THE CRISES OF THE CHRIST

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

Quarterly

Senior Division, No. 295, First Quarter, 1969

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"The beauty and riches of the Word have a transforming influence on mind and character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 132.

"There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. . . . If God's Word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times."—*Steps to Christ,* page 90.

My 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 _____

Lesson Titles for the Quarter

1. Provision for the Crisis of Sin
2. Satan's Attacks
3. Early Crises in the Life of Christ
4. Preparation for Service
5. Jesus Accepts the Call to Service
6. Tempted to Self-assertion
7. Resistance to Control
8. To Make Him King
9. Looking Forward to the Cross
10. Ancient Israel's Decisive Hour
11. Crisis of Crises
12. "Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"
13. The Sacrifice Accepted

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE CRISES OF THE CHRIST

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

A crisis is defined as a "decisive moment." God foresaw the crisis of man's fall, and "made provision to meet the terrible emergency."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 22.

The decision to permit a member of the Deity to come as the Saviour of mankind was for Christ the first in a series of crises. These would not end until evil is destroyed, root and branch, in the cleansing flames.

From the time man fell until Christ was born, the adversary sought in various ways to destroy the people of God, and thus to prevent the coming of the promised Redeemer. When at last Jesus was born, He faced a succession of decisive moments of conflict with the cunning tempter, who was "unwearied in his efforts to overcome the Child of Nazareth," and who made His life "one long struggle against the powers of darkness."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 71. The series of crises reached their climax in Gethsemane, when the fate of the world hung in the balance. But failure in any one of the lesser conflicts would have been as decisive for the future of mankind as a refusal by the Saviour to drink of the bitter cup.

Today the final hour of crisis looms before the people of God. Responding to the appeals of the Holy Spirit, each believer must make decisions that, in his individual life, will enlist the infinite power of the Holy Spirit. By means of this power there will be created in him a perfect reflection of the character of the Christ. The same power that was given to Christ to help Him in His battles with temptation is available to us. A study of the victories He won should aid us in overcoming all temptation, whether coming from within or without. Thus will we be prepared to share in the final victory of the Christ and of His beloved church.

Lesson 1, for January 4, 1969

Provision for the Crisis of Sin

MEMORY VERSE: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." Acts 2:23.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 63-70; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To appreciate more fully God's great love, "from the foundation of the world," in providing for my salvation at infinite cost.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-5.	☐
Monday: Ques. 6-8.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 9, 10; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Sin Foreseen

1. God declares the end from the beginning. Isa. 46:10.
2. God's intimate knowledge of His children. Ps. 139:16.

II. Slain From the Foundation of the World

3. Christ "slain from the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8 (last part).
4. A willing sacrifice. John 10:17, 18.
5. The decision to carry out the plan of redemption. Acts 2:23.

III. Christ Is God

6. In the beginning the Word was God. John 1:1-3.
7. "The Mighty God," a title for Christ. Isa. 9:6 (second part).
8. The incarnation made Christ one of us. Isa. 9:6 (first part).

IV. The Result of Sin

9. Sin separated between God and man. Isa. 59:2.
10. Man became a slave of Satan. Rom. 6:16.

V. The Remedy for Sin

11. The Father gave His own Son. John 3:16.
12. The foreordained plan was announced to the sinful pair. Gen. 3:15.
13. Lucifer's doom foretold. Rom. 16:20.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of 'the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.' Rom. 16:25, R.V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, 'that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 22.

Sin Foreseen

1. Who alone declares the end from the beginning? Isa. 46:10.

NOTE.—"God foreknows because He is omniscient, that is, He knows all things. Of Him the Scriptures affirm: 'All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.' (Heb. 4:13); 'declaring the end from the beginning' (Isa. 46:10); 'known unto God are all His works from the beginning.' (Acts 15:18). The past, present, and future are all equally known to Him."—*SDA Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 8:29.

2. How definite is God's knowledge of man? Ps. 139:16.

Slain From the Foundation of the World

3. What does John say about the sacrifice of the Lamb? Rev. 13:8 (last part). Compare Rom. 16:25.

NOTE.—"Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 834.

"If he should be overcome by Satan." Although God foresaw Adam's decision to rebel, it was Adam who made that decision. Until the time that he should make it, the fall and the plan of salvation were kept secret by the Godhead. "The plan

that should be carried out upon the defection of any of the high intelligences of heaven—this is the secret, the mystery which has been hid from ages."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 6, p. 1082.

4. What words of the Saviour show that His sacrifice for us was freely made? John 10:17, 18.

5. How did Peter speak of the decision to permit the Saviour to die for mankind? Acts 2:23.

NOTE.—This "counsel of peace" (Zech. 6:13) represented the first of the crises of the Christ. See *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 63.

Christ Is God

6. What brief words of John describe the eternal Deity of Christ? John 1:1-3.

NOTE.—"From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was 'the image of God,' . . . 'the outshining of His glory.' It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world . . . to be 'God with us.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 19.

7. What remarkable titles does Isaiah give to Christ? Isa. 9:6 (second part).

NOTE.—"Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore."—*Selected Messages,* Bk. 1, p. 247.

8. To whom was this Son born, this Child given? Isa. 9:6 (first part).

NOTE.—"In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.' John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 25.

The Result of Sin

9. How does sin affect man's relationship to God? Isa. 59:2.

NOTE.—"Sin not only shuts away from God, but destroys in the human soul both the desire and the capacity for knowing Him. Through sin, the whole human organism is deranged, the mind is perverted, the imagination corrupted; the faculties of the soul are degraded. There is an absence of pure religion, of heart holiness. The converting power of God has not wrought in transforming the character. The soul is weak, and for want of moral force to overcome, is polluted and debased."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 233.

10. Under whose control is fallen man? Rom. 6:16. Compare Rom. 7:14.

NOTE—"But should they once yield to temptation, their nature would become so depraved that in themselves they would have no power, and no disposition, to resist Satan."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 53.

The Remedy for Sin

11. Why did God permit the suffering and death of His Son? John 3:16.

NOTE.—"The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is 'the Lamb slain from the founda-

tion of the world' (Rev. 13:8); yet it was a struggle, even with the King of the universe, to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race. But 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 63.

12. What announcement was made to Adam and Eve when they sinned? Gen. 3:15.

NOTE.—"As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. Christ knew that He would have to suffer, yet He became man's substitute. As soon as Adam sinned, the Son of God presented Himself as surety for the human race, with just as much power to avert the doom pronounced upon the guilty as when He died upon the cross of Calvary."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 1, p. 1084.

13. What prediction of ultimate victory did Paul make? Rom. 16:20.

NOTE.—"When Satan heard that enmity should exist between himself and the woman, and between his seed and her seed, he knew that his work of depraving human nature would be interrupted; that by some means man would be enabled to resist his power."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 66.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Do I spend time each day in quiet contemplation of the greatness of the sacrifice made for me? If not, should I not form the habit? (See *The Desire of Ages,* page 83.)

2. Do I respond in gratitude for the infinite love that led God to make the supreme sacrifice?

Lesson 2, for January 11, 1969

Satan's Attacks

MEMORY VERSE: "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." Rom. 4:20-22.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 71-79; 241-256; "Prophets and Kings," pages 293-300; 518-521; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To understand more fully the marvelous way in which God has protected and preserved His chosen people.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-4.	☐
Monday: Ques. 5, 6; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11-13; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The First Attack

1. Satan destroyed Abel. Gen. 4:8.
2. Seth replaced Abel. Gen. 4:25.

II. Satan Appears to Triumph

3. The human race utterly corrupted. Gen. 6:5, 7.
4. Noah and his family preserved. Gen. 6:18.

III. The Promise Repeated

5. Abraham called of God. Gen. 26:4, 5.
6. The promised child received by faith. Rom. 4:19-21.

IV. Satan and the Empires

7. Satan's use of kings and rulers to attempt to destroy the seed of Abraham. Jer. 50:17.
8. Egypt set out to destroy every male Hebrew child. Ex. 1:22.
9. The plagues upon Egypt meet the crisis. Deut. 4:34.
10. Israel estranged from God. 2 Kings 17:22, 23.
11. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges Israel's God. Dan. 3:28, 29; 4:34-37.
12. Haman thwarted by Esther. Esther 3:13.
13. The world prepared for the coming of the promised Seed.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The Saviour's coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.' Eze. 12:22.

"But like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 31, 32.

Satan incited the nations to oppress and destroy the seed of Abraham. But God always preserved a remnant of the Hebrew race of which Christ was to be born.

The First Attack

1. Which son of Adam was the first to fall under the power of death? Gen. 4:8.

NOTE.—Not only was righteous Abel slain in this crisis, but Cain disqualified himself for the honor of being the ancestor of the Christ.

"The murder of Abel was the first example of the enmity that God had declared would exist between the serpent and the seed of the woman—between Satan and his subjects and Christ and His followers."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 77.

"But Cain lived only to harden his heart, . . . and to become the head of a line of bold, abandoned sinners."—*Ibid.,* p. 78.

2. Who was given to replace Abel? Gen. 4:25.

NOTE.—"Seth, like Cain, inherited the fallen nature of his parents. But he received also the knowledge of the Redeemer and instruction in righteousness. By divine grace . . . he labored, as Abel would have done, had he lived, to turn the minds of sinful men to revere and obey their Creator."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 80.

Satan Appears to Triumph

3. To what crisis did Satan bring the antediluvian world? Gen. 6:5, 7.

NOTE.—"God had given these men knowledge. He had given them valuable ideas, that they might carry out His plan. But the Lord saw that those whom He designed should possess wisdom, tact, and judgment, were using every quality of the mind to glorify self. . . . When the earth was repeopled, the Lord trusted His wisdom more sparingly to men, giving them only the ability they would need in carrying out His great plan."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 1, p. 1089.

4. How was the human race preserved at the time of the Flood? Gen. 6:18.

NOTE.—"He [Satan] knows better than we do the limit of his power and how easily he can be overcome if we resist and face him."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 293.

"The enemy dare not go one hairbreadth beyond his appointed sphere. There is no power in the whole satanic force that can disable the soul that trusts, in simple confidence, in the wisdom that comes from God."—*My Life Today,* page 316.

The Promise Repeated

5. Why was Abraham called to be the ancestor of the promised Seed? Gen. 26:4, 5.

NOTE.—"After the dispersion from Babel idolatry again became well-nigh universal, and the Lord finally left the hardened transgressors to follow their evil ways, while He chose Abraham, of the line of Shem, and made him the keeper of His law for future generations."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 125.

6. How was the crisis of Abraham's childlessness resolved? Rom. 4:19-21. Compare verse 3.

NOTE.—"Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the Word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the Word."—*Education,* pages 253, 254.

Satan and the Empires

7. What had the Assyrians and Babylonians done to Israel? Jer. 50:17.

NOTE.—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, pagan Rome, and papal Rome—each in turn had the opportunity to serve the God who sets up kings. See Dan. 2:21. Egypt welcomed Jacob and his family to share the store of wheat during the famine and could have helped him to spread the knowledge of the true God to all the world. Babylon protected the remnant of Judah and proclaimed the superiority of the God of Israel to every nation. See Dan. 4:1-3. Medo-Persia reestablished Jerusalem. Yet each in turn chose to become a tool of Satan in his attempt to exterminate the seed of the woman, and each in turn was soon overthrown.

8. How did Egypt turn upon the sons of Israel and threaten to destroy the seed of Abraham? Ex. 1:22.

9. How did God meet the crisis His people faced in Egypt? Deut. 4:34.

NOTE.—"The Lord would give the Egyptians an opportunity to see how vain was the wisdom of their mighty men, how feeble the power of their gods, when opposed to the commands of Jehovah. He would punish the people of Egypt for their idolatry and silence their boastings of the blessings received from their senseless deities. God would glorify His own name, that other nations might hear of His power and tremble at His mighty acts, and that His people might be led to turn from their idolatry and render Him pure worship."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 263.

10. How successful was Satan in leading Israel astray? 2 Kings 17: 22, 23.

NOTE.—"About two years later, Samaria was invested by the hosts of Assyria under Shalmaneser. . . . The broken remnant of the ten tribes were carried away captive and scattered in the provinces of the Assyrian realm."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 291.

11. By what means was Nebuchadnezzar led to acknowledge the true God? Dan. 3:28, 29; 4:34-37.

NOTE.—The results of the faithfulness of the three God-fearing young men on the plain of Dura is stated in these words: "The three Hebrews declared to the whole nation of Babylon their faith in Him whom they worshiped. . . . And in a marvelous manner their faith in the living Word had been honored in the sight of all. The tidings of their wonderful deliverance were carried to many countries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 512.

With reference to Nebuchadnezzar's seven-year period of insanity, this is stated:

"The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king. . . . Under the rebuke of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn—that true greatness consists in true goodness. . . .

"God's purpose that the greatest kingdom in the world should show forth His praise was now fulfilled."—*Ibid.,* p. 521.

12. Under what circumstances did Satan use Persia in an attempt to destroy the seed of Abraham? Esther 3:13.

NOTE.—"Through Haman the Agagite, . . . Satan worked at this time to counterwork the purposes of God. . . .

"Misled by the false statements of Haman, Xerxes was induced to issue a decree providing for the massacre of all the Jews. . . . Satan himself, the hidden instigator of the scheme, was trying to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of the true God."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 600, 601.

13. How did God use Rome to prepare for the coming of the promised Seed?

ANSWER.—"Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer. The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken, and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 32.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. As a member of the last remnant, am I keeping myself from the idolatrous worship of the conveniences and luxuries of present-day living?

2. Am I, by daily trust in God in little things, building a faith that will enable me to stand in Satan's last attack upon the seed of the woman?

LESSON QUARTERLIES FOR THE BLIND

The senior Sabbath-school lessons, slightly condensed, are published each quarter in Braille and supplied free to the blind upon request. Address: The Christian Record Braille Foundation, Inc., Box 6097, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506.

Lesson 3, for January 18, 1969

Early Crises in the Life of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God." Heb. 10:7.

STUDY HELPS: Selections from "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-74 (chapters 1-7); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 80-89 ("Other Lessons From Seed Sowing"); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To gain an understanding and appreciation of the victories of the youthful Jesus.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-3; begin reading study helps.	☐
Monday: Ques. 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 10-12; read further in study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. His Own Received Him Not

1. The Word made flesh. John 1:14.
2. Denied by His own. John 1:10, 11.
3. Strangers came to worship Him. Matt 2:1, 2.

II. The First Attempt Upon His Life

4. The dragon ready to devour the Child. Rev. 12:4 (last part).
5. Satan moved Herod to attempt to destroy Jesus. Matt. 2:16.
6. Joseph warned to flee into Egypt. Matt 2:13-15.

III. Resistance to Sin

7. Christ was tempted as we are. Heb. 4:15 (second part).
8. Christ's sinless life confounded the Jews. John 8:46 (first part).
9. Christ came to do the will of God. Heb. 10:5, 7.

IV. Begotten of the Holy Spirit

10. The Redeemer begotten of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35.
11. Jesus' reliance on the Father. John 5:30; 8:28; 14:10 (last part).
12. Early life of Christ pleasing to God and man. Luke 2:52.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"This was the reception the Saviour met as He came to a fallen world. He left His heavenly home, His majesty, and riches, and high command, and took upon Himself man's nature, that He might save the fallen race. Instead of men glorifying God for the honor He had conferred upon them in thus sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, by giving Him a place in their affections, there seemed to be no rest nor safety for the infant Saviour. Jehovah could not trust to the inhabitants of the world His Son, who came into the world that through His divine power He might redeem fallen man. He who came to bring life to man, met, from the very ones He came to benefit, insult, hatred, and abuse. God could not trust His beloved Son with men while carrying on His benevolent work for their salvation, and final exaltation to His own throne. He sent angels to attend His Son and pre-

serve His life, till His mission on earth should be accomplished, and He should die by the hands of the very men He came to save."—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald,* Dec. 24, 1872.

His Own Received Him Not

1. How does John describe the first advent of Christ to the earth? John 1:14.

NOTE.—"Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. 'As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same.' He was the Son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. He is declared to be a man, even the man Christ Jesus."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1130.

2. How was Jesus received by His own people? John 1:10, 11.

NOTE.—"With amazement the heavenly messengers beheld the indifference of that people whom God had called to communicate to the world the light of sacred truth. . . . Hearts selfish and world-engrossed were untouched by the joy that thrilled all heaven. Only a few were longing to behold the Unseen. To these heaven's embassy was sent."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 44.

3. Who recognized the sign of the birth of the "King of the Jews"? Matt. 2:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The light of God is ever shining amid the darkness of heathenism. As these magi studied the starry heavens, . . . they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures. . . . The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 59, 60.

The First Attempt Upon His Life

4. Who awaited the birth of the Son of God into the human family and with what purpose? Rev. 12:4 (last part). Compare verse 9.

NOTE.—"From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, the usurper worked to bring about His destruction. In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 759.

5. What attempt was made upon the life of the infant Jesus? Matt. 2:16.

NOTE.—"Herod in Jerusalem impatiently awaited the return of the wise men. . . . The unwillingness of the rabbis to point out the Messiah's birthplace seemed to indicate that they had penetrated his design, and that the magi had purposely avoided him. He was maddened at the thought. . . .

"Soldiers were at once sent to Bethlehem, with orders to put to death all the children of two years and under. . . .

"This calamity the Jews had brought upon themselves. If they had been walking in faithfulness and humility before God, He would in a signal manner have made the wrath of the king harmless to them. But they had . . . rejected the Holy Spirit, which was their only shield."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 65.

6. How did God meet this crisis? Matt. 2:13-15.

NOTE.—"In like manner Joseph received warning to flee into Egypt with Mary and the Child. . . .

"And through the gifts of the magi from a heathen country, the Lord supplied the means for the journey into Egypt and the sojourn in a land of strangers."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 64, 65.

Resistance to Sin

7. How fully and in what manner was Jesus tempted? Heb. 4:15 (second part).

NOTE.—"Satan was unwearied in his efforts to overcome the Child of Nazareth. From His earliest years Jesus was guarded by heavenly angels, yet His life was one long struggle against the powers of darkness. That there should be upon the earth one life free from the defilement of evil was an offense and a perplexity to the prince of darkness. He left no means untried to ensnare Jesus. No child of humanity will ever be called to live a holy life amid so fierce a conflict with temptation as was our Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 71.

8. With what challenge did Jesus' sinless life confront the Jews? John 8:46 (first part).

NOTE.—"In His life on earth, Christ developed a perfect character, He rendered perfect obedience to His Father's commandments. . . . Not one stain of sin was found upon Him. He stood before the world the spotless Lamb of God."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 25.

"He was born without a taint of sin, but came into the world in like manner as the human family."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 925.

"He [Christ] was to take His position at the head of humanity by taking the nature but not the sinfulness of man."—*Ibid.*

"He prayed for His disciples and for Himself, thus identifying Himself with our needs, our weaknesses, and our failings, which are so common with humanity. He was a mighty petitioner, not possessing the passions of our human, fallen natures, but compassed with like infirmities, tempted in all points even as we are."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 2, pp. 508, 509.

"He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions."—*Ibid.,* p. 202.

"From the time that He was born an infant in Bethlehem till He hung on the cross of Calvary, and cried out in a voice that shook the universe, 'It is finished,' the Saviour was pure and spotless."—Ellen G. White Manuscript 165, 1899, page 4.

9. What commitment did the Son of God make? Heb. 10:5, 7.

NOTE.—"Nearly two thousand years ago, a voice of mysterious import was heard in heaven, from the throne of God, . . . 'Lo, I come' . . . 'to do Thy will, O God.' Heb. 10:5-7. In these words is announced the fulfillment of the purpose that had been hidden from eternal ages."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 23.

Begotten of the Holy Spirit

10. What aspect of the conception of Jesus made Him divine as well as human? Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35.

NOTE.—"The limited capacity of man cannot define this wonderful mystery—the blending of the two natures, the divine and the human. It can never be explained. Man must wonder and be silent. And yet man is privileged to be a partaker of the divine nature, and in this way he can to some degree enter into the mystery."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 904.

11. How did Jesus express His dependence upon His Father? John 5: 30; 8:28; 14:10 (last part).

NOTE.—"As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength. . . .

"As a man He supplicated the throne of God till His humanity was charged with a heavenly current that should connect humanity with divinity."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 363.

12. What testimony is given concerning Jesus' early development? Luke 2:52.

NOTE.—"He came as God's ambassador, to show us how to live so as to secure life's best results. What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; . . . the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scriptures; . . . the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus."—*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 365, 366.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Has a new life been begotten in me by the Holy Spirit, and do I feed and strengthen that "new man" by living as Jesus lived?

2. Why do I sometimes fail to claim and use the power to overcome temptation which is offered me by the Spirit of God?

Lesson 4, for January 25, 1969

Preparation for Service

MEMORY VERSE: "How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Luke 2:49.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 75-92 (chapters 8, 9); "Education," pages 73-78; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: A realization that, under the guiding power of the Holy Spirit, the helpless Babe in Mary's arms grew to perfect manhood by the same means that are open to us.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-3; begin reading study helps.	☐
Monday: Ques. 4-8.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 9, 10; read further from study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11, 12; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Studying the Scriptures and Nature

1. The grace of God upon Jesus as a youth. Luke 2:40.
2. Jesus was well acquainted with the Scriptures. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.
3. The parables reflect a knowledge of nature. Matt. 13:3-9, 24-30, 31, 32.

II. Recognition of His Mission

4. Jesus' visit to the temple at the age of twelve. Luke 2:41, 42.
5. Jesus asks questions of the rabbis. Luke 2:46.

6. Jesus' amazing understanding of the Scriptures. Luke 2:47.
7. Joseph and Mary seek Jesus. Luke 2:44, 45.
8. Jesus revealed His sense of mission while visiting the temple. Luke 2:49.

III. The Homelife

9. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Nazareth. Luke 2:51 (first part).
10. Jesus continued obedience to His earthly parents. Luke 2:51 (last part).
11. Jesus' brothers reject His claim. Mark 3:21 (margin), 31.
12. The bitterness of misunderstanding and reproach. Isa. 53:3 (first part).

THE LESSON

Introduction

"At a very early age, Jesus had begun to act for Himself in the formation of His character, and not even respect and love for His parents could turn Him from obedience to God's Word. . . . But the influence of the rabbis made His life a bitter one. Even in His youth He had to learn the hard lesson of silence and patient endurance."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 86.

"Of the bitterness that falls to the lot of humanity, there was no part which Christ did not taste. There were those who tried to cast contempt upon Him because of His birth, and even in His childhood He had to meet their scornful looks and evil whisperings. If He had responded by an impatient word or look, if He had conceded to His brothers by even one wrong act, He would have failed of being a perfect example. Thus He would have failed of carrying out the plan for our redemption. Had He even admitted that there could be an excuse for sin, Satan would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost."—*Ibid.,* p. 88.

"To every sufferer He brought relief, His kind words having a soothing balm. None could say that He had worked a miracle; but virtue—the healing power of love—went out from Him to the sick and distressed. Thus in an unobtrusive way He worked for the people from His very childhood."—*Ibid.,* p. 92.

Studying the Scriptures and Nature

1. How does Luke describe the development of the Child Jesus? Luke 2:40.

2. How did Jesus' replies to the tempter reflect His familiarity with the Scriptures? Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.

NOTE.—"The Child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. . . .

"Since He gained knowledge as we may do, His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God's Word."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 70.

3. Name several parables that indicate Jesus' familiarity with nature. Matt. 13:3-9, 24-30, 31, 32.

NOTE.—"He studied the life of plants and animals, and the life of man. . . . Continually He was seeking to draw from things seen illustrations by which to present the living oracles of God. The parables . . . show how open His spirit was to the influences of nature, and how He had gathered the spiritual teaching from the surroundings of His daily life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 70.

Recognition of His Mission

4. Where did Jesus go at the age of twelve? Luke 2:41, 42.

5. While in Jerusalem, what did Jesus do? Luke 2:46.

NOTE.—"For the first time the Child Jesus looked upon the temple. . . . He beheld the bleeding victim upon the altar of sacrifice. . . . He witnessed the impressive rites of the paschal service. Day by day He saw their meaning more clearly. Every act seemed to be bound up with His own life. New impulses were awakening within Him. Silent and absorbed, He seemed to be studying out a great problem. The mystery of His mission was opening to the Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 78.

6. How did Jesus' penetrating questions affect the learned rabbis? Luke 2:47.

NOTE.—"The rabbis spoke of the wonderful elevation which the Messiah's coming would bring to the Jewish nation; but Jesus presented the prophecy of Isaiah, and asked them the meaning of those Scriptures that point to the suffering and death of the Lamb of God. . . .

"If followed, the lines of truth He pointed out would have worked a reformation in the religion of the day."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 78, 79.

"In their pride they would have scorned to admit that they could receive instruction from anyone. If Jesus had appeared to be trying to teach them, they would have disdained to listen. . . .

"They would not admit that they had misapprehended the Scriptures they claimed to teach. . . . The light was shining in darkness; but 'the darkness apprehended it not.' "—*Ibid.,* p. 80.

7. What were Joseph and Mary doing while Jesus talked with the rabbis? Luke 2:44, 45.

NOTE.—"They searched for Him throughout their company, but in vain. Shuddering they remembered how Herod had tried to destroy Him in His infancy. Dark forebodings filled their hearts. They bitterly reproached themselves."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 80.

8. In what words did Jesus reveal that He understood His mission? Luke 2:49.

NOTE.—"In the answer to His mother, Jesus showed for the first time that He understood His relation to God. Before His birth the angel had said to Mary, 'He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever.' Luke 1:32, 33. These words Mary had pondered in her heart; yet while she believed that her child was to be Israel's Messiah, she did not comprehend His mission. Now she did not understand His words; but she knew that He had disclaimed kinship to Joseph, and had declared His Sonship to God."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 81, 82.

The Homelife

9. After the incident at the temple where did Jesus go? Luke 2:51 (first part).

NOTE.—"As Joseph and Mary should return from Jerusalem alone with Jesus, He hoped to direct their minds to the prophecies of the suffering Saviour. Upon Calvary He sought to lighten His mother's grief. He was thinking of her now. Mary was to witness His last agony, and Jesus desired her to understand His mission, that she might be strengthened to endure, when the sword should pierce through her soul." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 82.

10. What was Jesus' attitude toward His parents upon returning to Nazareth? Luke 2:51 (last part).

NOTE.—"He hid in His own heart the mystery of His mission, waiting submissively for the appointed time. . . . For eighteen years after He had recognized that He was the Son of God, He acknowledged the tie that bound Him to the home at Nazareth."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 82.

11. What attitude did Jesus' family take toward Him and His mission? Mark 3:21 (margin), 31.

NOTE.—"When His relatives learned of it, they came out to check Him, for they said, 'He is deranged!' " "His mother and His brothers came and, standing outside, they sent word to call Him. A crowd was sitting around Him when they told Him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside asking for You.' He answered them, Who are My mother and My brothers? Looking at those sitting around Him in a circle, He said, See! My mother and My brothers! Whoever does the will of God, that one is My brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:21, 31-35, Berkeley. (Used by permission.) A footnote to verse 35 comments, "Relationship with Him surpasses family ties."

"The sons of Joseph were far from being in sympathy with Jesus in His work. The reports that reached them in regard to His life and labors filled them with astonishment and dismay. . . .

"They knew what a tumult His words and works created, and were not only alarmed at His bold statements, but indignant at His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. They decided that He must be persuaded or constrained to cease this manner of labor, and they induced Mary to unite with them, thinking that through His love for her they might prevail upon Him to be more prudent."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 321.

12. What had Isaiah predicted concerning the attitude of men toward the Messiah? Isa. 53:3 (first part).

NOTE.—"Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God's countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 89. (See also the Introduction to the lesson.)

"Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the reckless prodigals, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and the mixed multitude. He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there, as He saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens."—*Ibid.,* p. 90.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Would the Boy Jesus have been happy in my home?
2. Does pride of opinion blind me to unfolding truth?
3. Do I, reborn in the image of Christ, go about doing good?

Lesson 5, for February 1, 1969

Jesus Accepts the Call to Service

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 97-113 (chapters 10, 11); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To discover how the Father rewards and encourages faith.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-4.	☐
Monday: Ques. 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 8, 9; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 10-12.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Call

1. The promised forerunner of the Messiah. Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2.
2. All Judea stirred by John. Matt. 3:5.
3. The Jewish leaders challenged John's authority. John 1:19-25.
4. "There standeth One among you." John 1:26, 27.

II. The Baptism

5. Jesus' request for baptism. Matt. 3:13.
6. John shrinks from baptizing Jesus. Matt. 3:14.
7. Baptism required to "fulfill all righteousness." Matt. 3:15.

III. The Anointing

8. Jesus' prayer for power and recognition. Luke 3:21 (first part).
9. The anointing by the Spirit of God. Luke 3:21 (last part), 22 (first part).

IV. The Acknowledgment

10. The Father acknowledges the Son. Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22 (second part).
11. John is convinced that Jesus is the Saviour. John 1:32-34.
12. John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God. John 1:29.

THE LESSON

Introduction

For eighteen years after Jesus had learned from the prophetic Scriptures and the temple services that He was the Son of God, He continued to live as the Son of Mary. The news of the work of the Baptist came to Jesus as a call to service. Would He accept the call? Could He face the skepticism and scorn foretold for the Messiah?

Believing in the Scriptures, and in the signs and wonders that had attended His birth, the Saviour made His way to Jordan. As He stood in the crowds around John, He heard the ringing cry, "There standeth One among you whom ye know not." He stepped forward for baptism.

The need of assurance from the Father pressed upon Jesus as He left the water. He prayed for confirmation of His faith and a sign to encourage those for whom He must work. The answer came, first in the descent of the anointing Spirit of God—He was the Messiah, the Anointed One—and then in the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son."

The Call

1. What prophecies were fulfilled by John the Baptist? Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:2. Compare Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1.

2. How widespread was the influence of John's preaching? Matt. 3:5.

NOTE.—"The preaching of John had taken so deep a hold on the nation as to demand the attention of the religious authorities. . . . John had not recognized the authority of the Sanhedrin by seeking their sanction for his work; and he had reproved rulers and people, Pharisees and Sadducees alike. Yet the people followed him eagerly. The interest in his work seemed to be continually increasing."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 132, 133.

3. Hearing of the work of John, what did the Jewish leaders do? John 1:19-25.

NOTE.—"The Sanhedrin could not well defer an investigation of John's work. There were some who recalled the revelation made to Zacharias in the temple, and the father's prophecy that had pointed to his child as the Messiah's herald. In the tumults and changes of thirty years, these

things had in a great measure been lost sight of. They were now called to mind by the excitement concerning the ministry of John."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 133.

4. What was the delegation told concerning the Messiah? John 1: 26, 27.

The Baptism

5. For what purpose did Jesus go to John at the Jordan? Matt. 3:13.

NOTE.—"Tidings of the wilderness prophet and his wonderful announcement spread throughout Galilee. The message reached the peasants in the remotest hill towns, and the fisher folk by the sea, and in these simple, earnest hearts found its truest response. In Nazareth it was told in the carpenter shop that had been Joseph's, and One recognized the call. His time had come. Turning from His daily toil, He bade farewell to His mother, and followed in the steps of His countrymen who were flocking to the Jordan."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 109.

6. Why did John at first decline to baptize Jesus? Matt. 3:14.

NOTE.—"When Jesus came to be baptized, John recognized in Him a purity of character that he had never before perceived in any man. . . . Never had he come in contact with a human being from whom there breathed an influence so divine. All this was in harmony with what had been revealed to John regarding the Messiah. Yet he shrank from granting the request of Jesus. How could he, a sinner, baptize the Sinless One? And why should He who needed no repentance submit to a rite that was a confession of guilt to be washed away?"—*The Desire of Ages,* page 110.

7. What did Jesus say that led to John's assent? Matt. 3:15.

NOTE.—"Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 111.

The Anointing

8. Leaving the water of baptism, what did Jesus do? Luke 3:21 (first part).

NOTE.—"The Saviour's glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer. Well He knows how sin has hardened the hearts of men, and how difficult it will be for them to discern His mission, and accept the gift of salvation. He pleads with the Father for power to overcome their unbelief, to break the fetters with which Satan has enthralled them, and in their behalf to conquer the destroyer. He asks for the witness that God accepts humanity in the person of His Son."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 111, 112.

9. What followed Jesus' prayer? Luke 3:21 (last part), 22 (first part). Compare Mark 1:10.

NOTE.—"The Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest light,—fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 112.

The Acknowledgment

10. What did a voice from heaven declare? Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22 (second part).

NOTE.—"These words of confirmation were given to inspire faith in those who witnessed the scene, and to strengthen the

Saviour for His mission. Notwithstanding that the sins of a guilty world were laid upon Christ, notwithstanding the humiliation of taking upon Himself our fallen nature, the voice from heaven declared Him to be the Son of the Eternal."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 112.

11. To the Baptist, of what was the descent of the Spirit a sign? John 1: 32-34.

NOTE.—"John had been deeply moved as he saw Jesus bowed as a suppliant, pleading with tears for the approval of the Father. As the glory of God encircled Him, and the voice from heaven was heard, John recognized the token which God had promised. He knew that it was the world's Redeemer whom he had baptized."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 112.

12. What significant title did John use as he spoke of Jesus? John 1:29.

NOTE.—"None among the hearers, and not even the speaker himself, discerned the import of these words, 'the Lamb of God.' Upon Mount Moriah, Abraham had heard the question of his son, 'My father, where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' The father answered, 'My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.' Gen. 22:7, 8. And in the ram divinely provided in the place of Isaac, Abraham saw a symbol of Him who was to die for the sins of men."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 112.

"God spoke to Jesus as our representative. With all our sins and weaknesses, we are not cast aside as worthless. . . . The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer,—how the human voice may reach the ear of God, and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven."—*Ibid.,* page 113.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Am I ready to accept the call to service and suffering as Jesus did for me?

2. The same Bible that tells me that Jesus was *the* Son of God also tells me that I am now *a* son of God. Do I really believe this, and act accordingly?

Lesson 6, for February 8, 1969

Tempted to Self-assertion

MEMORY VERSE: "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 114-123 (chapter 12); "Testimonies," Vol. 3, pp. 371-376; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To learn how to overcome in the crisis of temptation as Jesus overcame.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-5.	☐
Monday: Ques. 6, 7; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11, 12; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Battleground

1. The Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness. Mark 1:12.
2. Jesus fasts. Matt. 4:2.
3. Satan attacks Jesus. Matt. 4:3 (first part).

II. The Issue

4. Eve's basic sin was desire for equality with God. Gen. 3:5, 6.
5. Christ did not seek equality with God. Phil. 2:6, 7.

III. The Attack

6. Satan questioned the Sonship of Jesus. Matt. 4:3 (last part).
7. The tempter suggests that Jesus may be the fallen angel.

IV. The Victory

8. Jesus used the Scriptures to defeat Satan. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.
9. We, too, are to use the sword of the Spirit. Eph. 6:17.
10. Sin is the result of wrong desires. 1 John 2:15-17.
11. When we are in submission to God, we can put Satan to flight. James 4:7.
12. Peter's advice relative to victory. 1 Peter 5:8, 9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Of all the lessons to be learned from our Lord's first great temptation none is more important than that bearing upon the control of the appetites and passions. In all ages, temptations appealing to the physical nature have been most effectual in corrupting and degrading mankind. . . .

"Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart will be evil continually. Upon the very verge of that fearful time we are now living, and to us should come home the lesson of the Saviour's fast. Only by the inexpressible anguish which Christ endured can we estimate the evil of unrestrained indulgence. His example declares that our only hope of eternal life is through bringing the appetites and passions into subjection to the will of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 122.

The Battleground

1. Who was directing Jesus when He went into the wilderness? Mark 1:12.

NOTE.—"When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He went to the wilderness to be alone, to contemplate His mission and work. By fasting and prayer He was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path He must travel. But Satan knew that the Saviour had gone into the wilderness, and he thought this the best time to approach Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 114.

2. What did Jesus do in the wilderness, and with what result? Matt. 4:2.

NOTE.—"When Jesus entered the wilderness, He was shut in by the Father's glory. Absorbed in communioin with God, He was lifted above human weakness. But the glory departed, and He was left to battle with temptation. It was pressing upon Him every moment. His human nature shrank from the conflict that awaited Him. For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, 'His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.' Isa. 52:14. Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 118.

3. While Jesus was in this weakened condition, who came to Him? Matt. 4:3 (first part).

The Issue

4. What implied desire was apparently the cause of the sin of Eve? Gen. 3:5, 6.

NOTE.—"Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 59.

5. By contrast, what was Christ's attitude toward equality with God? Phil. 2:6, 7.

NOTE.—"[He] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, . . . being born in the likeness of men." Phil. 2:6, 7, RSV.

"And Christ was not to exercise divine power for His own benefit. He had come to bear trial as we must do, leaving us an example of faith and submission."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 119.

The Attack

6. With what words did the tempter preface his proposal that Jesus perform a miracle? Matt. 4:3 (last part).

NOTE.—"There came to the Saviour, as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven. He [Satan] claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ's fast was at an end. . . . The Saviour was faint from hunger, He was craving for food, when Satan came suddenly upon Him. . . .

"Though he appears as an angel of light, these first words betray his character. 'If Thou be the Son of God.' Here is the insinuation of distrust. Should Jesus do what Satan suggests, it would be an acceptance of the doubt. The tempter plans to overthrow Christ by the same means that were so successful with the human race in the beginning. . . . So now the tempter seeks to inspire Christ with his own sentiments. 'If Thou be the Son of God.' The words rankle with bitterness in his mind. In the tones of his voice is an expression of utter incredulity. Would God treat His own Son thus? . . . 'If Thou be the Son of God,' show Thy power by relieving Thyself of this pressing hunger. Command that this stone be made bread.

"The words from heaven, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased' (Matt. 3:17), were still sounding in the ears of Satan. But he was determined to make Christ disbelieve this testimony. The word of God was Christ's assurance of His divine mission. He had come to live as a man among men, and it was the Word that declared His connection with heaven. It was Satan's purpose to cause Him to doubt that word."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 118, 119.

7. Who did Satan suggest that Jesus was?

ANSWER.—"One of the most powerful of the angels, he says, has been banished from heaven. The appearance of Jesus indicates that He is that fallen angel, forsaken by God, and deserted by man. A divine being would be able to sustain his claim by working a miracle; 'if Thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.' Such an act of creative power, urges the tempter, would be conclusive evidence of divinity. It would bring the controversy to an end."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 119.

The Victory

8. By what means did Jesus meet Satan's attacks? Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.

NOTE.—"Jesus met Satan with the words of Scripture. 'It is written,' He said. In every temptation the weapon of His warfare was the Word of God. Satan demanded of Christ a miracle as a sign of His divinity. But that which is greater than all miracles, a firm reliance upon a 'thus saith the Lord,' was a sign that could not be controverted. So long as Christ held to this position, the tempter could gain no advantage."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 120.

9. What weapon is the Christian instructed to use in his stand against the wiles of the devil? Eph. 6:17.

NOTE.—"Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And *He came to make us partakers of the divine nature.*"—*The Desire of Ages,* page 123. (Italics supplied.) "The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent, faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us. But every sinful desire we cherish affords him a foothold."—*Ibid.,* p. 125.

10. What should be the Christian's attitude toward the perverted desires of this world? 1 John 2:15-17. Compare James 1:14.

NOTE.—"Those who overcome as Christ overcame will need to constantly guard themselves against the temptations of Satan. The appetites and passions should be restricted and under the control of enlightened conscience, that the intellect may be unimpaired, the perceptive powers clear, so that the workings of Satan and his snares may not be interpreted to be the providence of God. Many desire the final reward and victory which are to be given to overcomers, but are not willing to endure toil, privation, and denial of self, as did their Redeemer."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 491.

11. What must we do if we are to put Satan to flight? James 4:7.

NOTE.—"Satan had questioned whether Jesus was the Son of God. In his summary dismissal he had proof that he could not gainsay. . . .

"*So we may resist temptation, and force Satan to depart from us.* Jesus gained the victory through submission and faith in God, and by the apostle He says to us, 'Submit yourselves therefore to God. . . .' We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but 'the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.' Prov. 18:10. Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 130, 131. (Italics supplied.)

12. To what did Peter compare the devil, and what advice did he give with regard to meeting the devil's attacks? 1 Peter 5:8, 9.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Do I hold fast the promises of God in Scripture, and does the Spirit bear witness with my spirit that I am a child of God?
2. Am I daily subduing every lustful thought and appetite, so that I may be victorious in battle with Satan?

Lesson 7, for February 15, 1969

Resistance to Control

MEMORY VERSE: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Matt. 4:10.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 124-131, 144-153 (chapters 13, 15), 415-418, 449-451; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To learn from Jesus' example to remain fully surrendered to the will of God, resisting all efforts to turn us aside into paths of self-seeking.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Satan Attempts to Control Jesus

1. Satan puts Christ's relationship with God to the test. Matt. 4:5-7.
2. The demand for worship unmasked Satan. Matt. 4:8, 9.
3. Satan commanded to depart. Matt. 4:10.
4. The defeated tempter awaited a further opportunity. Luke 4:13.

II. A Lesson for Mary

5. Mary's hope that Jesus would display miraculous powers. John 2:1-3.
6. Jesus' complete submission to the will of God. John 2:4.

III. An Unexpected Rebuke

7. Peter wanted to shield the Master from suffering and death. Matt. 16:21, 22.
8. Rebuked for being an unconscious tool of Satan. Matt. 16:23 (first part).
9. Peter's spiritual perceptions circumscribed. Matt. 16:23 (last part).
10. All who would follow Christ must take up a cross. Matt. 16:24-26.

IV. "Mine Hour Is Not Yet Come"

11. Jesus' brothers did not believe Him. John 7:3-5.
12. Christ awaits the hour for the final crisis. John 2:4; 7:6.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Having come to the earth to demonstrate perfect obedience to the will of the Father, Jesus could accept no counsel and permit no guidance that might lead Him from the appointed path. He rejected all the attempts of men to control Him, whether those of His believing mother or His unbelieving brothers. In all things He trusted the Father and was content to be shown step by step what to do and when to do it.

Satan Attempts to Control Jesus

1. In his second temptation, what did Satan ask Jesus to do? Matt. 4: 5-7.

NOTE.—Again the underlying issue was trust in God.

"God had already testified that Jesus was His Son; and now to ask for proof that He was the Son of God would be putting God's word to the test,—tempting Him. And the same would be true of asking for that which God had not promised. It would manifest distrust, and be really proving, or tempting, Him. We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfill His word, but because He will fulfill it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us. . . .

"But faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 126.

2. In the third temptation, what bargain did Satan offer to Jesus? Matt. 4:8, 9.

NOTE.—The demand for worship further unmasked the tempter. The angel of prophecy rejected attempts by John the revelator to worship him. Rev. 19:10; 22:8, 9.

3. How did Jesus finally rid Himself of Satan's attempts to control His actions? Matt. 4:10.

4. What phrase shows that this was not the last time Satan sought to overcome Christ? Luke 4:13.

NOTE.—"So, having come to the end of all his temptations, the devil departed, biding his time." Luke 4:13, NEB.

A Lesson for Mary

5. At the wedding at Cana, what implied request did Mary make of Jesus? John 2:1-3.

NOTE.—"As Mary had heard the disciples' testimony in regard to Jesus, she had been gladdened with the assurance that her long-cherished hopes were not in vain. Yet she would have been more than human if there had not mingled with this holy joy a trace of the fond mother's natural pride. As she saw the many glances bent upon Jesus, she longed to have Him prove to the company that He was really the Honored of God. She hoped there might be opportunity for Him to work a miracle before them."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 145.

6. What was Jesus' reply to Mary's request? John 2:4.

NOTE.—"At His visit to the temple in His boyhood, as the mystery of His life-work opened before Him, Christ had said to Mary, 'Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?' Luke 2:49. These words struck the keynote of His whole life and ministry. Everything was held in abeyance to His work, the great work of redemption which He had come into the world to accomplish. Now He repeated the lesson. . . . As Son of the Most High, and Saviour of the world, *no earthly ties must hold Him from His mission,* or influence His conduct. He must stand free to do the will of God. *This lesson is also for us.* The claims of God are paramount even to the ties of human relationship. No earthly attraction should turn our feet from the path in which He bids us walk." —*The Desire of Ages,* pages 146, 147. (Italics supplied.)

An Unexpected Rebuke

7. How did Peter attempt to influence the Saviour's mission? Matt. 16:21, 22.

NOTE.—"At this Peter took Him by the arm and began to rebuke Him: 'Heaven forbid!' he said." (NEB.)

"Speechless with grief and amazement, the disciples listened. Christ has accepted Peter's acknowledgment of Him as the Son of God; and now His words pointing to His suffering and death seemed incomprehensible. Peter could not keep silent. He laid hold upon his Master, as if to draw Him back from His impending doom, exclaiming, 'Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 415.

8. How did Jesus rebuke Peter? Matt. 16:23 (first part).

NOTE.—"When Christ revealed to Peter the time of trial and suffering that was just before Him, and Peter replied, 'Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee,' the Saviour commanded, 'Get thee behind Me, Satan.' Satan was speaking through Peter, making him act the

part of the tempter. Satan's presence was unsuspected by Peter, but Christ could detect the presence of the deceiver, and in His rebuke to Peter He addressed the real foe."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1095.

9. To what defect in Peter's experience did Jesus point? Matt. 16:23 (last part).

NOTE.—"In the wilderness, Satan had offered Christ the dominion of the world on condition of forsaking the path of humiliation and sacrifice. Now he was presenting the same temptation to the disciple of Christ. . . . And through Peter, Satan was again pressing the temptation upon Jesus." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 416.

10. What lesson must all disciples of Christ learn? Matt. 16:24-26.

NOTE.—"Love for souls for whom Christ died means crucifixion of self. . . . The self-sacrifice, the sympathy, the love, manifested in the life of Christ are to reappear in the life of the worker for God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 417.

"Mine Hour Is Not Yet Come"

11. How did Jesus' brothers regard His claims? John 7:3-5.

NOTE.—"The brethren here referred to were the sons of Joseph, and their words were spoken in irony. It was very painful to Christ that His nearest relatives should so dimly understand His mission, and should entertain the ideas suggested by His enemies. But the Saviour did not answer the cruel sarcasm with words of like character. He pitied the spiritual ignorance of His brethren, and longed to give them a clear understanding of His mission."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, pp. 1135, 1136.

12. What reason did Christ give for not accepting the counsel of His relatives? John 2:4; 7:6.

NOTE.—"He must wait patiently. He knew that He was to receive the world's hatred; He knew that His work would result in His death; but to prematurely expose Himself would not be the will of His Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 451.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Do I so reflect the character of Christ that I, too, may compel Satan to depart from me? (See *The Desire of Ages,* pages 130, 131.)

2. Do I, like Peter, give counsel with the hidden motive of avoiding trouble for myself?

3. In what ways am I tempted to distrust God's love for me?

Lesson 8, for February 22, 1969

To Make Him King

MEMORY VERSE: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:68.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 364-394 (chapters 39-41); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To learn from the example of the Saviour, who rejected the honor, wealth, and power of this world in order to follow God's plan for His life.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-3.	☐
Monday: Ques. 4, 5; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 6-10.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11, 12; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Feeding the Multitude

1. Jesus had compassion on the multitude. Mark 6:34.
2. "Give ye them to eat." Mark 6:35-44.
3. The attempt to make Christ king. John 6:14, 15.

II. The Refusal

4. Jesus commanded His disciples to leave by boat. Mark 6:45 (first part); John 6:16, 17.
5. The influence of Jesus' kingly bearing. Mark 6:45 (last part).

III. The People Take Offense

6. Jesus charged the people with seeking material things. John 6:26, 27.
7. A comparison with the forty years of manna. John 6:31.
8. Eternal life through eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood. John 6:49-51.
9. Many followers offended. John 6:60, 66.
10. With yearning heart Jesus watches them go. John 6:67.
11. "Thou art . . . the Son of the living God." John 6:68, 69.
12. The Father had revealed truth to Peter. Matt. 16:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"When Christ forbade the people to declare Him king, He knew that a turning point in His history was reached. Multitudes who desired to exalt Him to the throne today would turn from Him tomorrow. The disappointment of their selfish ambition would turn their love to hatred, and their praise to curses. Yet knowing this, He took no measures to avert the crisis. From the first He had held out to His followers no hope of earthly rewards. . . . If men could have had the world with Christ, multitudes would have proffered Him their allegiance; but such service He could not accept. Of those now connected with Him there were many who had been attracted by the hope of a worldly kingdom. These must be undeceived. The deep spiritual teaching in the miracle of the loaves had not been comprehended. This was to be made plain. And this new revelation would bring with it a closer test."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 383.

Feeding the Multitude

1. How did Jesus look upon the people who followed Him, and what did He do for them? Mark 6:34.

NOTE.—"From the hillside He looked upon the moving multitude, and His heart was stirred with sympathy. Interrupted as He was, and robbed of His rest, He was not impatient. . . . Leaving His retreat, He found a convenient place where He could minister to them. . . .

"They heard the gracious words, so simple and so plain that they were as the

balm of Gilead to their souls. The healing of His divine hand brought gladness and life to the dying, and ease and health to those suffering with disease. The day seemed to them like heaven upon earth, and they were utterly unconscious of how long it had been since they had eaten anything."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 364, 365.

2. How did Jesus respond to the disciples' suggestion that He send the people away? Mark 6:35-44.

NOTE.—"In Christ's act of supplying the temporal necessities of a hungry multitude is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson for all His workers. Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples; they imparted to the multitude, and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, the heavenly food, and impart it to others."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 369.

3. How did the people react when they saw the miraculous supply of food? John 6:14, 15.

NOTE.—"In their enthusiasm the people are ready at once to crown Him king. They see that He makes no effort to attract attention or secure honor to Himself. In this He is essentially different from the priests and rulers, and they fear that He will never urge His claim to David's throne. Consulting together, they agree to take Him by force, and proclaim Him the king of Israel. The disciples unite with the multitude in declaring the throne of David the rightful inheritance of their Master."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 378.

The Refusal

4. How did Jesus prevent His disciples from joining in the attempt of the people to make Him king? Mark 6:45 (first part); John 6:16, 17.

NOTE.—"Without delay the movement must be checked. Calling His disciples, Jesus bids them take the boat and return at once to Capernaum, leaving Him to dismiss the people. . . .

"They protested against the arrangement; but Jesus now spoke with an authority He had never before assumed toward them. They knew that further opposition on their part would be useless, and in silence they turned toward the sea."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 378.

5. What did Jesus do with the multitude? Mark 6:45 (last part).

NOTE.—"Jesus now commands the multitude to disperse; and His manner is so decisive that they dare not disobey. . . . In that throng are men of strong mind and firm determination; but the kingly bearing of Jesus, and His few quiet words of command, quell the tumult, and frustrate their designs. They recognize in Him a power above all earthly authority, and without a question they submit."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 378, 379.

The People Take Offense

6. How did Jesus greet the multitudes when they met again? John 6: 26, 27.

NOTE.—"For the moment the interest of the hearers was awakened. They exclaimed, 'What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?' They had been performing many and burdensome works in order to recommend themselves to God; and they were ready to hear of any new observance by which they could secure greater merit. Their question meant, What shall we do that we may deserve heaven? . . .

" 'Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.' The price of heaven is Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 385.

7. What miracle of Moses' time did the people call to the attention of Jesus? John 6:31.

NOTE.—"Christ had indeed once fed the multitude with barley loaves; but in the days of Moses, Israel had been fed with manna forty years, and far greater blessings were expected from the Messiah."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 385.

8. In what words did Jesus claim superiority over Moses? John 6: 49-51.

NOTE.—"The people had referred Christ to the manna which their fathers ate in the wilderness, as if the furnishing of that food was a greater miracle than Jesus had performed; but He shows how meager was that gift when compared with the blessings He had come to bestow. The manna could sustain only this earthly existence; it did not prevent the approach of death, nor insure immortality; but the bread of heaven would nourish the soul unto everlasting life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 388.

9. How did many of the followers of Christ react to His claims? John 6:60, 66.

NOTE.—"The test was too great. The enthusiasm of those who had sought to take Him by force and make Him king grew cold. This discourse in the synagogue, they declared, had opened their eyes. Now they were undeceived. In their minds His words were a direct confession that He was not the Messiah, and that no earthly rewards were to be realized from connection with Him. They had welcomed His miracle-working power; they were eager to be freed from disease and suffering; but they would not come into sympathy with His self-sacrificing life. They cared not for the mysterious spiritual kingdom of which He spoke. The insincere, the selfish, who had sought Him, no longer desired Him. If He would not devote His power and influence to obtaining their freedom from the Romans, they would have nothing to do with Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 391.

10. What question did Jesus direct to the Twelve? John 6:67.

NOTE.—"With a yearning heart, Jesus saw those who had been His disciples departing from Him, the Life and the Light of men. The consciousness that His compassion was unappreciated, His love unrequited, His mercy slighted, His salvation rejected, filled Him with sorrow that was inexpressible. It was such developments as these that made Him a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 393.

11. What answer did Peter give? John 6:68, 69.

12. What had the Father revealed to Peter? Matt. 16:16, 17.

NOTE.—"The truth which Peter had confessed is the foundation of the believer's faith. It is that which Christ Himself has declared to be eternal life. But the possession of this knowledge was no ground for self-glorification. Through no wisdom or goodness of his own had it been revealed to Peter. . . .

"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.

"When Jesus presented the testing truth that caused so many of His disciples to turn back, He knew what would be the result of His words; but He had a purpose of mercy to fulfill. He foresaw that in the hour of temptation every one of His beloved disciples would be severely tested. . . . Had no previous test been given, many who were actuated by merely selfish motives would have been connected with them. . . . When their worldly ambitions were disappointed, these self-seeking ones would, by renouncing their allegiance to Jesus, have brought upon the disciples a bitter, heart-burdening sorrow, in addition to their grief and disappoint-

ment in the ruin of their fondest hopes. In that hour of darkness, the example of those who turned from Him might have carried others with them. But Jesus brought about this crisis while by His personal presence He could still strengthen the faith of His true followers.

"Compassionate Redeemer, who in the full knowledge of the doom that awaited Him, tenderly smoothed the way for the disciples, prepared them for their crowning trial, and strengthened them for the final test!"—*Ibid.*, p. 394.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Am I serving the Lord for what I can get, or because I love Him?
2. Am I willing to accept God's plans for me without complaint?
3. Do I recognize that the Saviour is trying to smooth my path and prepare me for trials to come?

Lesson 9, for March 1, 1969

Looking Forward to the Cross

MEMORY VERSE: "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:24.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 410-431 (chapters 45-47); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To appreciate anew Christ's great struggle as He contemplated His approaching moment of agony and cruel death—all for me.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-4.	☐
Monday: Ques. 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 9-11.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 12, 13; begin reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Into a Mountain to Pray

1. "Thou art the Christ." Matt. 16:16.
2. "Blessed art thou, Simon." Matt. 16:17.
3. He must suffer and be killed. Matt. 16:21.
4. Jesus retires to a mountain to pray. Luke 9:28.

II. Transfigured Before Them

5. He was glorified before them. Matt. 17:2; Luke 9:29.
6. Moses a type of the resurrected saints. Jude 9.
7. Elijah a type of those who will be translated. 2 Kings 2:11.
8. Moses and Elijah discuss Jesus' mission. Luke 9:31.

III. A Partial Blessing

9. Sleeping, the disciples lose part of the blessing. Luke 9:32.
10. Peter's inappropriate proposal. Luke 9:33.
11. The Father speaks. Luke 9:34, 35.
12. The predicament of the other disciples. Mark 9:14-18.
13. Jesus' rebuke for unbelief. Mark 9:19.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The transfiguration marks a crisis in the life of Christ. He has demonstrated that humanity united with divinity can resist sin. This part of the work is complete, and the glory attests it. But there is more to do. He must press on to the cross.

From all the inhabitants of heaven, Moses and Elijah were chosen to speak with the Saviour concerning His death. Their own redemption depended on His sacrifice. They encourage Him with the assurance of the sympathy of Heaven. But the trembling lips of Peter, blurting out his ill-considered suggestion, show that he and his fellows still cannot accept the thought that the present glorious experience is but the prelude to suffering and death. Yet their words and acts reveal their need of such an atonement as the death of Christ would work for them.

Into a Mountain to Pray

1. What dramatic declaration had Peter made shortly before the transfiguration? Matt. 16:16.

NOTE.—"From the first, Peter had believed Jesus to be the Messiah. . . . Many of the disciples who had ardently expected Jesus to take His place on David's throne left Him when they perceived that He had no such intention. But Peter and his companions turned not from their allegiance. The vacillating course of those who praised yesterday and condemned today did not destroy the faith of the true follower of the Saviour. . . . He waited not for kingly honors to crown his Lord, but accepted Him in His humiliation."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 411, 412.

2. How did Jesus commend Peter for his inspired declaration? Matt. 16:17.

3. About this time what did Jesus begin to do? Matt. 16:21.

NOTE.—"Hitherto He had refrained from making known to them anything relative to His sufferings and death. . . . But now they have been with Jesus, listening to His words, beholding His works, until, notwithstanding the humility of His surroundings, and the opposition of priests and people, they can join in the testimony of Peter. . . . Now the time has come for the veil that hides the future to be withdrawn. . . .

"Speechless with grief and amazement, the disciples listened."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 415.

4. For what purpose did Jesus ascend a mountain with three of his disciples? Luke 9:28.

NOTE.—"The disciples do not venture to ask Christ whither He is going, or for what purpose. He has often spent entire nights in the mountains in prayer. He whose hand formed mountain and valley is at home with nature, and enjoys its quietude. The disciples follow where Christ leads the way; yet they wonder why their Master should lead them up this toilsome ascent when they are weary, and when He too is in need of rest. . . .

"Stepping a little aside from them, the Man of Sorrows pours out His supplications with strong crying and tears. He prays for strength to endure the test in behalf of humanity. He must Himself gain a fresh hold on Omnipotence, for only thus can He contemplate the future. And He pours out His heart longings for His disciples, that in the hour of the power of darkness their faith may not fail. . . . Now the burden of His prayer is that they may be given a manifestation of the glory He had with the Father before the world was, that His kingdom may be revealed to human eyes, and that His disciples may be strengthened to behold it. He pleads that they may witness a manifestation of His divinity that will comfort them in the hour of His supreme agony with the knowledge that He is of a surety the Son of God and that His shameful death is a part of the plan of redemption."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 419-421.

Transfigured Before Them

5. How was the appearance of Jesus transformed? Matt. 17:2; Luke 9:29.

NOTE.—"His prayer is heard. While He is bowed in lowliness upon the stony ground, suddenly the heavens open, the golden gates of the City of God are thrown wide, and holy radiance descends upon the mount, enshrouding the Saviour's form. Divinity from within flashes through humanity, and meets the glory coming from above. Arising from His prostrate position, Christ stands in Godlike majesty. The soul agony is gone. His countenance now shines 'as the sun,' and His garments are 'white as the light.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 421.

6. Under what circumstances had Moses been raised to life? Jude 9.

NOTE.—"Moses passed under the dominion of death, but he was not to remain in the tomb. Christ Himself called him forth to life. Satan the tempter had claimed the body of Moses because of his sin; but Christ the Saviour brought him forth from the grave. Jude 9. Moses upon the mount of transfiguration was a witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. He represented those who shall come forth from the grave at the resurrection of the just."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 421, 422.

7. What glorious experience had come to Elijah? 2 Kings 2:11.

NOTE.—"Elijah, who had been translated to heaven without seeing death, represented those who will be living upon the earth at Christ's second coming, and who will be 'changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;' when 'this mortal must put on immortality,' and 'this corruptible must put on incorruption.' 1 Cor. 15:51-53. . . . The Saviour's promise to the disciples was now fulfilled. Upon the mount the future kingdom of glory was represented in miniature, —Christ the King, Moses a representative of the risen saints, and Elijah of the translated ones."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 422.

8. Of what did Moses and Elijah speak? Luke 9:31.

NOTE.—"Moses and Elijah had been colaborers with Christ. They had shared His longing for the salvation of men. . . . These men, chosen above every angel around the throne, had come to commune with Jesus concerning the scenes of His suffering, and to comfort Him with the assurance of the sympathy of heaven. The hope of the world, the salvation of every human being, was the burden of their interview."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 422-425.

A Partial Blessing

9. What had Peter, James, and John been doing? Luke 9:32.

NOTE.—"Through being overcome with sleep, the disciples heard little of what passed between Christ and the heavenly messengers. Failing to watch and pray, they had not received that which God desired to give them,—a knowledge of the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. They lost the blessing that might have been theirs through sharing His self-sacrifice. . . .

"Yet they received great light. They were assured that all heaven knew of the sin of the Jewish nation in rejecting Christ. They were given a clearer insight into the work of the Redeemer. . . . They were 'eyewitnesses of His majesty' (2 Peter 1: 16), and they realized that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, . . . and that He was recognized as such by the heavenly universe."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 425.

10. As the glory faded, what suggestion did the half-awake Peter make? Luke 9:33.

NOTE.—Shortly before this experience Jesus had declared that some of His disciples "shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom." Matthew 16:28. The immediate but mistaken reaction of the disciples to Christ's transfiguration is described in these words:

"They believe that Elijah has come to announce the Messiah's reign, and that the kingdom of Christ is about to be set up on the earth. The memory of their fear and disappointment they would banish forever. Here, where the glory of God is revealed, they long to tarry. Peter exclaims, 'Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one of Elias." The disciples are confident that Moses and Elijah have been sent to protect their Master, and to establish His authority as king."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 422.

11. What did the Father proclaim, and what were the disciples to do? Luke 9:34, 35.

NOTE.—"While they were still gazing on the scene upon the mount, 'a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.' As they beheld the cloud of glory; . . . as they heard the voice of God, . . . the disciples fell smitten to the earth."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 425.

12. Upon returning from the mountain, in what predicament did Jesus find the other disciples? Mark 9: 14-18.

13. How did Jesus describe His contemporaries? Mark 9:19.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Am I so preoccupied with my own plans that I fail to recognize the Saviour's plans for me?
2. Peter feared the trouble ahead. James and John thought the cup so commonplace that they could drink it if the Master could. Have I learned to accept the intensity of the struggle ahead with such trust in the wisdom and power of God that I neither recoil with Peter nor boast with "the sons of thunder"?
3. Am I losing blessings because apathy hinders my prayerful communion with Christ?

Lesson 10, for March 8, 1969

Ancient Israel's Decisive Hour

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass." Matt. 21:5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 569-579; 589-600; 716-722 (chapters 63, 65, 76); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To appreciate better the amazing love of Jesus, even for His enemies.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-6.	☐
Monday: Ques. 7-9.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 10-12; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 13, 14; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. "Hosanna to the Son of David"

1. The triumphal entry fulfilled prophecy. Matt. 21:4, 5.
2. Again the people would have made Jesus king. Luke 19:37, 38.
3. His enemies determined to destroy Him. Luke 19:47.

II. "The House of Prayer"

4. Jesus again cleanses the temple. Matt. 21:12, 13.
5. Jesus heals the people. Matt. 21:14.
6. They would silence the children. Matt. 21:15, 16.

III. "Those Wicked Men"

7. Christ depicts His foes as the wicked husbandmen. Matt. 21:33-39.
8. They pronounce their own sentence. Matt. 21:40, 41; Luke 20:16.
9. The Saviour counsels them to fall on the Stone. Luke 20:17, 18.

IV. Plain Speaking

10. Christ warns against the example of the Pharisees. Matt. 23:1-4.
11. Eight woes upon the scribes and Pharisees. Matt. 23:13-29.
12. The Saviour spoke in sorrow, not anger. Matt. 23:37.

V. The Betrayer

13. Judas is gently rebuked. John 12:4-8.
14. Judas offers to betray his Master. Luke 22:3-6.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In the months that followed the comfort and encouragement of the night on the mount of transfiguration, the Saviour was led by the Spirit to avoid the final confrontation with the Jewish leaders which would bring about His death and seal the doom of Israel. His brief visit to Bethany to raise Lazarus convinced many of His opponents that He was the promised Saviour, but they refused to heed the convicting power of the Holy Spirit and hardened their hearts against truth.

When the approaching Passover brought the time for His sacrifice near, Jesus made public claim to being the Messiah and revealed the true character of the leaders of the nation.

"Hosanna to the Son of David"

1. In fulfillment of what prophecy did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? Matt. 21:4, 5. Compare Zech. 9:9.

NOTE.—"Christ was following the Jewish custom for a royal entry. The animal on which He rode was that ridden by the kings of Israel, and prophecy had foretold that thus the Messiah should come to His kingdom."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 570.

2. How did the people respond? Luke 19:37, 38.

NOTE.—"No sooner was He seated upon the colt than a loud shout of triumph rent the air. The multitude hailed Him as Messiah, their King. Jesus now accepted the homage which He had never before permitted, and the disciples received this as proof that their glad hopes were to be realized by seeing Him established upon the throne. . . . They were unable to present Him with costly gifts, but they spread their outer garments as a carpet in His path. . . . They could lead the triumphal procession with no royal standards, but they cut down the spreading palm boughs, Nature's emblem of victory, and waved them aloft with loud acclamations and hosannas."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 570.

3. How did the Jews react to the triumphal entry? Luke 19:47.

NOTE.—"Never before in His earthly life had Jesus permitted such a demonstration. He clearly foresaw the result. It would bring Him to the cross. But it was His purpose thus publicly to present Himself as the Redeemer. He desired to call attention to the sacrifice that was to crown His mission to a fallen world."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 571.

"The House of Prayer"

4. Following His triumphal entry, what previous action did Jesus repeat? Matt. 21:12, 13.

NOTE.—"In place of humble repentance of sin, they had multiplied the sacrifice of beasts, as if God could be honored by a heartless service. . . .

"In fulfillment of prophecy the people had proclaimed Jesus king of Israel. He had received their homage, and accepted the office of king. In this character He must act. He knew that His efforts to reform a corrupt priesthood would be in vain; nevertheless His work must be done; to an unbelieving people the evidence of His divine mission must be given."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 590.

5. Having cleansed the temple, what did Jesus do? Matt. 21:14.

NOTE.—"After a season the priests and rulers ventured back to the temple. When the panic had abated, they were seized with anxiety to know what would be the next movement of Jesus. They expected Him to take the throne of David. Quietly returning to the temple, they heard the voices of men, women, and children praising God. Upon entering, they stood transfixed before the wonderful scene. They saw the sick healed, the blind restored to sight, the deaf receive their hearing, and the crippled leap for joy."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 592.

6. How did the rulers react to the children's proclaiming Jesus as the Son of David? Matt. 21:15, 16.

NOTE.—"The sound of these happy, unrestrained voices was an offense to the rulers of the temple. They set about putting a stop to such demonstrations. They represented to the people that the house of God was desecrated by the feet of the children and the shouts of rejoicing. Finding that their words made no impression on the people, the rulers appealed to Christ: 'Hearest Thou what these say?' . . . Prophecy had foretold that Christ should be proclaimed as king, and that word must be fulfilled. The priests and rulers of Israel refused to herald His glory, and God moved upon the children to be His witnesses. Had the voices of the children been silent, the very pillars of the temple would have sounded the Saviour's praise."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 592, 593.

"Those Wicked Men"

7. How did Jesus portray the character of His enemies? Matt. 21:33-39.

8. Caught up in the story, what sentence did they pass upon themselves? Matt. 21:40, 41; Luke 20:16.

NOTE.—"Jesus addressed all the people present; but the priests and rulers answered. 'He will miserably destroy those wicked men,' they said, 'and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.' The speakers had not at first perceived the application of the parable, but they now saw that they had pronounced their own condemnation. . . . Already they were planning to slay Him whom the Father had sent to them as a last appeal. In the retribution inflicted upon the ungrateful husbandmen was portrayed the doom of those who should put Christ to death."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 596, 597.

9. To what scripture did Jesus direct the Jews, and what warning did He utter? Luke 20:17, 18. Compare Ps. 118:22, 23.

NOTE.—"To those who believe, Christ is the sure foundation. These are they who fall upon the Rock and are broken. Submission to Christ and faith in Him are here represented. To fall upon the Rock and be broken is to give up our self-righteousness, and to go to Christ with the humility of a child, repenting of our transgressions, and believing in His forgiving love. And so also it is by faith and obedience that we build on Christ as our foundation."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 599.

Plain Speaking

10. On His last day of teaching in the temple, what warning did Jesus express? Matt. 23:1-4.

NOTE.—"It was the last day of Christ's teaching in the temple. . . . Never before had such a scene been witnessed. There stood the young Galilean, bearing no earthly honor or royal badge. Surrounding Him were priests in their rich apparel, rulers with robes and badges significant of their exalted station. . . . He had set before these leaders their real condition. . . . The warning had been faithfully given. . . .

"They [the people] marveled that the rulers would not believe on Jesus, when His teachings were so plain and simple. They themselves knew not what course to take. . . .

"In the parables which Christ had spoken, it was His purpose both to warn the rulers and to instruct the people who were willing to be taught. But there was need to speak yet more plainly. Through their reverence for tradition and their blind faith in a corrupt priesthood, the people were enslaved. These chains Christ must break. The character of the priests, rulers, and Pharisees must be more fully exposed."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 610-612.

11. For what sin did Jesus call down woes upon the leaders? Matt. 23:13-29.

12. How poignantly did Jesus express His disappointment at Jerusalem's obstinacy? Matt. 23:37.

NOTE.—"Christ Himself did not suppress one word of truth, but He spoke it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact, and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 353.

The Betrayer

13. How did Judas, on one occasion, earn a gentle rebuke from Jesus? John 12:4-8.

NOTE.—"The divine and human were at work in the character of Judas. Satan was working the human, Christ the divine. The Lord Jesus longed to see Judas rise to his appointed privileges. But the human side of Judas' character was confused with his religious sentiments, and treated by him as essential attributes. By taking this view of things, he left an open door for Satan to enter and take possession of the entire man. If Judas had practiced the lessons of Christ, he would have surrendered to Christ, he would have consecrated his heart fully to God; but his confused experience was misleading him."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1101.

14. What action of Judas led to the final crisis? Luke 22:3-6.

NOTE.—"He went to the priests and offered to aid them in searching for Him who was accounted the troubler of Israel. Thus it was that the Lord was sold as a slave, purchased by the temple money used for the buying of the sacrifices."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1123.

"At the reproof from Jesus his very spirit seemed turned to gall. Wounded pride and desire for revenge broke down the barriers, and the greed so long indulged held him in control. This will be the experience of everyone who persists in tampering with sin. The elements of depravity that are not resisted and overcome respond to Satan's temptation, and the soul is led captive at his will."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 720.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Can I tactfully rebuke wrong in others because I love the sinner while hating the sin, or does self become involved?

2. If Christ were to show me myself in a parable, would I accept the rebuke, or would I defend myself and condemn Him?

3. Is Satan confusing me so that I may be deceived into betraying my Saviour and Friend?

Lesson 11, for March 15, 1969

Crisis of Crises

MEMORY VERSE: "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Matt. 26:39.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 685-697 (chapter 74); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To appreciate more fully the supreme crisis through which Christ passed in order to redeem the guilty race.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1, 2; begin reading study helps.	☐
Monday: Ques. 3-6.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Cup

1. Christ's prayer to be spared the cup. Matt. 26:39.
2. The iniquity of all men laid upon Him. Isa. 53:6.

II. The Struggle

3. Three petitions for the removal of the cup. Matt. 26:39, 42, 44.
4. Evidence of the severity of the struggle. Luke 22:44.
5. In his humanity Jesus prayed with strong crying and tears. Heb. 5:7.
6. God was in Christ, reconciling the world. 2 Cor. 5:19.

III. A Disappointment

7. Jesus takes three disciples with Him. Matt. 26:36, 37.
8. Jesus requests the disciples to watch with Him. Matt. 26:38.

9. The disciples slept. Matt. 26:40, 43, 45.

IV. The Victory

10. Christ accepted the Father's will. Matt. 26:42, 44.
11. An angel comforted Him. Luke 22:43.
12. Jesus' willingness to drink the cup. John 18:11.
13. Jesus tasted death for all men. Heb. 2:9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

As the cup of sorrow trembled in the hand of the Saviour, the salvation of the human race hung in the balance. In this crisis of decision Satan tried to make the cup seem too bitter to be endured. He pointed to the sleeping disciples, the betrayal by Judas, and the coming denial by Peter as proof that the church on earth was not worth saving. Motivated by His great love for the lost, and buoyed up only by faith in the promises of God, the Saviour pressed on to the cross, where He drained the cup of wrath against sin.

The Cup

1. In the crisis of Gethsemane, what was the burden of Jesus' prayer? Matt. 26:39.

2. Whose iniquities did God lay upon Jesus? Isa. 53:6.

NOTE.—"He felt that by sin He was being separated from His Father. . . . As man He must suffer the consequences of man's sin. As man He must endure the wrath of God against transgression."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 686.

"The Garden of Eden with its foul blot of disobedience, is to be carefully studied and compared with the Garden of Gethsemane, where the world's Redeemer suffered superhuman agony when the sins of the whole world were rolled upon Him. . . . Adam did not stop to calculate the result of his disobedience."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 1103.

"The awful moment had come—that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance. Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 690.

The Struggle

3. How many times did Jesus ask to be spared the cup? Matt. 26:39, 42, 44.

NOTE.—"Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 690.

4. With what earnestness did Christ pray? Luke 22:44.

5. How did the author of Hebrews characterize the prayers of Jesus? Heb. 5:7.

NOTE.—"Doing this with strong cryings and tears to the One who was able to be saving Him out from within death [*i.e.*, to raise Him out from the state of death]." Heb. 5:7, Wuest.

The Greek makes it clear that Jesus did not pray to be saved from dying, but "from the grave." See also The New English Bible.

"As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness. . . . With the issues of the

conflict before Him, Christ's soul was filled with dread of separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 686, 687.

6. How closely were the Father and the Son associated in the work of reconciliation? 2 Cor. 5:19.

NOTE.—"The power that inflicted retributive justice upon man's substitute and surety, was the power that sustained and upheld the suffering One under the tremendous weight of wrath that would have fallen upon a sinful world. Christ was suffering the death that was pronounced upon the transgressors of God's law."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1103.

"But God suffered with His Son. Angels beheld the Saviour's agony. They saw their Lord enclosed by legions of Satanic forces, His nature weighed down with a shuddering, mysterious dread. There was silence in heaven. No harp was touched. Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 693.

A Disappointment

7. Whom had Jesus taken with Him as He sought the secluded place for prayer? Matt. 26:36, 37.

NOTE.—"The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. . . . The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves. How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 687, 688.

8. What special request had Jesus made of Peter, James, and John? Matt. 26:38.

NOTE.—"With Peter, James, and John, He entered its [the garden's] secluded recesses. These three disciples were Christ's closest companions. They had beheld His glory on the mount of transfiguration; they had seen Moses and Elijah talking with Him; they heard the voice from heaven; now in His great struggle, Christ desired their presence near Him. Often they had passed the night with Him in this retreat. On these occasions, after a season of watching and prayer, they would sleep undisturbed . . . until He awoke them in the morning to go forth anew to labor. But now He desired them to spend the night with Him in prayer. Yet He could not bear that even they should witness the agony He was to endure.

" 'Tarry ye here,' He said, 'and watch with Me.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 686.

9. Instead of complying with Jesus' request, what were the disciples doing? Matt. 26:40, 43, 45.

NOTE.—"Rising with painful effort, He staggered to the place where He had left His companions. . . . Had they been seeking refuge in God, that Satanic agencies might not prevail over them, He would have been comforted by their steadfast faith. . . . They did not intend to forsake their Lord, but they seemed paralyzed by stupor which they might have shaken off if they had continued pleading with God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 688.

"In these sleeping disciples He sees a representation of a sleeping church. When they should be watching, they are asleep."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1104.

The Victory

10. With what words of resignation did Christ close His prayers? Matt. 26:42, 44.

NOTE.—"In the Garden of Gethsemane Christ suffered in man's stead, and the human nature of the Son of God staggered under the terrible horror of the guilt of sin, until from His pale and quivering lips was forced the agonizing cry, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me:' but if there is no other way by which the salvation of fallen man may be accomplished, then 'not as I will, but as Thou wilt.' "—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1103.

"Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish in his iniquity. . . .

"But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. . . . He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin." —*The Desire of Ages,* pages 690-693.

11. While the disciples slept, who came to comfort the Saviour? Luke 22:43.

NOTE.—"The worlds unfallen and the heavenly angels had watched with intense interest as the conflict drew to its close. . . . Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. No way of escape was found for the Son of God. In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, . . . the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God's presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 693.

"The sleeping disciples had been suddenly awakened by the light surrounding the Saviour. They saw the angel bending over their prostrate Master. They saw him lift the Saviour's head upon his bosom and point toward heaven. They heard his voice, like sweetest music, speaking words of comfort and hope."—*Ibid.,* p. 694.

12. How did Jesus reveal His willingness to drink the cup? John 18:11.

NOTE.—"The angel came not to take the cup from Christ's hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it, with the assurance of the Father's love. . . . He told Him that He would see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied, for He would see a multitude of the human race saved, eternally saved. . . .

"The storm had in no wise abated, but He who was its object was strengthened to meet its fury. He came forth calm and serene. A heavenly peace rested upon His bloodstained face."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 693, 694.

13. For how many did Jesus taste death? Heb. 2:9.

NOTE.—"He had borne that which no human being could ever bear; for He had tasted the sufferings of death for every man."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 694.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Am I still carelessly adding to the bitterness of that cup by failing to accept the victory over sin won for me by my Saviour?

2. Like the disciples, am I sleeping in a crisis hour when my Saviour has bidden me, "Watch and pray"?

3. Would a "thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ" hasten the day when the Saviour can claim me as His own? (See *The Desire of Ages,* page 83.)

Lesson 12, for March 22, 1969

"Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

MEMORY VERSE: "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." Isa. 53:4.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 741-764 (chapters 78, 79); "Testimonies," Vol. 2, pp. 207-215; "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To understand something of the terrible feeling Jesus experienced, of being forsaken by God because of our sins.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-4.	☐
Monday: Ques. 5, 6; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 11-13; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Foreshadowing of the Cross

1. Jesus engaged in His Father's business. Luke 2:42, 48, 49.
2. Prophetic details of Jesus' life and work. Luke 24:25-27.
3. Jesus' prediction of His coming death. Matt. 16:21; Mark 9:31.
4. The disciples misunderstood the nature of Christ's kingdom. Luke 22:24.

II. Communion With the Father

5. The Father at work in Christ. John 14:10.
6. Christ's confidence in the Father. John 11:41, 42 (first part).

III. They All Forsook Him

7. When Jesus was arrested the disciples fled. Mar. 14:50.
8. Jesus' confidence in the Father's presence. John 16:32.

IV. "Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

9. Jesus' feeling of separation from the Father. Matt. 27:46.
10. Jesus made the sin offering for us. 2 Cor. 5:21.
11. Jesus and the Father are one. John 10:30.
12. The Saviour suffered for us. Isa. 53:4, 5.
13. Jesus' faith triumphs over doubt. John 19:30; Luke 23:46.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' The logical, irresistible, irrevocable issue of sin is to be God-forsaken. Sin in its genesis was rebellion against God. Sin in its harvest is to be God-abandoned. Man sinned when he dethroned God and enthroned himself. He reaps the utter harvest of his sin when he has lost God altogether. That is the issue of all sin. It is the final penalty of sin, penalty not in the sense of a blow inflicted on the sinner by God, but in the sense of a result following upon sin, from which God Himself cannot save the sinner. Sin is alienation from God by choice. Hell is the utter realization of that chosen alienation. Sin therefore at last is the consciousness of the lack of God, and that God-forsaken condition is the penalty of the sin which forsakes God. . . . No

other human being has ever been God-forsaken in this life. . . . On that cross He was made sin, and therein He passed to the uttermost limit of sin's outworking. He was God-forsaken."—G. Campbell Morgan, *The Crises of the Christ,* pages 297-299.

The Foreshadowing of the Cross

1. At the age of twelve, what did He tell His parents of His relationship to the Father? Luke 2:42, 48, 49.

NOTE.—"For the first time the Child Jesus looked upon the temple. He saw the white-robed priests performing their solemn ministry. He beheld the bleeding victim upon the altar of sacrifice. With the worshipers He bowed in prayer, while the cloud of incense ascended before God. He witnessed the impressive rites of the paschal service. Day by day He saw their meaning more clearly. Every act seemed to be bound up with His own life. . . . The mystery of His mission was opening to the Saviour."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 78.

2. Concerning whom had Moses and the prophets written? Luke 24: 25-27.

3. How did Christ describe His coming sacrifice? Matt. 16:21; Mark 9:31.

NOTE.—"Before His crucifixion the Saviour explained to His disciples that He was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb. . . . But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death. . . . The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready."—*The Great Controversy,* page 594.

4. As Jesus approached the final crisis, what strife took place among the disciples? Luke 22:24.

NOTE.—"There was 'a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.' This contention, carried on in the presence of Christ, grieved and wounded Him. The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power, and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 643, 644.

Communion With the Father

5. How closely had Jesus been united with the Father during His work on earth? John 14:10.

6. What faith did Jesus express in His heavenly Father? John 11:41, 42 (first part).

NOTE.—"In all that He did, Christ was cooperating with His Father. Ever He had been careful to make it evident that He did not work independently; it was by faith and prayer that He wrought His miracles. Christ desired all to know His relationship with His Father. . . . They were to be shown that Christ's claim was not a deception."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 536.

They All Forsook Him

7. When Jesus was arrested, what did the disciples do? Mark 14:50.

NOTE.—"The disciples were terrified as they saw Jesus permit Himself to be taken and bound. They were offended that He should suffer this humiliation to Himself and them. They could not understand His conduct, and they blamed Him for submitting to the mob. In their indignation and fear, Peter proposed that they save themselves. Following this suggestion, 'they all forsook Him, and fled.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 697.

8. When Jesus foretold His abandonment by the disciples, what confidence did He express? John 16:32.

NOTE.—"He must turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father. . . . In communion with God He could unburden the sorrows that were crushing Him. . . .

"Through continual communion He received life from God, that He might impart life to the world."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 363.

"Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

9. What cry came from Jesus' lips as He hung upon the cross? Matt. 27:46.

NOTE.—"Even doubts assailed the dying Son of God. He could not see through the portals of the tomb. Bright hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the tomb a conqueror and His Father's acceptance of His sacrifice. . . . The displeasure of the Father for sin, and its penalty, which is death, were all that He could realize through this amazing darkness. . . . The fierce temptation that His own Father had forever left Him, caused that piercing cry from the cross: 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?'

"Christ felt much as sinners will feel when the vials of God's wrath shall be poured out upon them. Black despair, like the pall of death, will gather about their guilty souls, and then they will realize to the fullest extent the sinfulness of sin. . . .

"Faith and hope trembled in the expiring agonies of Christ because God had removed the assurance He had heretofore given His beloved Son of His approbation and acceptance. . . . In His dying agony, as He yields up His precious life, He has by faith alone to trust in Him whom it has ever been His joy to obey."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 2, pp. 209, 210.

"He had not one ray of light to brighten the future. And He was struggling with the power of Satan, who was declaring that he had Christ in his power, that he was superior in strength to the Son of God, that the Father had disowned His Son, and that He was no longer in the favor of God any more than himself."—*Ibid.,* p. 214.

10. In carrying out the plan of salvation, what had Jesus become for us? 2 Cor. 5:21.

NOTE.—"Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. . . . The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 753.

11. What unity did Jesus declare existed between Him and the Father? John 10:30.

NOTE.—"God Himself was crucified with Christ; for Christ was one with the Father."—Ellen G. White Comments, *SDA Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, p. 1108.

"In that thick darkness God's presence was hidden. He makes darkness His pavilion, and conceals His glory from human eyes. God and His holy angels were beside the cross. The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. . . . And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence. He trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 753, 754.

12. In what words does Isaiah show that it was our sins that brought such suffering to the Saviour? Isa. 53:4, 5.

NOTE.—"And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 755.

13. In His parting breath, what did Jesus exclaim? John 19:30; Luke 23:46.

NOTE.—"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.' John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 758.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Christ suffered to save me from being forsaken by God because of sin. Am I doing my part to accept the gift He offers?

2. Is concern for status preventing me from heeding the warnings that foretell the close of this world's history?

3. Do I remember to thank my Lord daily for His great sacrifice?

Lesson 13, for March 29, 1969

The Sacrifice Accepted

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. . . . And let all the angels of God worship Him." Heb. 1:5, 6.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 769-794, 829-835 (chapters 80, 81, 82, 87); "The Great Controversy," pages 635-652 (chapter 40); "SDA Bible Commentary."

STUDY AIM: To accept Christ's sacrifice for me, and to awaken a greater sense of gratitude for Christ's victory in my behalf.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Ques. 1-5.	☐
Monday: Ques. 6, 7; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Ques. 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Ques. 12, 13; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Stone Rolled Back

1. The tomb sealed and guarded. Matt. 27:65, 66.
2. The angel of the Lord rolls back the stone. Matt. 28:2.
3. The angel's announcement to the women. Matt. 28:5-7.
4. Christ had made a cleansing of sin. Heb. 1:3.
5. On this day Christ was "begotten" from the grave. Acts 13:32, 33.

II. Detain Me Not

6. Jesus revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene. Mark 16:9; John 20:1, 14-16.
7. Jesus warns Mary not to detain Him. John 20:17.

III. The Wave Sheaf

8. The wave sheaf offered on day after Passover. Lev. 23:11.
9. Angels sang the triumph of the Redeemer as He neared heaven. Ps. 24:7-10.

IV. The Acceptance

10. The Saviour seated at the right hand of God. Eph. 1:20.
11. The Father commands the angels to worship Christ. Heb. 1:5, 6.

V. The Full Harvest

12. An innumerable company of the saved. Rev. 7:9.
13. A united universe sings the praises of God and the Lamb. Rev. 5:11-13.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The final crises in the earthly experience of Jesus Christ were of the utmost importance to us. He had been numbered among the transgressors and made a sin offering for our sakes, but Christ had died without having sinned and could not be held by the grave. At the Father's call Jesus rose to life that was in Himself. This call was entrusted to the messenger who fills the position from which Satan fell. (See *The Desire of Ages,* page 780.)

After lingering awhile to comfort Mary Magdalene and, through her, the disciples, the Saviour hastened to heaven with the wave sheaf. He refused the homage and worship of the unfallen hosts until His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. When this joyful formality was completed, He was introduced to the heavenly hosts as the First-begotten from the tomb. The last crisis was ended. The Redeemer then returned to earth to work with His doubting disciples for another forty days.

The Stone Rolled Back

1. What had been done to prevent Jesus from leaving the tomb? Matt. 27:65, 66.

NOTE.—"The night of the first day of the week had worn slowly away. . . . Christ was still a prisoner in His narrow tomb. The great stone was in its place; the

Roman seal was unbroken; the Roman guards were keeping their watch. And there were unseen watchers. Hosts of evil angels were gathered about the place. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held the Son of God. But a heavenly host surrounded the sepulcher. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb, and waiting to welcome the Prince of life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 779.

2. How was the sealed tomb opened? Matt. 28:2.

3. What did the angel tell the women who came to the sepulcher? Matt. 28:5-7.

NOTE.—"When the voice of the mighty angel was heard at Christ's tomb, saying, Thy Father calls Thee, the Saviour came forth from the grave by the life that was in Himself. . . .

"Over the rent sepulcher of Joseph Christ had proclaimed in triumph, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' These words could be spoken only by the Deity."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 785.

4. Before being seated at the right hand of God, what had Jesus done with our sins? Heb. 1:3.

NOTE.—It was by His own efforts that Christ made a cleansing of sin. He died in place of sinners, separated from God by being made guilty of the sins of the whole world. Now the God-man was called to rise in the purity and perfection of His Deity and His sinless humanity.

5. What prophecy does Paul say was fulfilled when God called Christ from the grave? Acts 13:32, 33. Compare Ps. 2:7; Rom. 1:4.

NOTE.—"By inspiration Paul applies the words of this psalm to Christ as the King of Israel and as God's Son in a unique sense, and to His resurrection. . . . Christian believers made the resurrection the foundation of their belief in Christ's Sonship. Christ was 'the First-begotten of the dead' (Rev. 1:5), and the resurrection is understood as confirming to Him the title 'Son of God.' "—*SDA Bible Commentary,* on Acts 13:33.

Detain Me Not

6. After the resurrection, to whom did Jesus first reveal Himself? Mark 16:9; John 20:1, 14-16.

NOTE.—"But now in His own familiar voice Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' . . . In her joy she forgot that He had been crucified. Springing toward Him, as if to embrace His feet, she said, 'Rabboni.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 790.

7. Why did Jesus forbid Mary to touch Him? John 20:17.

NOTE.—The Greek phrase translated "Touch Me not" may be rendered "Do not cling to Me." The Revised Standard Version says "Do not hold Me," and Ellen G. White writes, "Detain Me not."

"But Christ raised His hand, saying, Detain Me not; 'for I am not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.' And Mary went her way to the disciples with the joyful message.

"Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 790.

The Wave Sheaf

8. What symbolic service took place on the day after the Passover Sabbath? Lev. 23:11.

NOTE.—"Christ arose from the dead as the first fruits of those that slept. He was the antitype of the wave sheaf, and His resurrection took place on the very day when the wave sheaf was to be presented before the Lord. . . .

"During His ministry, Jesus had raised the dead to life. . . . But these were not clothed with immortality. After they were raised, they were still subject to death. But those who came forth from the grave at Christ's resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 785, 786.

9. What dialogue does the psalmist record? Ps. 24:7-10.

NOTE.—"All heaven was waiting to welcome the Saviour to the celestial courts. As He ascended, He led the way, and the multitude of captives set free at His resurrection followed. . . .

"As they draw near to the City of God, the challenge is given by the escorting angels,—'Lift up your heads, O ye gates.' . . .

"Joyfully the waiting sentinels respond, —'Who is this King of Glory?' . . .

"The escorting angels make reply,—'The Lord of hosts; He is the King of Glory!' " *The Desire of Ages,* page 833.

The Acceptance

10. How is Christ's position with respect to His Father since the resurrection described? Eph. 1:20.

NOTE.—"He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. He points to the tokens of His triumph; He presents to God the wave sheaf, those raised with Him as representatives of that great multitude who shall come forth from the grave at His second coming. . . . Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. . . . This pledge Christ has fulfilled."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 834.

11. What were the angels commanded to do? Heb. 1:5, 6.

NOTE.—"The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ's toiling, struggling ones on earth are 'accepted in the Beloved.' . . . The Father's arms encircle His Son, and the word is given, 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 834.

The Full Harvest

12. What scene did the revelator see displayed before the throne of God? Rev. 7:9.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation."—*The Great Controversy,* page 647.

13. What chorus of praise to God and to the Lamb did the revelator hear? Rev. 5:11-13.

Questions for Personal Meditation

1. Am I denying Christ the pleasure of seeing me become more and more like Him every day?

2. Have I allowed the power that raised Jesus from the dead to come into my life and cause me to be reborn—changed from sinner to saint? (See Rom. 8:11.)

3. Am I practicing the song of praise for my Saviour?

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING
March 29, 1969
Trans-Africa Division

Beautiful for situation is the location of Kendu Hospital, on the shores of Lake Victoria near the town of Kendu Bay in Western Kenya, East Africa. But when we look at this mission hospital, the beauty ends with the situation. The buildings are about thirty years old and are in poor condition—in fact, so poor that is is almost impossible to repair them. Inside the wards space is so limited that beds are placed only a foot or a foot and a half apart. In an average year 5,600 inpatients and 45,000 outpatients are treated.

The Christian influence of Kendu Hospital is far-reaching. Patients come from hundreds of miles even though travel is slow and difficult. The closest government hospital is twenty-five miles away, and patients often pass it by in order to come to Kendu.

Kendu must prepare to educate young people as fully qualified registered nurses to go out and teach health education to their own people as well as to be able to work in our own hospitals and others. The government is imposing new requirements in order that nurses be better trained. Don't you want to have a part in replacing the run-down buildings of Kendu with a modern plant and modern medical facilities so that it can care for the sick as well as train young people in the medical arts? Remember Kendu Hospital on March 29.

SPECIAL NOTICE: As a supplement to the study of the lessons for the second quarter may we suggest Elder Harry W. Lowe's new book **Redeeming Grace.** It is available at your Book and Bible House for $1.95. Teacher and student alike will appreciate this comprehensive aid. Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Lessons for the Second Quarter, 1969

Sabbath School members who have not received a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the second quarter of 1969 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the series is "Redeeming Grace." The title of the first lesson is "Redemptive Activity of the Godhead." The memory verse is Ephesians 1:4. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Prov. 8:1, 22, 23.
Ques. 2. John 1:1-3, 14; 17:5, 24.
Ques. 3. Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:3, 4; 1 Peter 1:18-20.
Ques. 4. 2 Tim. 1:9.
Ques. 5. John 1:14, 17.
Ques. 6. Rom. 3:24.
Ques. 7. *The Ministry of Healing,* page 161.
Ques. 8. Gen. 3:2, 6, 15.
Ques. 9. Rom. 3:23-25.
Ques. 10. 1 Tim. 2:4, 6; Titus 2:11.
Ques. 11. 2 Peter 3:9.
Ques. 12. John 6:44, 45; 1 Cor. 15:10.

Trans - Africa Division

Unions	Population	Churches	Church Members	Sab. Sch. Members
Central African U.	5,500,000	427	76,956	165,938
Congo U.	16,400,000	144	18,181	47,358
East African U.	17,314,915	357	65,445	115,838
South African U. C.	6,211,371	136	11,735	13,818
South-East Africa U.	4,042,412	152	26,394	27,451
Southern U.	14,979,000	147	9,481	14,439
Tanzania U.	9,800,000	120	20,217	32,581
Zambesi U.	7,511,900	298	45,493	86,448
Totals	81,759,598	1,781	273,902	503,871

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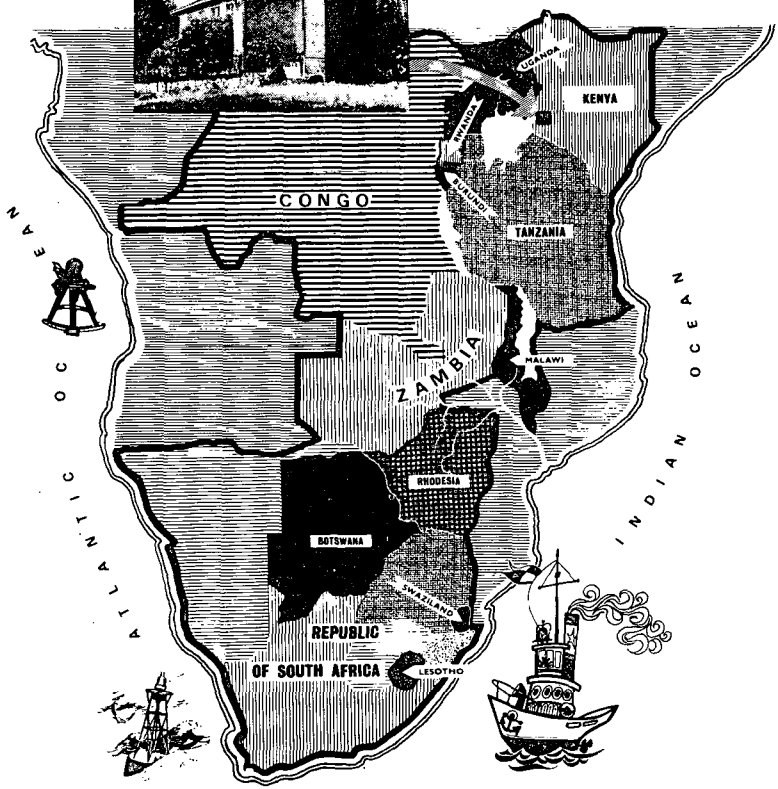
Remodeling and enlarging Kendu Hospital, Kenya, Africa.