SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

THE CHURCH: ITS STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 240, SECOND QUARTER, 1955

INDIVIDUAL SABBATH-SCHOOL OFFERING GOAL

"As God hath prospered him."

MY WEEKLY GOAL (Check Amount)

		RECORD		
$5.00	"God loveth a cheerful giver."	1._____	7._____	13._____
2.00		2._____	8._____	Birthday
1.50		3._____	9._____	_____
1.00		4._____	10._____	Investment
.50		5._____	11._____	_____
.40		6._____	12._____	TOTAL

DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name _____

Place a check mark in each space below for the days you have studied.

STUDY RECORD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1st Day's Study													
2d Day's Study													
3d Day's Study													
4th Day's Study													
5th Day's Study													
6th Day's Study													
7th Day's Study													

"Let the Sabbath-school lesson be learned, not by a hasty glance at the lesson scripture on Sabbath morning, but by careful study for the next week on Sabbath afternoon, with daily review or illustration during the week. Thus the lesson will become fixed in the memory, a treasure never to be wholly lost."—"Education," pages 251, 252.

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE CHURCH: ITS STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

"Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified."

"The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work."

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to 'the principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the love of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 13, 11, 9.

Lesson 1, for April 2, 1955

The Early Church

MEMORY VERSE: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:18-20.

STUDY HELP: "The Desire of Ages," pages 818-828.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-7.
4. Questions 8-11.
5. Questions 12-15.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline

I. Introduction

II. Christ the Foundation

1. Peter's confession. Matt. 16:16-18.
2. Man's only hope. Acts 4:11, 12.
3. The Chief Cornerstone. Eph. 2:19-21.
4. Living stones in the spiritual temple. 1 Peter 2:5.

III. The Gospel Commission

1. Christ's parting legacy. Matt. 28:18-20.
2. A world-wide task. Acts 1:8.
3. Diversified ministry. Mark 16:15, 17, 18.

IV. Implementing the Gospel Mission

1. The promise of the Spirit. Luke 24:48, 49; John 14:26; 16:13.
2. The gifts of the Spirit. Eph. 4:8, 11, 12; 1 Cor. 12:28.
3. The Pentecostal outpouring. Acts 2:1-4, 38-41.
4. Persecution extends the gospel. Acts 8:1, 4.

V. Onward to Victory

1. Miraculous results. Col. 1:23.
2. Finishing the gospel task. Rev. 10:7; Matt. 24:14.
3. Individual responsibility. 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Cor. 9:16.
4. Complete consecration rewarded. Dan. 12:3; Mark 10:29, 30.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Christ, who was one with the Father from the days of eternity, identifies Himself with fallen man to become the Author of our salvation, and Leader of His church on earth.

Christ the Foundation

1. Upon what did Christ declare He would build His church? Matt. 16:16-18.

NOTE.—Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," "is the foundation of the believer's faith. . . . The word Peter signifies a stone,—a rolling stone. Peter was not the rock upon which the church was founded. The gates of hell did prevail against him when he denied his Lord with cursing and swearing. The church was built upon One against whom the gates of hell could not prevail."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 412, 413.

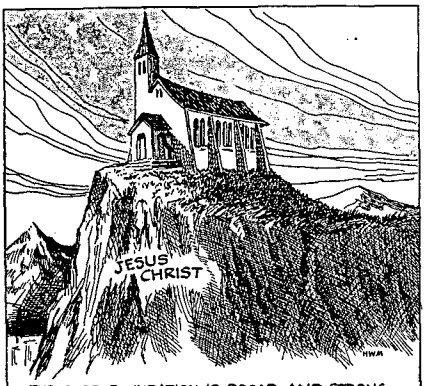
2. On a subsequent occasion what vital truth did Peter state? Acts 4: 11, 12.

3. In what words did the apostle Paul express the same glorious fundamental truth? Eph. 2:19-21.

NOTE.—"To those who believe, Christ is a sure foundation. Upon this living stone, Jews and Gentiles alike may build. It is broad enough for all, and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world."

"The apostles built upon a sure foundation, even the Rock of Ages. To this foundation they brought the stones that they quarried from the world. Not without hindrance did the builders labor. . . . One after another the foremost of the builders fell by the hand of the enemy. Stephen was stoned; James was slain by the sword; Paul was beheaded; Peter was crucified; John was exiled. Yet the church grew. New workers took the place of those who fell, and stone after stone was added to the building. Thus slowly ascended the temple of the church of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 175, 596, 597.

4. In God's spiritual temple what position do Christian believers occupy? 1 Peter 2:5. Compare Rev. 3:12.



THE SURE FOUNDATION IS BROAD AND STRONG ENOUGH TO ENDURE THROUGH THE AGES.

NOTE.—"Through the ages that have passed since the days of the apostles, the building of God's temple has never ceased. We may look back through the centuries, and see the living stones of which it is composed gleaming like jets of light through the darkness of error and superstition. Throughout eternity these precious jewels will shine with increasing luster, testifying to the power of the truth of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 598.

The Gospel Commission

5. As a part of Christ's legacy to His disciples, what far-reaching task was committed to them? Matt. 28: 18-20.

NOTE.—"Clothed with boundless authority, He gave His commission to the disciples: 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' . . . Christ commissioned His disciples to proclaim a faith and worship that would have in it nothing of caste or country, a faith that would be adapted to all peoples, all nations, all classes of men."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 819, 820.

6. Just prior to the ascension how was this commission amplified? Acts 1:8.

7. What various forms of service were the apostles to render? Mark 16:15, 17, 18.

NOTE.—"The promise is as far-reaching as the commission. Not that all the gifts are imparted to each believer. The Spirit divides 'to every man severally as He will.' 1 Cor. 12:11. But the gifts of the Spirit are promised to every believer according to his need for the Lord's work. The promise is just as strong and trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 823.

Implementing the Gospel Mission

8. How were the disciples qualified for this supreme task? Luke 24:48, 49; John 14:26; 16:13.

NOTE.—"A new endowment was now promised. The disciples were to preach among other nations, and they would receive power to speak other tongues. The apostles and their associates were unlettered men, yet through the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, their speech, whether in their own or a foreign language, became pure, simple, and accurate, both in word and in accent. Thus Christ gave His disciples their commission. He made full provision for the prosecution of the work, and took upon Himself the responsibility for its success."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 821, 822.

9. To facilitate the apostles' labors, what divine gifts were bestowed? Eph. 4:8, 11, 12; 1 Cor. 12:28.

NOTE.—"When Christ ascended to heaven, He left the work on earth in the hands of His servants, the undershepherds. . . . In sending forth His ministers our Saviour gave gifts unto men, for through them He communicates to the world the words of eternal life. This is the means which God has ordained for the perfecting of the saints in knowledge and true holiness."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 237.

10. What marvelous outpouring of the Spirit signalized the beginning of world-wide gospel evangelism? Acts 2:1-4, 38-41.

NOTE.—"The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. . . . 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."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 38.

11. How did persecution affect the growth and extension of the early gospel church? Acts 8:1, 4.

NOTE.—"The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel. Success had attended the ministry of the word in that place, and there was danger that the disciples would linger there too long, unmindful of the Saviour's commission to go to all the world. . . . To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers 'went everywhere preaching the word.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 105.

Onward to Victory

12. Within the lifetime of the early apostles what remarkable results were attained? Col. 1:23.

NOTE.—It is conservatively estimated that during the first century of the gospel era, millions of individuals accepted Christianity. Without money, armies, or worldly influence Christ and His followers conquered more peoples than the greatest heroes of history; and this astounding success constitutes one of the mightiest evidences that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the eternal Son of God.

13. When will the gospel task be completed? Rev. 10:7; Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 111.

14. How does Inspiration stress the urgency and sacredness of our individual ambassadorship for Christ? 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Cor. 9:16.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 822.

"Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 600.

15. To all who consecrate their talents to Christ, what precious promises are given? Dan. 12:3; Mark 10:29, 30.

NOTE.—"The humblest worker, moved by the Holy Spirit, will touch invisible chords, whose vibrations will ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody through eternal ages."

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His

own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth Its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 823, 827.

Lesson 2, for April 9, 1955

The Church in Prophecy

MEMORY VERSE: "He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Dan. 7:25.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 39-60; 1950 ed., pp. 23-45.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-8.
4. Questions 9-11.
5. Questions 12-14.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Church in the Early Centuries

1. Apostolic purity foretold. Rev. 2:1-3; 6:1, 2.
2. Grievous wolves to enter. Acts 20:29, 30.
3. Warnings against heresy. 2 Peter 2:1, 2; 1 John 4:3.
4. The man of sin. 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7.

III. The "Little Horn" Power

1. The rise of the papacy. Dan. 7:24, 25, first clause.
2. Persecution and martyrdom. Dan. 7:25, second clause.
3. The attempt to alter divine law. Dan. 7:25, third clause.
4. The period of supremacy. Dan. 7:25, last clause; Rev. 12:6; 13:5.

IV. The Church During the Dark Ages

1. The symbol of a pure church. Rev. 12:1.
2. The fiendish adversary. Rev. 12:3.
3. Wrath against the church. Rev. 12:10-12.
4. Fleeing to the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14.
5. The earth helps the woman. Rev. 12:15, 16.

V. The Closing Conflict

1. Former persecutions to be repeated. Rev. 12:17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In a remarkable way Bible prophecy explicitly foretold the varied experiences of the church along the centuries of the Christian Era. Some of these predictions and their fulfillment are here considered.

The Church in the Early Centuries

1. What prophecies indicated the spiritual condition of the early church? Rev. 2:1-3; 6:1, 2.

NOTE.—During the first century of our era the church of the early apostles remained essentially pure in belief and practice. The first period, or epoch, in the prophetic series of the seven churches was designated as Ephesus, meaning "desirable;" while in the parallel prophecy of the seven seals the color of the horse, "white," indicated the purity of the apostolic church as it "went forth conquering, and to conquer."

2. As the apostle Paul foresaw the future, what developments in the church gave him deep concern? Acts 20:29, 30.

NOTE.—During the second and third centuries of our era, multitudes of Christians were persecuted, imprisoned, and slain; while thousands of others sought refuge in those vast underground tunnels, or galleries, known as "the catacombs." "As long as persecution continued, the church remained comparatively pure. But as it ceased, converts were added who were less sincere and devoted, and the way was opened for Satan to obtain a foothold." "Now the church was in fearful peril."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 44, 42.

3. What warnings against false teachings were given by the apostles Peter and John? 2 Peter 2:1, 2; 1 John 4:3.

4. With the lapse of time what grievous apostasy did Paul further declare would arise in the church? 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7.

NOTE.—"Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, the mystery of iniquity carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church. . . . As persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she laid aside the humble simplicity of Christ and His apostles for the pomp and pride of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she substituted human theories and traditions. . . . This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the 'man of sin' foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 49, 50.

The "Little Horn" Power

5. What specific forecast did the prophet Daniel make concerning this apostate power? Dan. 7:24, 25, first clause.

NOTE.—As the "little horn" came up from the head of the fourth beast (verses 7, 8, 24), so the papacy arose on the ruins of the Roman Empire to become a mighty ecclesiastical despotism claiming universal authority over both spiritual and civil affairs.

Such titles as "Another god on earth," "Vicegerent of Christ," "Priest forever," and "King of kings and Lord of lords," as applied to the pope of Rome, who is a mere man, constitute blasphemy against the God of heaven. See *Bible Readings for the Home,* pp. 179-181; new ed., p. 215.

6. What fate overcame multitudes of the "saints"? Dan. 7:25, second clause.

NOTE.—By flame and sword, crusade and inquisition during the Middle Ages, millions of Europeans who would not bow the knee to Rome suffered martyrdom.

7. What would this power attempt to change? Dan. 7:25, third clause.

NOTE.—"The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath."—*The Great Controversy,* page 446.

8. For how long a time would this despotic reign continue? Dan. 7:25, last clause; Rev. 12:6; 13:5.

NOTE.—Computing 30 days to the full Jewish month, and 360 days to the year in accord with ancient reckoning, it will be observed that the "time [or year] and times and the dividing of time [3½ years]," the forty-two months, and the 1260 days equal the same length of time. Remembering also that in symbolic prophecy a day represents a year, this period of 1260 prophetic days, or 1260 literal years, would constitute the time during which the saints, times, and law of God would be given into the hands of the papal power. This period extended from the full establishment of the papacy in A.D. 538 to the time when the pope of Rome was taken prisoner in 1798. For a more complete explanation, see *Bible Readings for the Home,* pp. 184, 185; new ed., p. 219.

The Church During the Dark Ages

9. In a vision given to John the revelator, what symbol was employed to represent the true church? Rev. 12:1.

NOTE.—In the Scriptures the symbol of a virtuous woman is chosen to typify a pure church (2 Cor. 11:2); while that of a corrupt woman is employed to personate an apostate church. Ezek. 23:2-4; Rev. 17:3-6.

THE SAME ENEMIES ATTACK THE CHURCH TODAY AS IN THE EARLY CENTURIES.

10. What other "wonder" on the prophetic screen attracted John's attention? Rev. 12:3.

NOTE.—"While the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome."—*The Great Controversy,* page 438.

With the downfall of the Roman Empire, "his power, and his seat, and great authority," was bequeathed to the Church of Rome. See Rev. 13:2.

11. As a result of Christ's victorious earthly mission and Satan's knowledge that his kingdom is doomed, on whom does the archenemy concentrate his efforts? Rev. 12:10-12.

NOTE.—"Fearful are the scenes which call forth this exclamation from the heavenly voice. The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its culmination in the time of trouble."—*The Great Controversy,* page 623.

12. By what means would the woman seek refuge from the satanic fury of the dragon? Rev. 12:6, 14.

NOTE.—During the long dark period of Rome's supremacy many true Christians like the Waldenses and Albigenses sought refuge in mountain retreats, in other isolated places of Europe, and in the newly discovered land of America. In the Western Hemisphere God had kept an entire continent in reserve to become a welcome retreat for the persecuted and oppressed.

13. How would the "earth" cooperate in defending and protecting the church in the wilderness? Rev. 12:15, 16.

NOTE.—By means of the Protestant Reformation, by the destruction of the Spanish Armada, by the support of powerful kings and princes, by the opening of the American wilderness, and by numerous other means, "the earth helped the woman" "and swallowed up the flood" of merciless persecution.

The Closing Conflict

14. In the coming conflict what crisis awaits the remnant church? Rev. 12:17.

NOTE.—"The same spirit which actuated papists in ages past will lead Protestants to pursue a similar course toward those who will maintain their loyalty to God. . . . Former persecutions are to be repeated. . . . The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 449, 450.

But, that conflict, though sore, will be brief, and the victory will be glorious and eternal.

Lesson 3, for April 16, 1955

The Time of the End

MEMORY VERSE: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12:4.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 289-316; 1950 ed., pp. 281-290.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-7.
4. Questions 8-10.
5. Questions 11-13.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Nearing "the Time of the End"

1. Exploits for God. Dan. 11:32, 33.
2. Witnessing for truth. Dan. 11:35.
3. Praying for the morning. Rev. 2:28; Ps. 130:6.

III. Notable Signs of the End

1. The great earthquake. Rev. 6:12, first part.
2. Sun and moon darkened. Rev. 6:12, last part; Matt. 24:29, first part.
3. The meteoric shower. Rev. 6:13; Matt. 24:29, last part.
4. The parable of the fig tree. Matt. 24:32, 33.

IV. Increase of Knowledge

1. Daniel's far-reaching prophecy. Dan. 12:4.
2. The march of science.
3. Modern inventions speed the gospel.

V. The Sign of Signs

1. The supreme task. Matt. 24:14.
2. God's secret. Matt. 24:36; Acts 1:7.
3. Christ's appeal. Luke 21:34-36.

THE LESSON

Introduction

As the world emerged from the tyranny of centuries, and the Protestant Reformation continued its successful march to victory, prophecies were fulfilled, and the specific signs of Christ's return began to appear.

Nearing "the Time of the End"

1. Mention some of the experiences through which our spiritual forefathers were impelled to pass. Dan. 11:32, 33.

NOTE.—"The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." "These were Christians who kept pure religion alive in the earth during the Dark Ages of papal tyranny, and performed marvelous acts of self-sacrifice and religious heroism in behalf of their faith. Prominent among these stand the Waldenses, the Albigenses, and the Huguenots."—*The Prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 278, 279.

2. For what purpose did God permit them to suffer? When might they expect relief from persecution? Dan. 11:35.

NOTE.—In Bohemia the noble John Huss and his friend Jerome fearlessly preached the gospel. At length, while awaiting execution, the former had a dream of high church officials erasing the pictures of Christ he had painted on the chapel walls. Then other painters came to paint them in brighter colors. On awakening, the Reformer wrote, "I maintain this for certain, that the image of Christ will never be effaced. They have wished to destroy it, but it shall be painted afresh in all hearts by much better preachers than myself."

Likewise in England, Latimer at the stake is said to have exclaimed, "Be of good comfort, we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out." When such courageous heroes as Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer were martyred, "the words of these dying witnesses were heard throughout the land." See *The Great Controversy,* pages 249, 250.

3. During times of tribulation and darkness, how were the true servants of God cheered? Rev. 2:28. Compare Ps. 130:6.

Notable Signs of the End

4. As the long night of affliction drew to a close, what startling event occurred? Rev. 6:12, first part.

NOTE.—Among all recorded tremors of the earth, the so-called Lisbon earthquake of November 1, 1755, was among the most devastating. Within six minutes 60,000 people perished. Half of the world's surface is said to have felt the convulsion, and multitudes regarded it as a fulfillment of prophecy and as the first of a series of signs betokening the close of earth's history.

5. What spectacular signs were to appear in the heavens? Rev. 6:12, last part; Matt. 24:29, first part.

NOTE.—In the parallel prophecy, recorded in Mark 13:24, the text reads, *"In those days, after that tribulation,* the sun shall be darkened." The period of 1260 years of papal supremacy extended to 1798, at which time the pope was taken prisoner; but in most European countries the rigors of persecution had subsided by the year 1773. This remarkable darkening of the sun covering much of New England, and occurring on May 19, 1780, came at precisely the right time to fulfill our Lord's prophecy given seventeen and a half centuries earlier.

6. What was the next awe-inspiring spectacle to appear in the sky? Rev. 6:13; Matt. 24:29, last part.

NOTE.—The greatest of all meteoric showers occurred on the morning of November 13, 1833, and covered a large portion of North America. It appeared as "a magnificent display of celestial fireworks," and multitudes looked upon it as an evident "harbinger of the coming of the Son of man." It followed the other signs in exact accord with the prophetic sequence.

7. Relate Christ's parable of the fig tree, and give its application. Matt. 24:32, 33.

The Increase of Knowledge

8. Near the close of his long life what far-reaching message was given to the prophet Daniel? Dan. 12:4.

NOTE.—This remarkable prophecy passed over the centuries and millenniums to focus itself at "the time of the end," in the years following 1798. The Book that had been despised and prohibited now became the center of interest to many students of the word. Bible societies were organized; the Scriptures were translated into new languages; and ambassadors for Christ began running to and fro with the good tidings. The modern missionary era was auspiciously launched.

The book of Daniel was not to be shut up *until the end,* for then there would be no opportunity to derive benefit from its contents. It was to be closed until "the *time* of the end," during which brief period there would be a great increase in knowledge. It had been generally considered that this book contained numerous mysteries difficult to understand, but with prayerful study during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a flood of light now illuminates its pages. Compare Rev. 10:2.

9. In the field of science and technology how has the prophecy of Dan. 12:4 been remarkably fulfilled?

ANSWER: For a hundred generations men lived and worked as their ancestors had lived and worked in the distant past of old Chaldea and Egypt. Then suddenly their

inventive faculties, previously dormant, were aroused to unheard-of activity, to invent, to discover, to blaze new trails, to inaugurate a new civilization. In every field of human attainment behold the marvelous transformation!

In the infinite plan of God all this was scheduled and foretold two and a half millenniums ago. God declared that, in the time of the end, knowledge would be increased; and when the hour was struck, the dawn of a new day sent its thrill around the globe. Today wheels and machines turn so rapidly that man may now accomplish more or travel farther in a few days than he was formerly able to do in a lifetime.

10. How has the march of modern science facilitated the proclamation of the gospel?

ANSWER: In the marvelous inventions of this age the true Christian discerns a divine purpose for speeding the good news of Christ's return to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The railway, the steamship, the automobile, the airplane, the printing press, the radio and television, are seen as God-given agencies by which the gospel may be speedily carried to the inhabitants of the entire world. See Rom. 9:28.

The Sign of Signs

11. What stupendous task is committed to the people of God? When this work is completed, what will take place? Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—The length of time required to finish the work of God is not disclosed; but if Jonah could warn mighty Nineveh by a few days' effort; if King Ahasuerus, with the means at his command, could, in nine months, promulgate an edict for all people throughout one hundred twenty-seven provinces scatterd from India to Ethiopia, we are confident that Omnipotent Power will speedily bring the gospel program to a triumphant close. This is the world's greatest, grandest enterprise; and the promise is sure: "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness."

12. What vital information rests alone in God's keeping? Matt. 24:36; Acts 1:7.

NOTE.—"The day and the hour of His coming Christ has not revealed. He stated plainly to His disciples that He Himself could not make known the day or the hour of His second appearing. Had He been at liberty to reveal this, why need He have exhorted them to maintain an attitude of constant expectancy? There are those who claim to know the very day and hour of our Lord's appearing. Very earnest are they in mapping out the future. But the Lord has warned them off the ground they occupy. The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is God's mystery."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 632, 633.

13. Lest any be taken by surprise, what impressive warning and appeal did Christ give? Luke 21:34-36.

NOTE.—"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. . . . Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: 'Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 636.

The Judgment-Hour Message

MEMORY VERSE: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6, 7.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 409-432, 479-491; 1950 ed., pp. 403-426, 473-485.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1, 2.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6-9.
5. Questions 10-12.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. Far-Reaching Prophecies

1. Long years of oppression. Dan. 8:13.
2. A time of adjustments. Dan. 8:14, first part.

III. The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

1. Termination of the 2300 years. Dan. 8:14, last part.
2. Type and antitype. Lev. 16:29, 30, 33.
3. Christ in His sanctuary. Heb. 9:22-26.

IV. The Investigative Judgment

1. In the holy of holies. Dan. 7:9, 13.
2. The opening of the judgment. Dan. 7:10.
3. Every life investigated. 2 Cor. 5:10.
4. The standard of judgment. Eccl. 12:13, 14; Matt. 12:36, 37.
5. The record books adjusted. Rev. 3:5; Acts 3:19.

V. The First Angel's Message

1. A world-wide appeal. Rev. 14:6, 7.
2. The result of the proclamation. Rev. 14:12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

At the end of the probationary period of one hundred and twenty years granted to the antediluvians, the great Flood occurred. At the close of the four hundred and thirty years specified in the promise to Abraham, Israel marched forth on "the selfsame day" from Egyptian bondage to national freedom. Ex. 12:41.

At the end of the seventy years of Babylonian captivity foretold by Jeremiah, King Cyrus issued the decree enabling the Jews to return to Palestine. 2 Chron. 36:21-23. In the middle of the seventieth week, when the fullness of the time was come, Christ made the supreme sacrifice on Calvary's cross. Dan. 9:27; Gal. 4:4, 5.

Also, with the expiration of the 2300-year period in 1844, our great High Priest

entered the holy of holies in the heavenly sanctuary to officiate in the investigative judgment. God's clock keeps accurate time.

Far-Reaching Prophecies

1. As Daniel beheld in vision the struggles of God's people, what question was asked? Dan. 8:13.

NOTE.—In other words, how long would evil continue to triumph, and how long would the church and people of God be the victims of oppression?

2. What reply was given? Dan. 8:14, first part.

NOTE.—This remarkable answer foreshadows a time when both good and evil will be seen in true perspective. In the just balances of heaven the works of all will be weighed, for reward or condemnation.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

3. What was to occur at the end of the 2300 days? Dan. 8:14, last part.

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

EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS A SOLEMN APPOINTMENT TO FACE THE JUDGE OF THE UNIVERSE.

His disciples, and the apostles turned to the Gentiles, A.D. 34. The first 490 years of the 2300 having then ended, 1810 years would remain. From A.D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. 'Then,' said the angel, 'shall the sanctuary be cleansed.' All the preceding specifications of the prophecy had been unquestionably fulfilled at the time appointed."—*The Great Controversy,* page 410.

4. What does the term "cleansing of the sanctuary" imply? Lev. 16:29, 30, 33.

NOTE.—According to divine instructions a little earthly model of the heavenly sanctuary was built by Moses in the wilderness. To this religious center the people of Israel came bringing their offerings and confessing their sins. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month, a special service was held that the sanctuary might be cleansed from the accumulated sins of the people. This ritual, however, was but a type, or example, or shadow of Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. Heb. 8:1, 5.

5. In what way is the heavenly sanctuary being cleansed? Heb. 9: 22-26.

NOTE.—"Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many." He then ascended to the heavenly sanctuary "within the veil," to become our great High Priest. Heb. 4:14, 15; 6:19, 20. The earthly sanctuary was cleansed annually; "but now once in the end of the world hath He [Christ] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." In this way "the patterns of things in the heavens," are purified, or cleansed.

The Investigative Judgment

6. In one of his visions what celestial scene was presented to the prophet Daniel? Dan. 7:9, 13.

NOTE.—The expression "thrones were cast down" is properly translated, "thrones were placed." See the Revised Standard Version and other modern translations. Christ enters the holy of holies to occupy one of these thrones at the Father's side to minister as our High Priest and Judge Advocate.

7. Describe the opening of the great investigative judgment. Dan. 7:10.

NOTE.—In the books of heaven are recorded the names and deeds of all who have enlisted as candidates for heaven and eternal life.

8. In that session of the heavenly court how many individual lives are investigated? 2 Cor. 5:10.

NOTE.—"Every man's work passes in review before God, and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness." "The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 482, 488.

9. What are the determining factors in the judgment? Eccl. 12:13, 14; Matt. 12:36, 37.

NOTE.—"The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment."—*The Great Controversy,* page 482.

10. Each case having been decided, what adjustments will be made in the books of heaven? Rev. 3:5; Acts 3:19.

NOTE.—"Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. . . . All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven."—*The Great Controversy,* page 483.

The First Angel's Message

11. To warn the world of this judgment hour, what prophetic message was given through the prophet John? Rev. 14:6, 7.

12. What result followed the proclamation of the judgment-hour message? Rev. 14:12.

NOTE.—As the result of the diligent study of the Scriptures, many individuals in various lands were led by the Spirit of God to arise and proclaim the judgment-hour message. In the very words of the prophecy the movement swept over many lands with the awakening call: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Then came the tragic disappointment in the autumn of 1844. The sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth; it was the sanctuary in heaven. The messengers were mistaken, not concerning the time, but regarding the events to occur. Like the multitudes who welcomed Zion's King at the

time of the triumphal entry, they did not clearly understand the nature of the fulfillment.

Yet they gave the right message at the right time; and out of the great advent awakening of 1840 to 1844 there arose the remnant church, which "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus," with the commission of God to carry the last gospel appeal to all the world and to prepare the way for the glorious appearing of Christ.

Lesson 5, for April 30, 1955

The Rise of the Remnant Church

MEMORY VERSE: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20.

STUDY HELPS: W. A. Spicer, "Beacon Lights of Prophecy," pages 318-328; A. G. Daniells, "The Abiding Gift of Prophecy," pages 253-263.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-10.
5. Questions 11-15.
6. Read Study Helps assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. A Divinely Favored People

1. Distinguishing characteristics. Rev. 12:17.
2. A chosen generation. 1 Peter 2:9, first part.
3. Called to show forth His praises. 1 Peter 2:9, last part.

III. The Creator and His Rest Day

1. The supreme object of worship. Rev. 14:7, last part.
2. The Sabbath commandment. Ex. 20:8-11.
3. Sabbath reform.

IV. The Prophetic Gift Promised

1. "The testimony of Jesus" defined. Rev. 19:10.
2. Joel's prophecy. Joel 2:28-31.
3. A partial fulfillment at Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4.
4. A more abundant outpouring. Joel 2:23; Acts 2:16-20.

V. A Gift to the Remnant Church

1. Coming behind in no gift. 1 Cor. 1:6, 7.
2. God's chosen messenger.
3. The Bible and the spirit of prophecy. Isa. 8:20.
4. Growth of the remnant church.
5. Vital counsel. 2 Chron. 20:20.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms."—*The Great Controversy*, page 595.

A Divinely Favored People

1. According to the prophecy of John the revelator, against whom would the enmity of Satan be especially directed? What are the distinguishing characteristics of this remnant? Rev. 12:17.

NOTE.—"They [the remnant] will turn from every idol that binds them to earth, and will 'worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.' They will free themselves from every entanglement, and will stand before the world as monuments of God's mercy. Obedient to the divine requirements, they will be recognized by angels and by men as those that have kept 'the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 299, 300.

2. How does the apostle Peter describe the church of God? 1 Peter 2:9, first part.

3. For what purpose has God chosen this "peculiar people" and called them out of the world? 1 Peter 2:9, last part.

The Creator and His Rest Day

4. Who alone was to be adored as the true object of worship? Rev. 14:7, last part.

NOTE.—For such a time as this, when multitudes bow at the false shrines of modernism, materialism, evolution, scholarly unbelief, spiritism, and pagan ideals, the clear, definite message peals forth to worship Him who created the heavens and the earth.

5. In what way is the worship of the Creator explicitly ordained? Ex. 20:8-11.

NOTE.—Observe the expression, "for [or, because] in six days the Lord made heaven and earth." The Sabbath was established as an eternal monument and memorial to the miracle of creation. Vast majorities have forgotten the Creator and the Creator's memorial; but, here, coupled with the solemn announcement, "The hour of His judgment is come," He broadcasts the universal appeal to acknowledge the Author of all things and reverently adore the monument to His creative works.

6. What were the circumstances that led the early Adventist believers to observe the seventh-day Sabbath?

ANSWER: Frederick Wheeler, a Methodist minister of Washington, New Hampshire, accepted the advent truth in 1842. Two years later he commenced the observance of the true Sabbath and began preaching the obligation of the fourth commandment. At about the same time Rachel Preston, a Seventh Day Baptist of Rhode Island, moved to Washington, New Hampshire, and through her missionary efforts a company of about forty Adventists began keeping the Bible Sabbath. She also embraced belief in a soon-coming Saviour. This group, of whom William Farnsworth and family were members, became the nucleus of the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the world. Others, including Captain Joseph Bates, soon accepted the Sabbath truth, and

thus were fulfilled the prophetic words, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God."

The Prophetic Gift Promised

7. How is "the testimony of Jesus" defined? Rev. 19:10.

NOTE.—Facing the perils of the last days, God's people are divinely blessed with the valued gift of "the spirit of prophecy." This endowment was definitely promised to the remnant church for guidance and counsel in her world-wide task during the closing drama of earth's history.

8. Prior to "the great and the terrible day of the Lord," what special outpouring of the Spirit was foretold by the prophet Joel? Joel 2:28-31.

9. What partial fulfillment of this prophecy occurred during New Testament times? Acts 2:1-4.

NOTE.—"In immediate connection with the scenes of the great day of God, the Lord by the prophet Joel has promised a special manifestation of His Spirit. Joel 2:28. This prophecy received a partial fulfillment in the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost."—*The Great Controversy,* Introduction, page ix.

10. What words of Scripture indicate an even greater fulfillment in the last days? Joel 2:23; Acts 2:16-20.

NOTE.—"The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was 'the former rain,' and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 21.

A Gift to the Remnant Church

11. What indicates that the gift of the spirit of prophecy will not be lacking in the church that is looking for the coming of the Lord? 1 Cor. 1:6, 7.

12. At what time was the prophetic gift conferred upon the remnant church?

ANSWER: In the autumn of 1844 the advent believers who were confidently expecting the return of Jesus at that time suffered their greatest disappointment. It appeared to many that the word of God had failed. They were bewildered and perplexed. They sorely needed divine help; and only a few weeks later, Ellen Gould Harmon (later to become Ellen G. White) was given her first vision. She subsequently received many revelations to confirm Bible truth or to expose false teachings. Under the guidance of the prophetic gift a firm Scriptural foundation was laid for the proclamation of this closing message to all the world.

13. What relation does the spirit of prophecy sustain to the Old and New Testament Scriptures? Isa. 8:20.

NOTE.—"True Christianity receives the word of God as the great treasure house of inspired truth, and the test of all inspiration."—*The Great Controversy,* page 193.

The nature and manner of the visions received by Ellen G. White were subjected to the most critical and searching investigation by men and women from many walks of life, and were found to be in complete harmony with all the physical and spiritual characteristics of the visions of a true prophet.

14. To what extent has the spirit of prophecy, as manifested through Ellen G. White, contributed to the growth and extension of this world-wide movement?

ANSWER: During her seventy years of public ministry, Ellen G. White traveled extensively to preach the word and give counsel. Aside from thousands of pages published in numerous religious papers, her inspired pen produced a library of more than forty volumes, many of which have been published in other languages and countries. Mrs. White was an ardent advocate of Christian temperance and medical missionary work. These she considered as the "right arm" of the gospel message; and today there is a chain of one hundred sixty-three sanitariums, hospitals, and clinics belting the globe, ministering to men and women in many lands. She promoted the founding of Christian schools, and as a result more than 200,000 children and youth are now enjoying the benefits of Christian education.

"In all this," wrote the editor of the New York *Independent*, August 23, 1915, "Ellen G. White has been the inspiration and guide. . . . She lived the life and did the work of a worthy prophetess."

15. What timely counsel given in ancient times is most appropriate for God's remnant people of today? 2 Chron. 20:20.

NOTE.—As heralds of the everlasting gospel this people bear the distinguishing credentials of the remnant church, endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God and possessing the testimony of Jesus. Truly, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—*Life Sketches*, page 196.

Lesson 6, for May 7, 1955

The Threefold Message

MEMORY VERSE: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb." Rev. 14:9, 10.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 436-438, 448-450, 603-612; 1950 ed., pp. 431-433, 441-445, 597-605.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-8.
4. Questions 9, 10.
5. Questions 11-13.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The First and Second Angels' Messages

1. Extent and duration of the first message. Rev. 14:6, 7.
2. The second angel's message. Rev. 14:8.
3. Modern Babylon adopts pagan doctrines. Rev. 17:5.
4. "Babylon is fallen."

III. The Third Angel's Message

1. A startling announcement. Rev. 14:9, first part.
2. Rival worship denounced. Rev. 14:9, last part.
3. The "beast," the "image," and the "mark."
4. The fate of the disobedient. Rev. 14:10.

IV. The Seal of God

1. A signet of loyalty. Ex. 31:13, 17.
2. A sign of complete victory. Rev. 7:3; 14:1.

V. The Angel of Revelation 18

1. A glorious manifestation. Rev. 18:1.
2. The final warning and appeal. Rev. 18:2-4.
3. Workers qualified by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 9:28.

THE LESSON

Introduction

When the giving of the greatest message from God for all time, the message that concerns the whole earth, the last message of salvation ever to be given, is finished, earth's history will close with a blaze of glory and a vast manifestation of supernatural power.

The First and Second Angels' Messages

1. How extensively was the first angel's message to be proclaimed? For how long a period? Rev. 14:6, 7.

NOTE.—"The announcement, 'The hour of His judgment is come,' points to the closing work of Christ's ministration for the salvation of men. It heralds a truth which must be proclaimed until the Saviour's intercession shall cease, and He shall return to the earth to take His people to Himself. The work of judgment which began in 1844, must continue until the cases of all are decided, both of the living and the dead; hence it will extend to the close of human probation."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 435, 436.

2. What is the message of the second angel that John saw flying in the midst of heaven? Rev. 14:8.

NOTE.—In the ancient Chaldean tongue the word "Babel," or "Babylon," is said to denote "the way to God," or "the gate to heaven." At the famous tower of Babel man's "way to God" developed into chaos, and the very word became a synonym for confusion of plans and confusion in religion. Later, the "golden city," Babylon, became a world center of pagan religion and worship.

3. In New Testament prophecy what significant titles are applied to an apostate church? Rev. 17:5.

NOTE.—Many of the pagan doctrines of ancient Babylon were adopted by modern Babylon, identified by students of prophecy as the Church of Rome. Among these heathen teachings were the adoration of idols, the doctrine of eternal torment, and the substitution of Sunday for the Bible Sabbath.

"Babylon is said to be 'the *mother* of harlots.' By her *daughters* must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 382, 383.

4. At what time was the second angel's message first proclaimed? When will the fall of Babylon be complete?

ANSWER: "The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844. . . . The churches then experienced a moral fall, in consequence of

their refusal of the light of the advent message; but that fall was not complete. As they have continued to reject the special truths for this time, they have fallen lower and lower. . . . But the work of apostasy has not yet reached its culmination. . . . Not until this condition shall be reached, and the union of the church with the world shall be fully accomplished throughout Christendom, will the fall of Babylon be complete."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 389, 390.

The Third Angel's Message

5. Following the first and second angels in close succession, what did the prophet behold? How did the angel deliver his message? Rev. 14:9, first part.

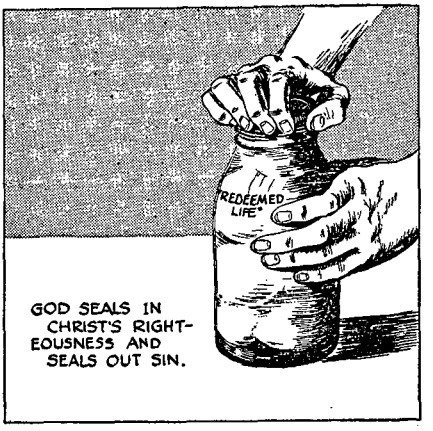
6. Against what rival worship is this message directed? Rev. 14:9, last part.

7. What do the "beast," the "image," and the "mark" respectively represent?

ANSWER: "This symbol [the beast], as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy."—*The Great Controversy,* page 439.

"In the very act of enforcing a religious duty by secular power, the churches would themselves form an image to the beast."—*Ibid.,* p. 449.

"As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite 'the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; . . . because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin.' What then is the change of the Sabbath, but the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Roman Church—'the mark of the beast'?"—*Ibid.,* p. 448.



8. What is the fate of those who engage in this false worship? Rev. 14:10.

NOTE.—"The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 449, 450.

The Seal of God

9. In contrast to "the mark of the beast," what sign, or seal, distinguishes the commandment-keeping people of God? Ex. 31:13, 17.

NOTE.—In both creation and redemption (re-creation) the Sabbath of the fourth commandment stands as God's everlasting sign. The same omnipotent power that creates a world is required to cleanse and transform a human heart.

10. Upon whom only is the seal of God placed? Rev. 7:3; 14:1.

NOTE.—"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 214.

The Angel of Revelation 18

11. In connection with the third angel's message what other communication is heralded to the peoples of earth? Rev. 18:1.

NOTE.—"The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel's message."—*Early Writings*, page 277.

12. What signal warning and appeal are again sounded? Rev. 18:2-4.

NOTE.—"God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments, these faithful ones must be called out. . . . These announcements, uniting with the third angel's message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth."—*The Great Controversy*, page 604.

13. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit how is the proclamation of the threefold gospel message to be finished? Rom. 9:28.

NOTE.—"As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions." "Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. . . . Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand."—*The Great Controversy*, pages 606, 612.

Lesson 7, for May 14, 1955

Signs of the End Multiply

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

STUDY HELPS: W. H. Branson, "Drama of the Ages," pages 453-470; "Bible Readings for the Home," pages 285-300.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-7.
4. Questions 8, 9.
5. Questions 10-13.
6. Read Study Helps assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. In the World of Industry

1. Unprecedented riches. James 5:1-3.
2. Struggle between capital and labor. James 5:4.
3. Heartless greed condemned. James 5:5, 6.
4. Christians to be patient. James 5:7, 8.

III. Perilous Times

1. Unbridled laxity. 2 Tim. 3:1.
2. Broken homes and youthful crime. 2 Tim. 3:2, 3, 13.
3. Lustful pleasures vs. godliness. 2 Tim. 3:4, 5.

IV. Irreligion and Anarchy

1. The decay of true faith. Luke 18:8; 2 Peter 3:3-5.
2. As in the days of Noah. Matt. 24:37-39.

V. Portentous Alarms of War

1. Angry nations. Rev. 11:18; Joel 3:10-14.
2. Universal fear. Luke 21:25, 26.
3. Our source of confidence. Luke 21:28; 12:35, 36; Ps. 46:1-3, 10.
4. A fervent appeal. 2 Peter 3:11, 12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

As the pioneers of this movement began heralding the message of Christ's second coming, comparatively few signs were visible. But as they launched forth on their mighty task, the evidences of our Lord's return were greatly multiplied. Today, what a vast array of fulfilled prophecies! Consider the march of events in science, in industry, in social and criminal trends, in war preparation, and in religion; everything in this twentieth-century drama testifies that this is the time of the end and that the second coming of Christ is imminent.

In the World of Industry

1. Looking down the centuries to "the last days," what industrial conditions did the apostle James foresee? James 5:1-3.

NOTE.—As workers for God began to proclaim this closing gospel message, men of vast wealth were very few in number, but on the trail of invention came unprecedented riches. Within the limits of a hundred years, American millionaires increased more than a thousandfold. Giant corporations and banking institutions have grown far beyond the most ambitious dreams of their founders. As a result, 1 per cent of American banks and business concerns are said to control nearly one half the total resources of our nation.

2. What titanic struggle between capital and labor was foretold? James 5:4.

NOTE.—During the past twenty years, organized labor is said to have increased its membership about fivefold. It has now "come of age," is entrenched in all the strategic and vital industries; and, in the intense struggle between management and labor, is now able to fight and win many of its battles.

3. What words of condemnation are addressed to those who revel in wealth and luxury? James 5:5, 6.

4. In the face of these trying circumstances, what counsel is given God's people? James 5:7, 8.

NOTE.—"We are now to use all our entrusted capabilities in giving the last warning message to the world. In this work we are to preserve our individuality. We are not to unite with secret societies or with trade-unions. We are to stand free in God, looking constantly to Christ for instruction. All our movements are to be made with a realization of the importance of the work to be accomplished for God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 84.

Perilous Times

5. According to the apostle Paul, what sinister conditions would prevail in "the last days"? 2 Tim. 3:1.

NOTE.—"Men are living for the pleasures of sense; for this world and this life alone. Extravagance pervades all circles of society. Integrity is sacrificed for luxury and display. . . . Fraud and bribery and theft stalk unrebuked in high places and in low. The issues of the press teem with records of murder,—crimes so cold-blooded and causeless that it seems as though every instinct of humanity were blotted out. And these atrocities have become of so common occurrence that they hardly elicit a comment or awaken surprise."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 101, 102.

6. What alarming trends are seen in society and in domestic relations? 2 Tim. 3:2, 3, 13.

NOTE.—In the phrase "disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," juvenile delinquency is clearly indicated; and what a tragic fulfillment is seen in the wild criminal activities of tens of thousands of American teen-age youth! J. Edgar Hoover denounces their abandoned atrocities as "a national menace."

Again, the expressions "without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers," find their parallel in the shattered vows of wedlock. In practically every land, divorce is on the increase. Some sixty years ago the ratio of marriage to divorce in the United States was reported as twelve to one, while at the present time one out of every three or four marriages ends in divorce or separation.

7. As a sign of our times what contrasting attitudes between pleasure seeking and true religion are emphasized? 2 Tim. 3:4, 5.

NOTE.—Statistics indicate that the people of the United States spend nineteen cents out of every dollar for amusements, and but four cents for religion and education; also that twenty persons frequent the playhouse for every one attending church services. What a commentary on fulfilled prophecy!

Irreligion and Anarchy

8. What other New Testament predictions point to the decay of genuine faith in God? Luke 18:8; 2 Peter 3:3-5.

NOTE.—"Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. . . . The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists,—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and

universities, even of some theological institutions,—is little better than Baal, the sungod of Phoenicia."—*The Great Controversy*, page 583.

9. What moral conditions did Christ declare would prevail on the earth immediately prior to His second coming? Matt. 24:37-39.

NOTE.—"The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control, will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 102.

Portentous Alarms of War

10. What is said of the nations and their preparations for war? Rev. 11: 18; Joel 3:10-14.

NOTE.—"The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other." "The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. "The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 17, 11.

These words were written a few years prior to World War I. With how much greater emphasis do they apply today!

11. In our Lord's great prophecy how did He describe the hysteria that would grip the hearts of men and nations? Luke 21:25, 26.

NOTE.—With the close of World War II the atomic age burst upon us, and from the many statements of alarm written by scientists and statesmen the following are examples: "The thoughtful of our day stand in palsied and futile fear;" "a time of confusion and deep-seated anxiety without parallel;" "despair is creeping upon us;" "the stars of promise are all but faded from our sky;" "time is short;" etc.

12. Facing these world-shattering events, what will be the attitude of the true Christian? Of what will he be confident? Luke 21:28; 12:35, 36; Ps. 46:1-3, 10.

13. In the light of rapidly fulfilling prophecy, what supreme appeal comes to the members of the remnant church? 2 Peter 3:11, 12.

Lesson 8, for May 21, 1955

God's People Tested

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6:13.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," pages 47-52; "The Great Controversy," pp. 518-530; 1950 ed., pp. 513-524.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-7.
4. Questions 8-11.
5. Questions 12-14.
6. Read Study Helps assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Assaults of Satan

1. Our wily foe. 1 Peter 5:8, 9; Eph. 6:11.
2. The elect in peril. Matt. 24:24.

III. Two Tests of Loyalty

1. Ancient Israel proved. Ex. 16:4, 22-29.
2. True Sabbathkeeping. Isa. 58:13.
3. The blessings of obedience. Isa. 56:4-7; 58:14.
4. A tenth of the increase. Mal. 3:8.
5. Spiritual prosperity. Mal. 3:10-12.

IV. Perils Along the Way

1. Worldly cares. Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:17-19.
2. Pleasure seeking. Luke 21:34, 35.
3. Unwise eating and drinking. 1 Cor. 10:31.
4. True temperance vs. self-indulgence. 1 Cor. 9:25-27.
5. Every wind of doctrine. Eph. 4:14, 15.

V. Confidence and Consecration

1. A sure platform. Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:19.
2. Witnessing for present truth. 2 Peter 1:12; Jude 3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In the heat of the furnace the dross is separated forever from the true silver and gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test. He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal that it may reflect the radiance of His divine love."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 86.

In this lesson we study some of the ways by which Satan most frequently seeks to beguile members of the remnant church into carelessness and wrongdoing.

The Assaults of Satan

1. Concerning man's insidious adversary, what warning is given? How may his assaults be successfully resisted? 1 Peter 5:8, 9; Eph. 6:11.

NOTE.—"The prince of darkness, who has so long bent the powers of his mastermind to the work of deception, skillfully adapts his temptations to men of all classes and conditions."—*The Great Controversy,* page 553. Unaided, man is no match for his wily foe, but with our mighty Leader, who has vanquished Satan, the child of God is secure.

2. As we near the close of the great controversy, whom does Satan especially attack? Matt. 24:24. Compare Rev. 12:12, 17.

Two Tests of Loyalty

3. Regarding the holy Sabbath, how was ancient Israel tested? Ex. 16:4, 22-29.

NOTE.—"God requires that His Holy day be as sacredly observed now as in the time of Israel."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 296.

"The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 351.

4. Lest any be tempted to violate God's rest day, what specific instruction is given? Isa. 58:13.

NOTE.—Let us renew our consecration to true Sabbath observance:

By sacredly guarding the edges of the Sabbath;

By welcoming the blessed day around the family altar;

By another vesper service as the day departs;

By laying aside all secular papers, and by the nonuse of the radio and television;

By refraining from unnecessary automobile journeys and all pleasure trips;

By faithfully attending the services of the Lord's house;

By spending the Sabbath hours in visiting the afflicted, teaching the word, or distributing truth-filled literature. See *Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 349-368.

5. To those who honor God by sacredly observing the Sabbath, what radiant promises are given? Isa. 56: 4-7; 58:14.

NOTE.—"Happy is the family who can go to the place of worship on the Sabbath as Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue,—across the fields, along the shores of the lake, or through the groves. Happy the father and mother who can teach their children God's written word with illustrations from the open pages of the book of nature."—*Education,* page 251.

6. What portion of man's income is "holy unto the Lord"? If he retains a part of the tithe for his own use how does he stand before God? Mal. 3:8.

NOTE.—"All that is withheld of that which God claims, the tenth of the increase, is recorded in the books of heaven against the withholders, as robbery."—*Testimonies,* new ed., vol. 3, p. 394.

7. How is the Christian invited to trust and prove the divine resources? What promises are made to the willing and obedient? Mal. 3:10-12.

NOTE.—"The system of tithes and offerings was intended to impress the minds of men with a great truth,—that God is the source of every blessing to His creatures, and that to Him man's gratitude is due for the good gifts of His providence."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 525.

Perils Along the Way

8. What New Testament warnings are given regarding business cares and ambitions? Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:17-19. Compare Prov. 23:4.

9. What dangers may arise from social activities and worldly pleasures? Luke 21:34, 35.

NOTE.—"The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares. Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful." —*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 53.

"Any amusement which disqualifies you for secret prayer, for devotion at the altar of prayer, or for taking part in the prayer meeting, is not safe, but dangerous."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 337.

10. What is the golden rule of true Christian temperance? 1 Cor. 10:31.

11. What high and noble resolve should control the Christian's appetite and desires? 1 Cor. 9:25-27. Compare Dan. 1:8.

NOTE.—"It is as truly a sin to violate the laws of our being as it is to break the Ten Commandments. To do either is to break God's laws." "All are being proved to see whether they will accept the principles of health reform or follow a course of self-indulgence."—*Counsels on Diet and Foods,* pages 17, 34.

12. Against what other temptations or deceptions is the Christian warned? Eph. 4:14, 15.

NOTE.—"I saw that we are no more secure from false teachers now than they were in the apostles' days; and, if we do no more, we should take as special measures as they did to secure the peace, harmony, and union of the flock."—*Early Writings,* page 101.

"Those who start up to proclaim a message on their own individual responsibility, who, while claiming to be taught and led of God, still make it their special work to tear down that which God has been for years building up, are not doing the will of God. Be it known that these men are on the side of the great deceiver."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 51.

Confidence and Consecration

13. Of what may the child of God be supremely confident? Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:19.

Read the chapter entitled, "A Firm Platform," *Early Writings,* pages 258-261.

14. Knowing the certainties of the advent message, how will the believer be established? What will he be found doing? 2 Peter 1:12; Jude 3.

NOTE.—"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 250.

Lesson 9, for May 28, 1955

Assaults of the Enemy

MEMORY VERSE: "Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the Lord of hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread." Isa. 8:12, 13.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 551-581; 1950 ed., pp. 545-555.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-14.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline

I. Introduction

II. Two Symbols of Revelation 13

1. The last nation of prophecy. Rev. 13:11, first part.
2. Speaking as a dragon. Rev. 13:11, last phrase.
3. The spirit of intolerance. Rev. 13:12.
4. The "first beast" identified. Rev. 13:1, 2, 5-7.
5. The deadly wound and its healing. Rev. 13:3, 4.
6. An image to the beast. Rev. 13:14.

III. An Ancient Delusion Revived

1. Satan's delusions. Rev. 13:13.
2. On the trail to Endor. 1 Sam. 28:3-20.
3. A popular falsehood. Gen. 3:4.

IV. A Threefold Union

1. Hands across the gulf. Rev. 16:13, 14.
2. Oppression and tyranny. Rev. 13:15.
3. The great test of loyalty. Rev. 13:16.

V. Nearing the Crisis Hour

1. "Fear not." Isa. 8:12, 13; Luke 12:32.
2. Proclaiming the Sabbath more fully. Isa. 8:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"A day of great intellectual darkness has been shown to be favorable to the success of the papacy. It will yet be demonstrated that a day of great intellectual light is equally favorable for its success. . . . The false science of the present day, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in preparing the way for the acceptance of the papacy, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 572, 573.

Two Symbols of Revelation 13

1. Describe the symbol that designates the last nation mentioned in prophecy. Rev. 13:11, first part.

NOTE.—"What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America."—*The Great Controversy,* page 440.

2. What change is indicated, and how is this beast power to speak? Rev. 13:11, *last phrase.*

3. What master strategy is attempted? Rev. 13:12.

NOTE.—"The prediction that it will speak 'as a dragon,' and exercise 'all the power of the first beast,' plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopard-like beast."—*The Great Controversy,* page 442.

4. Explain the expression, "the first beast," and describe the activities of this beast. Rev. 13:1, 2, 5-7.

NOTE.—The dragon (pagan Rome) gave to the beast (the papacy) "his power, and his seat, and great authority." "And now began the 1260 years of papal oppression foretold in the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Christians were forced to choose either to yield their integrity and

accept the papal ceremonies and worship, or to wear away their lives in dungeons or suffer death by the rack, the fagot, or the headsman's ax." "Popery had become the world's despot. Kings and emperors bowed to the decrees of the Roman pontiff. The destinies of men, both for time and for eternity, seemed under his control. For hundreds of years the doctrines of Rome had been extensively and implicitly received, its rites reverently performed, its festivals generally observed."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 54, 60.

5. What befell one of the heads of this nondescript beast? How is the beast regarded by the people of the world? Rev. 13:3, 4.

NOTE.—"The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798."—*The Great Controversy,* page 579. Along the intervening years that wound has been gradually healing, until at the present time the power and prestige of the Church of Rome is universally apparent.

6. In what way does the two-horned beast follow the course of its predecessor? Define the term, "an image to the beast." Rev. 13:14.

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

An Ancient Delusion Revived

7. What other development or factor appears to play a dominant role in the closing events of history? Rev. 13:13.

NOTE.—"Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world. . . . Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time."—*The Great Controversy,* page 561.

8. Of what forms of ancient divination is modern spiritism a legitimate successor? 1 Sam. 28:3-20.

NOTE.—"Spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hundreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings,—this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old."—*The Great Controversy,* page 556.

9. Upon what pernicious, yet popular, falsehood is spiritism founded? Gen. 3:4.

NOTE.—"The declaration of the serpent to Eve in Eden,—'Ye shall not surely die,' —was the first sermon ever preached upon the immortality of the soul. Yet this declaration, resting solely upon the authority of Satan, is echoed from the pulpits of Chris-

tendom, and is received by the majority of mankind as readily as it was received by our first parents." "Upon the fundamental error of natural immortality rests the doctrine of consciousness in death,—a doctrine, like eternal torment, opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures, to the dictates of reason, and to our feelings of humanity." —*The Great Controversy,* pages 533, 545.

A Threefold Union

10. According to prophecy, what threefold union is to be formed? Rev. 16:13, 14.

NOTE.—"When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 451.

11. Under the influence of this threefold union what form of oppression and tyranny will develop? Rev. 13:15.

NOTE.—"The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."—*The Great Controversy,* page 588.

12. In the ensuing struggle what becomes the vital issue of controversy? Rev. 13:16.

NOTE.—"That which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance,—a custom which originated with Rome." "The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 573, 605.

Nearing the Crisis Hour

13. How are these developments to be regarded by the oppressed "little flock"? Isa. 8:12, 13. Compare Luke 12:32.

14. As they near the crisis hour, what renewed consecration will characterize God's remnant people? Isa. 8:16, 17.

NOTE.—"The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. . . . When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it, by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority."—*The Great Controversy,* page 452.

"At the commencement of the time of trouble," testifies the spirit of prophecy, God's people are to be filled with the Holy Ghost as they go forth to proclaim "the Sabbath more fully."—*Early Writings,* p. 33.

"The course of God's commandment-keeping people is onward, ever onward. The message of truth that we bear must go to nations, tongues, and peoples. Soon it will go with a loud voice, and the earth will be lightened with its glory. Are we preparing for this great outpouring of the Spirit of God?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 383.

TAKE TIME TO STUDY YOUR LESSON EVERY DAY.

The Crisis of the Ages

MEMORY VERSE: "Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zeph. 2:2, 3.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 582-612; 1950 ed., pp. 575-605.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1, 2.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6-8.
5. Questions 9-13.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Laodicean Message

1. Counsel of the True Witness. Rev. 3:14-18.
2. Result of the "straight testimony." Rev. 3:19.

III. The Sinister Workings of Satan

1. Oppressive legislation. Rev. 13:16, 17.
2. A day of trouble and distress. Zeph. 1:14-17.
3. The work of evil spirits. Rev. 16:13, 14.
4. Miraculous manifestations. Rev. 13:13.
5. The crowning act of deception. 2 Cor. 11:14.
6. Warning against Satanic deceptions. Matt. 24:23-26.

IV. Holding the Winds

1. Decree against those who resist deceptions. Rev. 13:15.
2. Restraining power. Rev. 7:1.
3. God's people to be sealed. Rev. 7:2, 3.
4. Candidates for heaven. Rev. 14:1, 5.
5. A searching appeal. Zeph. 2:2, 3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian. . . . But the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity." —*The Great Controversy*, page 602.

The Laodicean Message

1. To prepare the remnant church for the impending crisis, what message is given by the True Witness? Rev. 3:14-18.

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

2. What further appeal is made, and what will be the result of the "straight testimony"? Rev. 3:19.

NOTE.—Some will be "shaken out and left by the way."—*Early Writings,* page 271.

"As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. . . . Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the True Shepherd's voice."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 400, 401.

The Sinister Workings of Satan

3. What oppressive measures by the state, or government, will test the loyalty of others? Rev. 13:16, 17.

NOTE.—"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. . . . In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. . . . All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 81.

GOD'S CHURCH HAS NO REASON TO BE LUKEWARM IN TODAY'S CRISIS.

4. As the great day of the Lord approaches, what conditions will prevail in the world? Zeph. 1:14-17.

5. During the closing scenes of earth's history what work will be performed by evil spirits? Rev. 16:13, 14.

NOTE.—"The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived."—*The Great Controversy,* page 624.

"Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power."—*Ibid.,* p. 588.

6. What miraculous manifestation will Satan perform in the sight of men? Rev. 13:13.

7. What crowning act of deception will at length be staged? 2 Cor. 11:14.

NOTE.—"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. . . . In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come!' . . . He claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion."—*The Great Controversy,* page 624.

8. What warning did Jesus give against last-day deceptions? Matt. 24: 23-26.

Holding the Winds

9. What decree will be issued against those who resist the workings of Satan? Rev. 13:15.

NOTE.—"As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places."—*The Great Controversy,* page 626.

10. Prior to the execution of that fateful edict, what restraining power is exercised? Rev. 7:1.

11. What voice of authority is then heard? Rev. 7:2, 3.

12. Upon whom only will the seal of the living God be placed? Rev. 14:1, 5.

NOTE.—"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 216.

13. While there is yet time and opportunity for the perfection of character, what mighty appeal comes to every child of God? Zeph. 2:2, 3.

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The Time of Trouble

MEMORY VERSE: "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock." Ps. 27:5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pp. 613-634; 1950 ed., pp. 607-626; "Early Writings," pages 279-285.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7-9.
5. Questions 10-13.
6. Read Study Helps assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Close of Probation

1. The investigative judgment finished. Dan. 12:1, first part.
2. A momentous announcement. Rev. 22:11, 12.
3. The time of trouble begins. Dan. 12:1, last part.

III. Living Without a Mediator

1. No High Priest in the temple. Rev. 15:8; Isa. 59:16.
2. The time of Jacob's trouble. Gen. 32:24-30; Jer. 30:5-7.
3. Promises of protection and support. Isa. 33:16; 41:10.

IV. The Seven Last Plagues

1. The nature of these judgments. Rev. 15:1.
2. The first five plagues. Rev. 16:1-11.
3. The sixth plague. Rev. 16:12-16; 11:18.

V. Two Classes in Contrast

1. Famine for the word of God. Amos 8:11, 12.
2. Harvest time past. Jer. 8:20.
3. Divine protection. Ps. 27:5.
4. The bow of promise. Psalms 46 and 91.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial, is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity." —*The Great Controversy,* page 621.

The Close of Probation

1. As earth's history is about to close, what change is observed in the position and work of Michael? Dan. 12:1, first part.

NOTE.—Michael is Christ. See 1 Thess. 4:16; Jude 9; John 5:26-28. "Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the Ten Commandments,

throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, '*It is done.*' . . . Every case was decided, every jewel numbered. Jesus tarried a moment in the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer their punishment. Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes." —*Early Writings,* pages 279-281.

2. What solemn announcement is then made? Rev. 22:11, 12.

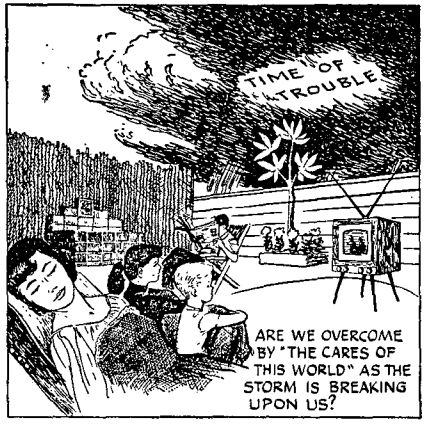
NOTE.—"When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still.' . . . Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 490, 491.

3. As probation closes and Christ leaves the sanctuary, what conditions will prevail throughout the earth? Dan. 12:1, last part.

NOTE.—"The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. . . . Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old." —*The Great Controversy,* page 614.

Living Without a Mediator

4. During the coming time of trouble, what is said of the temple or sanctuary in heaven? Rev. 15:8. Compare Isa. 59:16.



NOTE.—Christ and His attendants will then have left the sanctuary. Accordingly, "those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above, are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil."—*The Great Controversy,* page 425.

5. To what experience of old is the situation of God's people compared? Gen. 32:24-30; Jer. 30:5-7.

NOTE.—"Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau, represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble." "Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the

fulfillment of the Saviour's promise, 'I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.' "—*The Great Controversy,* pages 616, 619.

6. During those scenes of anguish what promises of protection and support will sustain the loyal remnant? Isa. 33:16; 41:10.

NOTE.—Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived and tempted and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance.

The Seven Last Plagues

7. What is the nature of the judgments that are to fall upon the earth? Rev. 15:1.

NOTE.—"When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel, were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God's people."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 627, 628.

"The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal."—*Ibid.,* p. 622.

8. Briefly enumerate the first five plagues. Rev. 16:1-11.

NOTE.—"These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 628, 629.

The fact that men do not repent during these plagues is no reflection upon the goodness and mercy of God. It simply demonstrates that the wicked have determined their own destiny, and that even the severest judgments of God do not move them to repentance.

9. Under the sixth plague, what marshaling of the nations is forecast? Rev. 16:12-16. Compare Rev. 11:18.

Two Classes in Contrast

10. In what frantic yet futile quest do many engage? Amos 8:11, 12.

NOTE.—Some will continue the forms of religion with a fanaticism that bears "the semblance of zeal for God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 615.

"Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given. The sweet voice of mercy was no more to invite them. . . . The plan of salvation had been accomplished, but few had chosen to accept it. And as mercy's sweet voice died away, fear and horror seized the wicked. With terrible distinctness they heard the words, 'Too late! too late!'

"Those who had not prized God's word were hurrying to and fro, wandering from sea to sea, and from the north to the east, to seek the word of the Lord. Said the angel, 'They shall not find it.' "—*Early Writings,* page 281.

11. What bitter lament will at length be heard from many lips? Jer. 8:20.

NOTE.—"At the day of judgment there comes to the lost a full realization of the meaning of the sacrifice made on Calvary. They see what they have lost by refusing to be loyal. They think of the high, pure association it was their privilege to gain. But it is too late. The last call has been made. The wail is heard: 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' Jer. 8:20."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 16.

12. How will God's people be preserved during the time of trouble? Ps. 27:5.

NOTE.—"The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation, and suffer for want of food, they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah, will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children."—*The Great Controversy*, page 629.

13. In what portions of Scripture will they especially find comfort and strength? Psalms 46 and 91.

NOTE.—"The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it. The way to heaven is consecrated by His footprints. Every thorn that wounds our feet has wounded His. Every cross that we are called to bear, He has borne before us. The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace. The time of trouble is a fearful ordeal for God's people; but it is the time for every true believer to look up, and by faith he may see the bow of promise encircling him."—*The Great Controversy*, page 633.

(As the seventh plague occurs in connection with the final deliverance of God's people, it will be considered in the next lesson.)

Lesson 12, for June 18, 1955

The Final Deliverance

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

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 635-652; 1950 ed., pp. 627-643.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-8.
4. Questions 9-11.
5. Questions 12-15.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Hope of the Ages Realized

1. The inspiring promise. John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11.
2. The world's harvest. Rev. 14:14-16; Matt. 25:31, 32.
3. Exceeding joy. Isa. 25:9; 26:1, 2.
4. The midnight deliverance. Dan. 12:1.

III. Unprecedented Events

1. The seventh plague. Rev. 16:17-21.
2. A special resurrection. Dan. 12:2.
3. The resurrection of the righteous. 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Matt. 24:27, 30, 31.
4. Clothed with immortality. 1 Cor. 15:51-55.

IV. Judgment Upon the Wicked

1. The disobedient in terror. Rev. 6:13-17; Isa. 2:10-12.
2. In flaming fire. 2 Thess. 1:8; 2:8.
3. The Satanic host in exile. Rev. 20:1-3; Jer. 4:23-26.

V. Heaven at Last

1. On Mount Sion. 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 14:1.
2. The song of the redeemed. Rev. 14:3; 15:2-4.
3. No more hunger or thirst. Rev. 7:13-17.
4. The unsullied life. Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:2, 3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"From the day when the first pair turned their sorrowing steps from Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to break the destroyer's power and bring them again to the lost Paradise."—*The Great Controversy,* page 299.

The Hope of the Ages Realized

1. Throughout all ages, what radiant promise has cheered and strengthened the people of God? John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11.

NOTE.—"The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim."—*The Great Controversy,* page 302.

2. Following the proclamation of the threefold message, what glorious scene did the prophet of Patmos behold? Rev. 14:14-16. Compare Matt. 25:31, 32.

NOTE.—"Soon appeared the great white cloud, upon which sat the Son of man. When it first appeared in the distance, this cloud looked very small. The angel said that it was the sign of the Son of man. As it drew nearer the earth, we could behold the excellent glory and majesty of Jesus as He rode forth to conquer. A retinue of holy angels, with bright, glittering crowns upon their heads, escorted Him on His way. No language can describe the glory of the scene."—*Early Writings,* page 286.

3. On that glad occasion how will the waiting companies of the redeemed express their joy? Isa. 25:9; 26:1, 2.

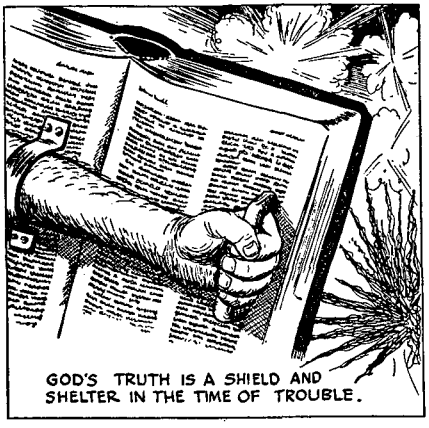
4. Under what circumstances will this mighty deliverance be accomplished? Dan. 12:1.

NOTE.—"As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof. . . .

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up, and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, 'It is done.' "—*The Great Controversy,* pages 635, 636.

Unprecedented Events

5. What physical disturbances mark the hour of this deliverance? Rev. 16:17-21.



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

6. In the midst of these convulsions of nature, what special resurrection takes place? Dan. 12:2.

NOTE.—"Graves are opened, and 'many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. 'They also which pierced Him,' 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,* page 637.

7. Describe the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the righteous. 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Matt. 24: 27, 30, 31.

8. In what condition will the righteous dead be raised? What transformation will the living experience? 1 Cor. 15:51-55.

NOTE.—"Only through Christ can immortality be obtained. . . . Every man may come into possession of this priceless blessing if he will comply with the conditions. All 'who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality,' will receive 'eternal life.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 533.

Judgment Upon the Wicked

9. How will the wicked regard the second coming of Christ? Rev. 6:13-17; Isa. 2:10-12.

NOTE.—"It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God's holy requirements. . . . Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. 'Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.' "—*The Great Controversy,* pages 639, 640.

10. What fate will overwhelm the finally impenitent? 2 Thess. 1:8; 2:8.

NOTE.—"To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act. . . . The Lord is 'merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and

abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.' Yet He will 'by no means clear the guilty.' . . . By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord's reluctance to execute justice."—*The Great Controversy,* page 627.

11. To what lonely retreat will Satan and his angels be banished? Rev. 20:1-3; Jer. 4:23-26.

NOTE.—"The revelator foretells the banishment of Satan, and the condition of chaos and desolation to which the earth is to be reduced. . . .

"Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. 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,* pages 658, 659.

Heaven at Last

12. After the resurrection of the righteous to what place do the saints ascend? 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 14:1.

13. What wonderful song do they unite in singing? Rev. 14:3; 15:2-4.

NOTE.—"None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience,—an experience such as no other company have ever had. . . . 'These are they which came out of great tribulation;' they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have 'washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 649.

14. In what joyous experiences do they participate? Rev. 7:13-17.

NOTE.—"The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' Millions went down to the grave loaded with infamy, because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. . . . Now the decisions of earth are reversed. . . . They are no longer feeble, afflicted, scattered, and oppressed. Henceforth they are to be ever with the Lord. They stand before the throne clad in richer robes than the most honored of the earth have ever worn. They are crowned with diadems more glorious than were ever placed upon the brow of earthly monarchs. The days of pain and weeping are forever ended."—*The Great Controversy,* page 650.

15. With full confidence in this blessed hope, how shall we order our lives? Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:2, 3.

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS IN BRAILLE

The senior Sabbath-school lessons, slightly condensed, are published each quarter in Braille, and they are supplied free to the blind upon request. Address: The Christian Record Benevolent Association, Box 66, Lincoln 6, Nebraska.

The Church Triumphant

MEMORY VERSE: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Cor. 2:9.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pp. 662-678; 1950 ed., pp. 653-668.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. Sabbath afternoon: general survey of the lesson, based on outline.
2. Introduction; Questions 1-4.
3. Questions 5-8.
4. Questions 9-12.
5. Questions 13-17.
6. Read Study Help assignment.
7. Review entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Hope of the Church

1. The grand objective. Heb. 11:8-10, 16, 39, 40.
2. New heaven, and a new earth. 2 Peter 3:12, 13; Rev. 21:3.
3. The church of heaven and earth united. Heb. 12:22-24.
4. A cleansed universe. Rev. 22:3; Nahum 1:9.

III. Home Life in the New Earth

1. A Lebanon of delight. Isa. 35:1, 2; Rev. 21:1.
2. Activities of the redeemed. Isa. 65:21-23.
3. Peace and security. Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25; Ezek. 34:25.
4. No more pain, illness, or death. Rev. 21:4; Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6.

IV. The New Jerusalem

1. Its physical features. Rev. 21:10-21.
2. The palace grounds. Rev. 22:1-3.
3. Friendships and associations. 1 Cor. 13:12.
4. The supreme attraction. Rev. 22:4.

V. Eternal Peace and Happiness

1. Spiritual fellowship. Isa. 66:22, 23.
2. An era of triumph. Dan. 7:27; Micah 4:8.
3. The divine invitation. Rev. 22:17.
4. We must be there. Rev. 22:14; Isa. 60:21.
5. One pulse of harmony. Isa. 35:10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in midnight darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming in which the battle will have been fought, the victory won. . . . All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving—the robe of Christ's righteousness."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 42.

The Hope of the Church

1. To what grand objective have patriarchs, prophets, and apostles looked forward? Heb. 11:8-10, 16, 39, 40.

NOTE.—"The Lord is soon to come, and we must be prepared to meet Him in

peace. . . . Oh, how glorious it will be to see Him and be welcomed as His redeemed ones! Long have we waited, but our hope is not to grow dim. If we can but see the King in His beauty we shall be forever blessed. I feel as if I must cry aloud: 'Homeward bound!' We are nearing the time when Christ will come in power and great glory to take His ransomed ones to their eternal home."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 253.

2. Beyond the fires that purify the earth from sin and sinners, what celestial estate is provided for the righteous? 2 Peter 3:12, 13; Rev. 21:3.

NOTE.—"Our little world, under the curse of sin the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honored above all other worlds in the universe of God. Here, where the Son of God tabernacled in humanity; where the King of glory lived and suffered and died,—here, when He shall make all things new, the tabernacle of God shall be with men. . . . And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable Gift,—IMMANUEL, 'GOD WITH US.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 26.

3. What view of the church triumphant is presented by the apostle Paul? Heb. 12:22-24.

4. What assurances are given that sin and wrong will nevermore invade the universe of God? Rev. 22:3; Nahum 1:9.

Home Life in the New Earth

5. What ideal conditions will prevail in the new earth? Isa. 35:1, 2; Rev. 21:1.

NOTE.—We are told of the balmy climate of Lebanon, of its cool, sparkling water, of its varied scenery, stately cedars, beautiful flowers, delicious fruit, and charming songbirds. Even so, with no more vast oceans or desolate Saharas, and with ideal food and climatic conditions, the entire globe will become a Lebanon of beauty and delight.

6. Mention some of the occupations in which the inhabitants of the new earth will engage. Isa. 65:21-23.

NOTE.—"There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body."—*The Great Controversy,* page 677.

7. What statements of Inspiration reveal the peace and security of the goodly land? Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25; Ezek. 34:25.

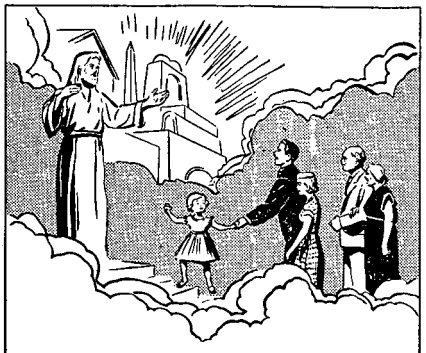
8. What conditions of mental and physical health will exist among the inhabitants of that country? Rev. 21:4; Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6.

The New Jerusalem

9. In what vivid language is the new-earth metropolis described? its wall and foundations? its streets and gates? Rev. 21:10-21.

10. What alluring glimpse is given of the palace grounds? Rev. 22:1-3.

NOTE.—Like a mighty banyan tree with trunks "on either side of the river," the tree of life from the long-lost Paradise sends forth its spreading branches to arch the tide, and to yield its never-failing monthly harvest of "twelve manner" of luscious fruit.



"COME, YE BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM."

11. In that homeland of promise shall we recognize our friends and loved ones? 1 Cor. 13:12.

NOTE.—"The loves and sympathies which God Himself has planted in the soul, shall there find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, . . . these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed."—*The Great Controversy,* page 677.

12. Amid all the attractions and wonders of that realm, what will afford supreme joy and satisfaction? Rev. 22:4.

Eternal Peace and Happiness

13. What is said of the seasons of worship in which the church of the future will engage? Isa. 66:22, 23.

14. In what lofty language did the prophets Daniel and Micah forecast that era of happy restoration and triumph? Dan. 7:27; Micah 4:8.

15. In the closing paragraph of Inspiration, what endearing invitation is extended to all? Rev. 22:17.

NOTE.—"Come, if you would inherit mansions where sickness, sorrow, pain, and death can never enter. . . . Come, if you would sing the jubilee song of millions, and share their joy. Come, if you would join the anthems of the redeemed with their melodious harps, and know that your exile is forever over, and this is your eternal home."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 778, 779.

16. Who only may share in the future glorious inheritance? Rev. 22: 14; Isa. 60:21.

NOTE.—"We must be there. . . . We must exchange the cross for the crown, and feel that the days of our humiliation are ended. We must lay down the staff and take the palm branch, and feel that the journey is done. We must put off the garments of our warfare for the white robes of triumph, and feel that the conflict is ended and the victory gained."—*Daniel and the Revelation,* pages 782, 783.

17. In what spirit of joy and loving fellowship will the redeemed enter upon those years of eternity? Isa. 35:10.

NOTE.—"One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love."—*The Great Controversy,* page 678.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

June 25, 1955—Southern Asia Division

This quarter it will be our privilege to help on four different projects for the Southern Asia Division:

1. A medical launch for the Malabar Coast.
2. A mobile medical unit for the Simla-Tibet Road.
3. New school buildings for our school in Ceylon.
4. New work in the Chin Hills of Burma.

Every one of these projects represents a great need and presents a great challenge to our people around the world to give a liberal offering on Thirteenth Sabbath.

LESSONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, 1955

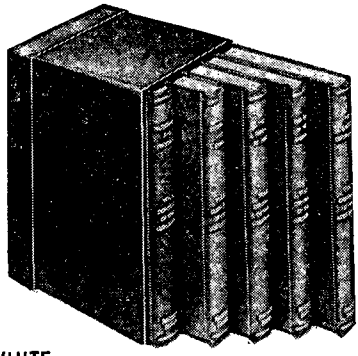
Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the third quarter of 1955 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is Redeeming Grace. The title of the first lesson is "The Problem of Sin." The Memory Verse is Romans 3:23. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. John 8:44; 1 John 3:8.
Ques. 2. Isa. 14:11-15; Ezek. 28:12-19.
Ques. 3. Rev. 12:7, 8.
Ques. 4. Rev. 12:9.
Ques. 5. Gen. 3:1-7, 13.
Ques. 6. Rom. 5:12.
Ques. 7. 1 John 3:4.
Ques. 8. Isa. 59:2; Hab. 1:13.
Ques. 9. Rom. 6:21, 23; James 1:15.
Ques. 10. Rom. 3:23; Eccl. 7:20.
Ques. 11. Rom. 3:19.
Ques. 12. 1 John 2:2.

CALLING ALL SABBATH-SCHOOL MEMBERS

Better results may be obtained in lesson study if you use the Teacher's Edition of the "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly." A full blank page is provided with each page of printed lesson copy for recording answers and additional notes.

PROVED COMMENTARY ON THE SCRIPTURES



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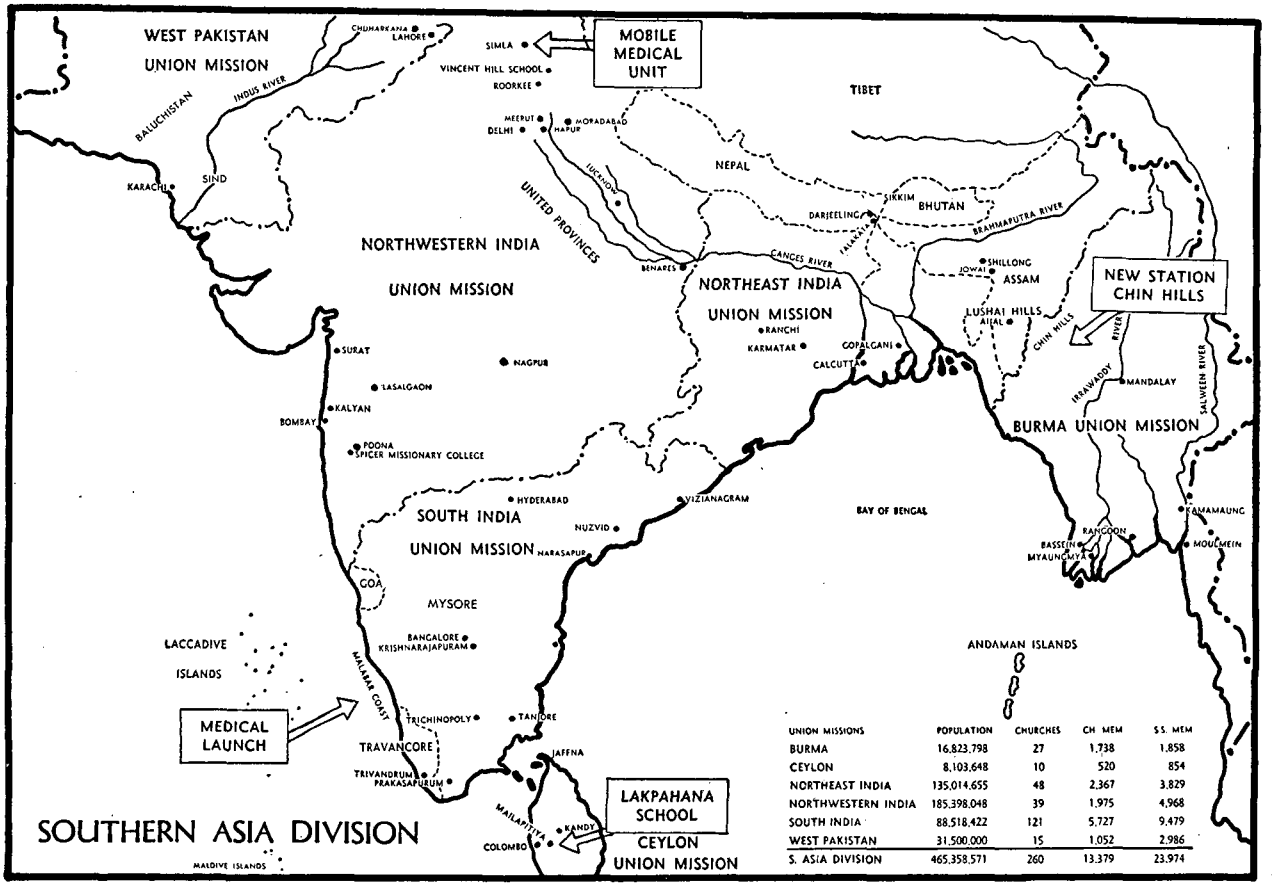

UNION MISSIONS	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH MEM	S.S. MEM
BURMA	16,823,798	27	1,738	1,858
CEYLON	8,103,648	10	520	854
NORTHEAST INDIA	135,014,655	48	2,367	3,829
NORTHWESTERN INDIA	185,398,048	39	1,975	4,968
SOUTH INDIA	88,518,422	121	5,727	9,479
WEST PAKISTAN	31,500,000	15	1,052	2,986
S. ASIA DIVISION	465,358,571	260	13,379	23,974