

“There are those who mocked Christ in His humiliation. With thrilling power come to their minds the Sufferer’s words, when, adjured by the high priest, He solemnly declared: ‘Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.’ Matthew 26:64. Now they behold Him in His glory, and they are yet to see Him sitting on the right hand of power.” *The Great Controversy*, 643

“Whether we be saved or lost, we shall sometime see the Saviour as He is, in all His glory, and shall understand His character. At His second coming, conviction will be brought to every heart. Those who have turned from Him to the trivial things of this earth, seeking selfish interests and worldly honor, will in the day of His coming acknowledge their mistake.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 28, 1903

3.b. To what was the coming of Jesus compared, and how should this affect us? Matthew 24:25–27; Mark 13:33–37

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**Note:** “Those who watch for the Lord’s coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ’s coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to cooperate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls.” *The Desire of Ages*, 634

## Wednesday

### 4 AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

4.a. What will the inhabitants of the earth be doing and saying just before the coming of Jesus? Matthew 24:37–39; Luke 17:28–30; 2 Peter 3:3, 4

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**Note:** “Men and women now carry their eating and drinking so far that it ends in gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah, and led to widespread corruption.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 146

“He [the Saviour] foretold the state of backsliding that would exist just prior to His second advent. There would be, as in the days of Noah, the activity and stir of worldly business and pleasure seeking—buying, selling, planting, building, marrying, and giving in marriage—with forgetfulness of God and the future life.” *The Great Controversy*, 309

“In Noah’s day the inhabitants of the old world laughed to scorn what they termed the superstitious fears and forebodings of the preacher of righteousness. He was denounced as a visionary character, a fanatic, an alarmist. ... Men will reject the solemn message of warning in our day, as they did in Noah’s time. They will refer to those false teachers who have predicted the event and set the definite time, and will say that they have no more faith in our warning than in theirs. This is the attitude of the world today. Unbelief is widespread, and the preaching of Christ’s coming is mocked at and derided.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 308

4.b. In view of the urgency of time in which we are living, what warning should be heeded? Matthew 24:44; Luke 21:34–36

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**Note:** “You are now to get ready for the time of trial. Now you are to know whether your feet are planted on the Eternal Rock. You must have an individual experience, and not depend upon others for your light. When you are brought to the test, how do you know that you will not be alone, with no earthly friend at your side? Will you then be able to realize that Christ is your support? Will you be able to recall the promise, ‘Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world?’ ” *Maranatha*, 255

## Thursday

### 5 FOREVER WITH THE LORD

5.a. What comforting words did the apostle Paul send to the believers in Thessalonica? 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18. How is the coming of Jesus described in the Spirit of Prophecy?

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**Note:** “Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man’s hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man. We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. The bottom appeared like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man.” *Early Writings*, 15, 16

5.b. Describe the ascension of the saints. What will they receive? 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 15:50–57

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**Note:** “We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. ... Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’” *Early Writings*, 16, 17

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 If we genuinely love Jesus, what thought will we cherish above all?
- 2 Why is the second coming of Christ so significant?
- 3 In considering Christ’s return, what personal preparation do we need?
- 4 In what ways do we see the days of Noah being repeated today?
- 5 Why will all the saints be satisfied with their crowns?

December 4 – 10, 2022

# The Millennium

## Key Text

“I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, by His fierce anger.” Jeremiah 4:23–26

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 653–661

## Introduction

“The saints will rest in the Holy City and reign as kings and priests one thousand years.” *Early Writings*, 51

## Sunday

### 1 A TRAGIC FEAST

- 1.a. After the seven last plagues are poured out, what will happen to the bodies of the wicked? Isaiah 66:15–17; Jeremiah 25:30–33

**Note:** “The wicked had been destroyed, and their dead bodies were lying upon its [the earth’s] surface.” *Early Writings*, 289

- 1.b. How will the earth appear at this time? Revelation 19:17–21

**Note:** “At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the City of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants. ...

“The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness. The ruins of cities and villages destroyed by the earthquake, uprooted trees, ragged rocks thrown out by the sea or torn out of the earth itself, are scattered over its surface, while vast caverns mark the spot where the mountains have been rent from their foundations.” *The Great Controversy*, 657

## Monday

### 2 SATAN IMPRISONED

- 2.a. What will happen to Satan at the beginning of the one thousand years of Revelation 20? Revelation 20:1, 2

**Note:** “Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Here he will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God’s law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused.” *Early Writings*, 290

“Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound: there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight.” *The Great Controversy*, 659

- 2.b. Where will Satan be imprisoned during the one thousand years? Revelation 20:3

**Note:** “That the expression ‘bottomless pit’ represents the earth in a state of confusion and darkness is evident from other scriptures. Concerning the condition of the earth ‘in the beginning,’ the Bible record says that it ‘was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.’ Genesis 1:2. Prophecy teaches that it will be brought back, partially at least, to this condition.” *Maranatha*, 307

“The revelator foretells the banishment of Satan and the condition of chaos and desolation to which the earth is to be reduced, and he declares that this condition will exist for a thousand years.” *The Great Controversy*, 658





*The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness. The ruins of cities and villages are scattered over its surface.*

“For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense. Since his fall his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.” *The Great Controversy*, 660

unison with Jesus, pass their judgment upon the wicked dead.” *Early Writings*, 52

**3.b. What will be the main occupation of the saints during the millennium? Daniel 7:22; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3**

## Tuesday

### 3 A WORK GOING ON IN HEAVEN

**3.a. What scene was shown the apostle John and what power was given those who had obtained victory over the beast, his image, and his mark? Revelation 20:4, 6, 12, 13**

**Note:** “After the saints are changed to immortality and caught up together with Jesus, after they receive their harps, their robes, and their crowns, and enter the city, Jesus and the saints sit in judgment. The books are opened—the book of life and the book of death. The book of life contains the good deeds of the saints; and the book of death contains the evil deeds of the wicked. These books are compared with the statute book, the Bible, and according to that men are judged. The saints, in

**Note:** “During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection the judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this judgment as an event that follows the second advent. ‘Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts.’ 1 Corinthians 4:5. Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, ‘judgment was given to the saints of the Most High.’ Daniel 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: ‘I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.’ ‘They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.’ Revelation 20:4, 6. It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, ‘the saints shall judge the world.’ 1 Corinthians 6:2. In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death.” *The Great Controversy*, 660, 661



## Wednesday

### 4 AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

- 4.a. When the judgment of the wicked is completed in heaven, what event will take place? Isaiah 24:22; Revelation 20:5, 13

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**Note:** “At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the redeemed and attended by a retinue of angels. As He descends in terrific majesty He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. They come forth, a mighty host, numberless as the sands of the sea. What a contrast to those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.” *The Great Controversy*, 662

“[At the second resurrection, the wicked] ... appear before God for the execution of ‘the judgment written.’” *Ibid.*, 661

- 4.b. What will be the fate of those whose names were not written in the book of life? Revelation 20:15. How is this a warning to all? Ezekiel 33:13–16

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**Note:** “What a spectacle! What a scene! At the first resurrection all came forth in immortal bloom; but at the second the marks of the curse are visible on all.” *Early Writings*, 292

“Few will be saved, and that the greater number of those, even, who are called will prove themselves unworthy of everlasting life. They will have no part in heaven, but will have their portion with Satan, and experience the second death.

“Men and women may escape this doom if they will. It is true that Satan is the great originator of sin; yet this does not excuse any man for sinning; for he cannot force men to do evil. He tempts them to it, and makes sin look enticing and pleasant; but he has to leave it to their own wills whether they will do it or not.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 294

“If the professed believer becomes self-confident, if in word or spirit he breaks the least precept of God’s holy law, he misrepresents Jesus, and in the Judgment the awful words will be spoken, ‘Blot out his name from the book of life; he is a worker of iniquity.’ But the Father pities the self-distrustful, God-fearing soul.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 6, 1885

## Thursday

### 5 THE SECOND DEATH

- 5.a. After Satan is released from his prison, how will he try to deceive all the wicked that have just been resurrected? Revelation 20:7–9

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**Note:** “The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them. ...

“Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. The day has come that shall burn as an oven. The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are burned up.” *The Great Controversy*, 672

- 5.b. What will be the fate of Satan, his angels, evil men, and sin? Revelation 20:10, 14; 21:8. Malachi 4:1. Will there be any hope of resurrection from the second death? Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 1:16, *last part*

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**Note:** “Those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression—‘the wages of sin.’ They suffer punishment varying in duration and intensity, ‘according to their works,’ but finally ending in the second death. Since it is impossible for God, consistently with His justice and mercy, to save the sinner in his sins, He deprives him of the existence which his transgressions have forfeited and of which he has proved himself unworthy.” *The Great Controversy*, 544, 545

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is soon to happen to the earth?
- 2 In what sense will Satan be “bound” for 1,000 years?
- 3 When is 1 Corinthians 6:3 to be fulfilled?
- 4 What do we know about the book of life?
- 5 What is the second death?

December 11 – 17, 2022

# The Resurrections

## Key Text

“Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.” 1 Corinthians 15:12–14

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 644–662

## Introduction

“The hope of the bereaved is in looking forward to the glorious day when the Life-giver shall break the fetters of the tomb, and the righteous dead shall arise and leave their prison house to be clothed with glorious immortal life.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 40

## Sunday

### 1 RESURRECTIONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1.a. Name a few cases of resurrection in Old Testament times. 1 Kings 17:18–22; 2 Kings 4:32–36; 13:21

**Note:** “Christ, the great Life-giver, restored her [the Shunammite’s] son to her. In like manner will His faithful ones be rewarded, when, at His coming, death loses its sting and the grave is robbed of the victory it has claimed. Then will He restore to His servants the children that have been taken from them by death.” *Prophets and Kings*, 239

1.b. What does the resurrection of Moses symbolize for all believers? Matthew 17:1–3

**Note:** “Moses was present [at Christ’s transfiguration] to represent those who will be raised from the dead at the second appearing of Jesus.” *Early Writings*, 164

## Monday

### 2 RESURRECTIONS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

2.a. Relate some resurrections in the New Testament.

Luke 7:11–15; 8:49–55; Acts 9:36–40; 20:9–12

**Note:** “He who gave back to the widow of Nain her only son, and who in His agony upon the cross remembered His own mother, is touched today by the mother’s sorrow. In every grief and every need He will give comfort and help.” *The Desire of Ages*, 512

“Jesus approached the bedside [of Jairus’ daughter], and, taking the child’s hand in His own, He pronounced softly, in the familiar language of her home, the words, ‘Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.’

“Instantly a tremor passed through the unconscious form. The pulses of life beat again. The lips unclosed with a smile. The eyes opened widely as if from sleep, and the maiden gazed with wonder on the group beside her. She arose, and her parents clasped her in their arms, and wept for joy.” *Ibid.*, 343

“Directing that the weeping friends be sent from the room, he [Peter] kneeled down and prayed fervently to God to restore Dorcas to life and health. Turning to the body, he said, ‘Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.’ Dorcas had been of great service to the church, and God saw fit to bring her back from the land of the enemy, that her skill and energy might still be a blessing to others, and also that by this manifestation of His power the cause of Christ might be strengthened.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 132

2.b. The resurrection of Lazarus was the greatest miracle performed in Christ’s ministry on earth. Tell the sequence of events in this experience. John 11:14, 21, 32, 33–44

**Note:** “There is a stir in the silent tomb, and he who was dead stands at the door of the sepulcher. His movements are impeded by the graveclothes in which he was laid away, and Christ says to the astonished spectators, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’ Again they are shown that the human worker is to cooperate with God. Humanity is to work for humanity. Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one emaciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for his Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus.” *The Desire of Ages*, 536

## Tuesday

### 3 A WONDERFUL PROMISE

3.a. What promise belongs to those who die in the Lord?  
Job 14:14; Isaiah 26:19; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23

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**Note:** “The Sadducees were in opposition to the Pharisees regarding the resurrection of the dead. The former claimed that there would be no resurrection of the body. But Jesus tells them that one of the greatest works of His Father is raising up the dead, and even so the Son of God has power in Himself to raise from the dead. ‘Marvel not,’ said He, ‘at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.’” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 2, 167

3.b. What is the greatest proof that there will be a resurrection of the dead? Luke 24:1–8; John 11:23–27

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**Note:** “[At Christ’s resurrection,] brave soldiers, who had never been afraid of human power, were now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they looked upon was not the face of mortal warrior; it was the face of a heavenly messenger, sent to relieve the Son of God from the debt for which He had become responsible, and for which He had now made a full atonement. This heavenly visitant was the angel that on the plains of Bethlehem had proclaimed Christ’s birth. The earth

trembled at his approach, and as he rolled away the stone from Christ’s grave, heaven seemed to come down to earth. The soldiers saw him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and heard him call, Son of God, Thy Father saith, Come forth. They saw Jesus come from the grave as a mighty conqueror, and heard Him proclaim, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’ The angel guards bowed low in adoration before the Redeemer as He came forth in majesty and glory, and welcomed Him with songs of praise.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, May 2, 1901

“In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. ‘He that hath the Son hath life.’ 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life. ‘He that believeth in Me,’ said Jesus, ‘though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?’ Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death.” *The Desire of Ages*, 530

## Wednesday

### 4 THE PARTIAL RESURRECTION

4.a. What did Daniel the prophet say would take place in the time of trouble? Daniel 12:1, 2

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**Note:** “There was a mighty earthquake. The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel’s message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law.” *Early Writings*, 285

“Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.’ Daniel 12:2 All who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message come forth from the tomb. ... ‘They also which pierced Him’ (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ’s dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient.” *The Great Controversy*, 637

4.b. How many classes of people will be living on earth after the partial resurrection? Matthew 25:31–33

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There  
was  
a mighty  
earthquake, and  
the graves were  
opened.

**Note:** “Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.”

*Early Writings*, 15

“A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.” *Ibid.*, 36, 37

“Through a rift in the clouds there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God’s law.” *The Great Controversy*, 638

“In the issue of the contest 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.” *Ibid.*, 450

## Thursday

### 5 THE FINAL RESURRECTIONS

5.a. When will the general, final resurrection of the righteous take place? 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 20:4–6

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**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. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory.” *The Great Controversy*, 644

5.b. When will the unrighteous be raised from the grave?  
Revelation 20:5, 7, 8, 12, 13

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**Note:** “After the judgment of the wicked dead had been finished, at the end of the one thousand years, Jesus left the city, and the saints and a train of the angelic host followed Him. ...

“Then, in terrible, fearful majesty, Jesus called forth the wicked dead; and they came up with the same feeble, sickly bodies that went into the grave. What a spectacle! What a scene!”

*Early Writings*, 291, 292

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How do Old Testament resurrections reveal the everlasting gospel?
- 2 Why did Jesus allow Lazarus to die?
- 3 How did the Sadducees and the Pharisees differ in their beliefs concerning the resurrection of the dead?
- 4 Where is the partial resurrection recorded, and why is it so important?
- 5 Explain the difference between the first and second resurrection.

December 18 – 24, 2022

# Sin and Sinners Destroyed

## Key Text

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all that do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the Lord of hosts, ‘that will leave them neither root nor branch.’ ” Malachi 4:1

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 663–673

## Introduction

“Satan, the root of every sin, and all evil workers, who are his branches, shall be utterly cut off. An end will be made of sin, with all the woe and ruin that have resulted from it.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 341

## Sunday

### 1 AT THE COMING OF JESUS

1.a. Before the coming of Jesus, what will be the condition of the wicked? Malachi 3:14; 2 Timothy 3:1–4. 1 John 5:19

**Note:** “The cities around us are filled with wickedness, and after the message of warning has been given to them no more words of peace will be given.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 3, 87

“The state of the world, with its abominations and crimes, in fulfilment of the prophecies concerning the wickedness that would prevail during the last days, is enough to lead true Christians to live lives of humility and prayer.” *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 338

1.b. What will happen to the wicked ones who will be alive at the time of Jesus’ coming? 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; 2:8

**Note:** “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.” *The Great Controversy*, 657

## Monday

### 2 AT THE END OF THE MILLENIUM

2.a. What will take place after the one thousand years have expired? Isaiah 24:22; Revelation 20:5, *first part*

**Note:** “Every eye in that vast multitude is turned to behold the glory of the Son of God. With one voice the wicked hosts exclaim: ‘Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!’ It is not love to Jesus that inspires this utterance. The force of truth urges the words from unwilling lips. As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth with the same enmity to Christ and the same spirit of rebellion. They are to have no new probation in which to remedy the defects of their past lives. Nothing would be gained by this. A lifetime of transgression has not softened their hearts. A second probation, were it given them, would be occupied as was the first in evading the requirements of God and exciting rebellion against Him.” *The Great Controversy*, 662

2.b. How does the Bible describe the multitude of the resurrected wicked ones at the end of the millennium? Revelation 20:7, 8. Who are included in that vast multitude?

**Note:** “In that vast throng are multitudes of the long-lived race that existed before the Flood; men of lofty stature and giant intellect, who, yielding to the control of fallen angels, devoted all their skill and knowledge to the exaltation of themselves; men whose wonderful works of art led the world to idolize their genius, but whose cruelty and evil inventions, defiling the earth and defacing the image of God, caused Him to blot them from the face of His creation. There are kings and generals who conquered nations, valiant men who never lost a battle, proud,

ambitious warriors whose approach made kingdoms tremble. In death these experienced no change. As they come up from the grave, they resume the current of their thoughts just where it ceased. They are actuated by the same desire to conquer that ruled them when they fell.” *The Great Controversy*, 664

## Tuesday

### 3 EXTERMINATION OF SIN

3.a. What did Jesus say about the eradication of sin?  
Matthew 15:13

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**Note:** “Every plant that Satan has planted—jealousy, anger, envy, evil surmising, evil speaking, impatience, fretfulness, prejudice, vanity, covetousness, and selfishness—should be rooted up without delay. There is constant peril for the soul who nurtures these evil qualities, for they will bear a burden of evil fruit, whereby many will be defiled. These poisonous plants defile the soul and crowd out the precious flower of love.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, 79

“The extermination of sin will vindicate God’s love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.” *The Desire of Ages*, 764

3.b. After the second resurrection, what will Satan do in desperation as he deceives the innumerable multitude of wicked? Revelation 20:9, *first part*

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**Note:** “Satan prepares for a last mighty struggle for the supremacy. While deprived of his power and cut off from his work of deception, the prince of evil was miserable and dejected; but as the wicked dead are raised and he sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy. He will marshal all the armies of the lost under his banner and through them endeavor to execute his plans. The wicked are Satan’s captives. In rejecting Christ they have accepted the rule of the rebel leader. They are ready to receive his suggestions and to do his bidding. Yet, true to his early cunning, he does not acknowledge himself to be Satan. He claims to be the prince who is the rightful owner of



the world and whose inheritance has been unlawfully wrested from him. He represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the most cruel tyranny. The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God. With fiendish exultation he points to the unnumbered millions who have been raised from the dead and declares that as their leader he is well able to overthrow the city and regain his throne and his kingdom.” *The Great Controversy*, 664

## Wednesday

### 4 THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

4.a. What will even the wicked understand regarding the mission of Christ when He came into the world?  
1 John 3:8, *last part*; Luke 13:35

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**Note:** “When the Judge of all the world demands, Why have ye done thus? what reason can he assign, what cause can he plead? Bear in mind every tongue is silent, every mouth that has been so ready to speak evil, so ready to accuse, so ready to utter words of recrimination and falsehood is stopped, and the whole world of rebellion stands speechless before God.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1163



“With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: ‘Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.’” *The Great Controversy*, 671

**4.b. What will happen to the wicked, the evil angels, and Satan? Psalms 11:6; Jude 1:6, 7; Revelation 20:9, last part, 14, 15**

**Note:** “Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. The day has come that shall burn as an oven. The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are burned up. Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 3:10. The earth’s surface seems one molten mass—a vast, seething lake of fire. It is the time of the judgment and perdition of ungodly men—the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.’ Isaiah 34:8.

“The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. Proverbs 11:31. They ‘shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts.’ Malachi 4:1. Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished ‘according to their deeds.’ ‘The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches.’” *The Great Controversy*, 672, 673

## Thursday

### 5 THE EARTH LIBERATED FROM SIN

**5.a. What condition will exist after sin and sinners are destroyed? Psalm 104:35; Isaiah 14:7; 35:10; Zechariah 1:11**

**Note:** “Satan’s work of ruin is forever ended. ... Now God’s creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations.” *The Great Controversy*, 673

“Christ ... saw the happiness of those who through His humiliation should receive pardon and everlasting life. He was wounded for their transgressions, bruised for their iniquities. The chastisement of their peace was upon Him, and with His stripes they were healed.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 504

**5.b. How will the redeemed express their gratitude to the Lord for the restoration of His original plan? Revelation 5:13; 19:1, 6, 7**

**Note:** “When the redeemed stand in the presence of God, they will see how shortsighted were their conclusions as to what heaven records as success. As they review their efforts to achieve success they will see how foolish were their plans, how petty their supposed trials, how unreasonable their doubts. They will see how often they brought failure to their work by not taking God at His word. And one truth will stand out in clear lines: that position does not prepare a man for entrance into the heavenly courts. They will see, too, that the honor given to man is due to God alone, that to Him belongs all the glory. From the lips of the angelic choir and the redeemed host will peal forth the chorus.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 28

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How does this lesson confirm the old saying, “Crime does not pay”?
- 2 What reveals the fact that human character is unchanged after death?
- 3 With what deception does Satan incite the resurrected wicked to fight?
- 4 In what sense will the redeemed be further amazed by God’s glory?
- 5 Describe the joy that will be felt in the universe.

December 25 – 31, 2022

# The New Heaven and the New Earth

## Key Text

“My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” Isaiah 32:18

**Study Help:** *The Great Controversy*, 674–678

## Introduction

“The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was then given to the saints of the Most High, who were to possess it forever, even forever and ever.” *Early Writings*, 295

## Sunday

### 1 HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM

1.a. What promise will be fulfilled after sin and sinners are blotted out? Isaiah 65:17; Daniel 7:18, 27

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**Note:** “God’s entire universe was clean, and the great controversy was forever ended. Wherever we looked, everything upon which the eye rested was beautiful and holy. And all the redeemed host, old and young, great and small, cast their glittering crowns at the feet of their Redeemer, and prostrated themselves in adoration before Him, and worshiped Him that liveth forever and ever. The beautiful new earth, with all its glory, was the eternal inheritance of the saints.” *Early Writings*, 295

1.b. What gives us the privilege of becoming heirs of the kingdom of glory? John 1:12; Galatians 4:4–7

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**Note:** “In the heavenly courts there will be no song sung, To me that loved myself, and washed myself, redeemed myself, unto me be glory and honor, blessing and praise. ... The whole gospel is comprised in learning of Christ, His meekness and lowliness.

“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 456

## Monday

### 2 PERFECT PEACE

2.a. What condition will exist among the animals in the new earth? Isaiah 11:6, 7, 9

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**Note:** “Man will be restored to his lost kingship, and the lower order of beings will again recognize his sway; the fierce will become gentle, and the timid trustful.” *Education*, 304

2.b. What kinds of dwelling places will the saints enjoy in the earth made new? Isaiah 32:18; Proverbs 1:33

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**Note:** “If we can meet Jesus in peace and be saved, forever saved, we shall be the happiest of beings! Oh, to be at home at last where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest! Heaven, sweet heaven! Oh, I shall appreciate heaven! I know that I must watch and keep my garments unspotted from the world or I shall never enter the abode of the blessed.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 21, 343

“There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.” *The Great Controversy*, 675

“What we are in the heavenly home, when saved, eternally saved, will be the reflection of what we now are in character

and holy service. Shall we not show our loyalty by keeping God's commandments here, in this our place of probation?" *In Heavenly Places*, 298

"Let us consider most earnestly the blessed hereafter. Let our faith pierce through every cloud of darkness and behold Him who died for the sins of the world. He has opened the gates of paradise to all who receive and believe on Him. To them He gives power to become the sons and daughters of God. Let the afflictions which pain us so grievously become instructive lessons, teaching us to press forward toward the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ." *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 286, 287

## Tuesday

### 3 NO DISEASE, SUFFERING OR DEATH

3.a. What evils will no longer exist in the earth made new? Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 33:24; 60:18

**Note:** "Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning." *The Great Controversy*, 676

"This earth is the place of preparation for heaven. The time spent here is the Christian's winter. Here the chilly winds of affliction blow upon us, and the waves of trouble roll against us. But in the near future, when Christ comes, sorrow and sighing will be forever ended. Then will be the Christian's summer. All trials will be over, and there will be no more sickness or death." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 988

3.b. Will the redeemed remember the suffering that was their lot on this earth? Isaiah 65:17–19

**Note:** "We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, 'Alleluia, heaven is cheap enough!' and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven's arches ring." *Early Writings*, 17

3.c. Describe life in the earth made new. Isaiah 51:3; 65:21–25

**Note:** "There [in heaven] we shall know even as also we are known. There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, the sacred fellowship that binds together 'the whole family in heaven and earth'—all are among the experiences of the hereafter.

"There will be music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived." *Education*, 306, 307

## Wednesday

### 4 TRUE AND FAITHFUL WORDS

4.a. What admonition is given to us about the immutability of God's words? Revelation 21:5, *last part*; 22:18, 19

**Note:** "Those who, by their human construction, shall make the Scripture to utter that which Christ has never placed upon it, weaken its force, making the voice of God in instruction and warnings to testify falsehood, to avoid the inconvenience incurred by obedience to God's requirements, have become signboards, pointing in the wrong direction, into false paths, which lead to transgression and death." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 387

"Many will make the words of the Revelation a spiritualistic mystery, robbing them of their solemn import. God declares that His judgments shall fall with increased dreadfulness upon anyone who shall try to change the solemn words written in this book—the Revelation of Jesus Christ." *The Review and Herald*, August 2, 1906

"In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience." *Ye Shall Receive Power*, 122





- 4.b. What warning is given to children and youth who desire to inherit the new earth? Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20
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**Note:** “Children who dishonor and disobey their parents, and disregard their advice and instructions, can have no part in the earth made new. The purified new earth will be no place for the rebellious, the disobedient, the ungrateful, son or daughter. Unless such learn obedience and submission here, they will never learn it; the peace of the ransomed will not be marred by disobedient, unruly, unsubmitive children. No commandment breaker can inherit the kingdom of heaven.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 497, 498

“Children, do you desire eternal life? Then respect and honor your parents. Do not wound and grieve their hearts, and cause them to spend sleepless nights in anxiety and distress over your case. If you have sinned in not rendering love and obedience to them, begin now to redeem the past.” *The Youth's Instructor*, June 22, 1893

## Thursday

### 5 ALMOST HOME

- 5.a. What should be our attitude considering the nearness of our eternal redemption? James 4:8-11; Titus 2:11-13
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**Note:** “The Lord is soon to come, and we must be prepared to meet Him in peace. Let us be determined to do all in our power to impart light to those around us. We are not to be sad, but cheerful, and we are to keep the Lord Jesus ever before us. He is soon coming, and we must be ready and waiting for His appearing. Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty we shall be forever blessed.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 253

“The closest relation exists between God and His people. ... The servants of God are to be earnest, penitent, trustful, thankful. Their lives should be living epistles, known and read of all men. They should be continually looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 27, 1890

- 5.b. What comfort do we find in God's word as we approach the consummation of our hope? James 5:7, 8; Hebrews 10:36-39
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**Note:** “There will be no sadness in the city of God. No wail of sorrow, no dirge of crushed hopes and buried affections, will evermore be heard. Soon the garments of heaviness will be changed for the wedding garment. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 287

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the reward of the faithful?
  - 2 Describe the home of the saved.
  - 3 What will happen to the many trials we now have?
  - 4 What should our youth think about if they desire everlasting life and joy?
  - 5 What will you do today with the offer of salvation?
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## CREAMY VEGAN BANANA PUDDING

### Ingredients

#### *Pudding:*

2 cups coconut milk or non-dairy milk of choice  
1 ripe banana  
1/4 cup chia seeds  
1/2 cup raw cashews  
6 pitted medjool dates  
1 tsp. vanilla flavoring

#### *For layering:*

Roasted pecans  
2 ripe bananas, sliced  
Coconut whipped cream

### Process

In a blender, combine the pudding ingredients and blend briefly. Leave mixture in the blender for 10-15 minutes to soften the chia seeds and cashews, and then blend again on high until creamy and smooth. Pour into a container and refrigerate until thickened, several hours, or overnight. Layer the pudding into glasses with the pecans, sliced bananas, and coconut whipped cream.







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