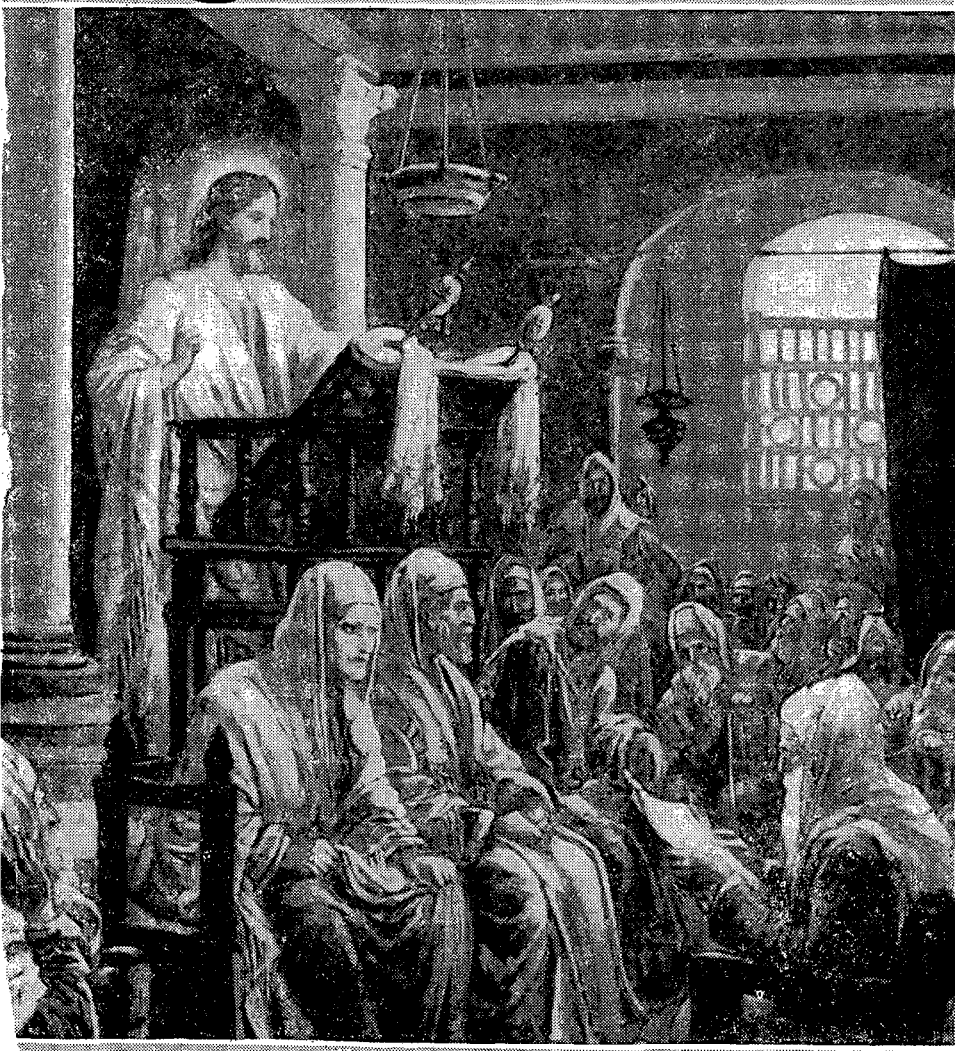
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY



THREE AVENUES OF DIVINE WITNESS

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 231, FIRST QUARTER, 1953

Introduction

The Christian church is passing through a perilous age. In many lands the forces of evil have passed from veiled opposition into open persecution. There are Christian martyrs today as there were in the distant past. The fiercest testing time in history may break upon the church in this hour.

In such an age as this the church needs the sustaining assurance of God's presence. From the Sacred Word of God we must draw living power by storing its precious promises in our minds and by building character on its eternal truths. From the messages of the spirit of prophecy we are to find heaven's counsel for the church. In the church of Jesus Christ we are to find the sweet fellowship of kindred spirits, encouraging, inspiring, strengthening us for the last great conflict.

Such are the themes of this quarter's lessons. Studied daily, received into the heart, they cannot fail to bring great blessing to the faithful.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING
MARCH 28, 1953
FAR EASTERN DIVISION

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THREE AVENUES OF DIVINE WITNESS

The Word of God
The Testimony of Jesus
The Church of Christ

Lesson 1, for January 3, 1953

The Holy Scriptures

MEMORY VERSE: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Tim. 3:16.

STUDY HELP: W. E. Read, "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 1.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 2 Tim. 3:16.
3. Questions 4-7.
4. Questions 8-11.
5. Questions 12, 13.
6. Questions 14, 15; read study help assignment.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Their Names

1. The Scripture, the Scriptures. Luke 4:21.
2. The Holy Scriptures. Rom. 1:2.
3. Scriptures of the prophets. Matt. 26:56.
4. The word of God. Eph. 6:17.
5. The Oracles. Acts 7:38.

II. Their Symbols

1. Food. John 6:48, 51, 58.
2. Drink. Eph. 5:26.
3. Precious things. Ps. 12:6.
4. Light. Ps. 119:105.
5. Weapons. Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29.
6. Power. Rom. 1:16; Jer. 5:14.

III. Their Origin

1. God. 2 Tim. 3:16.
2. The Holy Ghost moved holy men. 2 Peter 1:21.

IV. Their Eternity

1. "The word of the Lord endureth forever." 1 Peter 1:25.
2. Perpetual. Matt. 24:35.

V. Their Purpose

1. For doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction. 2 Tim. 3:16.
2. For man's equipment and perfection. 2 Tim. 3:17.

Key Words:

1. "Word." In the New Testament this comes from two words—*(a) Logos,* which denotes the expression of thought, not merely the name of something. 1 Cor. 14:9, 19. It may be a statement by God, as in John 15:25, or by Christ, as in Matt. 24:35. It is also used of "the Personal Word, a title of the Son of God; this identification is substantiated by the statements of doctrine in John 1:1-18."—Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words. (b) Rhēma,* which

denotes that which is spoken or written. It is used in Ephesians 6:17, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," a reference to individual scriptures brought to the believer's mind in time of need, he having previously stored the mind with the words of God.

2. "Inspired." This comes from two words—"God," and "to breathe." The Scriptures are thus "God-breathed," as distinct from noninspired writings. Many old Bible versions use "inspired of God" for "inspiration."

THE LESSON

Their Names

1. What is the term generally used in the Bible to describe the Sacred Writings? Luke 4:21; Matt. 21:42.

NOTE.—The expressions *Scripture* and *Scriptures* are used many times in the Holy Writings. Besides these there are expressions such as the "Holy Scriptures" (Rom. 1:2), "the Scriptures of the prophets" (Matt. 26:56), "the Scripture of truth" (Dan. 10:21).

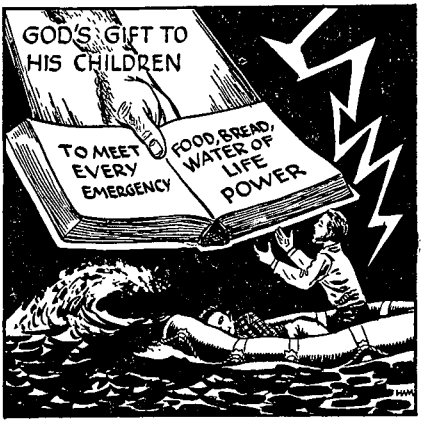
2. What other terms are used to designate the written revelation from heaven? Eph. 6:17; Heb. 5:12; Acts 7:38.

NOTE.—In Ephesians 6:17, the term translated *word* in the Authorized Version is one that means "utterance," in this case an utterance that goes forth from God's mouth, thereby making it the sword that is so effective in defeating spiritual foes. If we use it just as God uttered it, preserving its exact form, then there is power in what we say.

The word translated *oracles* in Hebrews 5:12 is one that refers not to outward form, but particularly to the thought as part of a speech or sermon, for example. It is the one applied to Christ in John 1:1. At one time there was no little discussion as to whether it should be translated "Sermon" when the reference is to Christ, as He is the living expression of God's thought.

3. What expression is used to show how man came into possession of the Scriptures? Ps. 68:11. Compare Ezra 7:6; Neh. 9:13.

NOTE.—Observe the expressions, "gave," "gavest," "given." Christ, the Incarnate Word, was given (John 3:16); the Bible, the written word, was given (Ps. 68:11).



Their Symbols

4. What are some of the figures or symbols by which the word of God is represented? Eph. 6:17; Ps. 119:105; 1 Peter 2:2.

NOTE.—The following passages liken the word—

To food (bread, milk, water, honey, meat, et cetera). 1 Peter 2:2; Eph. 5:26; Ps. 119:103; Heb. 5:13, 14; *Steps to Christ,* page 93.

To precious things (gold, silver, precious stones). Ps. 19:10; 12:6.

To light (light, lamp, candle). Ps. 119:105; *Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 111, 406 (1923 ed., pp. 109, 110, 416).

To a sword. Eph. 6:17; compare Heb. 4:12.

To flame, fire. Jer. 5:14; 23:29, first part.
To a hammer. Jer. 23:29, second part.
To power. Rom. 1:16.

Their Origin

5. In what way were the Holy Scriptures given? 2 Tim. 3:16.

6. In what way is God's possession of the prophet more fully described? 2 Peter 1:21.

NOTE.—Here it is seen that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, is the moving agency directing God's servants, the prophets. They are "moved." The word means "borne along," "carried along," "impelled," "driven." In Acts 27:15, 17 we read of a ship being "driven" by the stormy wind, and the same word is used in 2 Peter 1:21.

7. How much of the Scriptures is inspired? 2 Tim. 3:16.

NOTE.—"The union of the divine and the human, manifest in Christ, exists also in the Bible. The truths revealed are all 'given by inspiration of God;' yet they are expressed in the words of men. . . . This fact, so far from being an argument against the Bible, should strengthen faith in it as the word of God. Those who pronounce upon the inspiration of the Scriptures, accepting some portions as divine while they reject other parts as human, overlook the fact that Christ, the divine, partook of our human nature, that He might reach humanity. In the work of God for man's redemption, divinity and humanity are combined."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 747, 748.

8. What authoritative expressions are used in the Bible indicating its divine origin? Ezek. 2:4; Jer. 10:1; Isa. 44:6.

9. How do the prophets describe the intimate relation of the divine word with themselves? Jer. 1:9; 2 Sam. 23:2; Jer. 20:9.

NOTE.—"It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. . . . It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 366, 367.

10. How did successive prophets relate themselves to previous revelations from God? 2 Kings 22:8, 13; Mal. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

NOTE.—The prophets accepted the revelation through Moses; the apostles accepted the divine word which came through both Moses and the prophets. Jesus Christ also accepted the writings of Moses, the psalms (including the other historical books), and the prophets. Luke 24:44.

11. How intimately are the Scriptures of the Old Testament related to the experiences in the New? John 5:46, 47; Luke 24:27.

NOTE.—"The word of God includes the Scriptures of the Old Testament as well as of the New. One is not complete without the other. Christ declared that the truths of the Old Testament are as valuable as those of the New."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 126.

Their Eternity

12. In what language is the eternal character of the word of God expressed? Isa. 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25.

NOTE.—The word of God is the word of the living God, the Creator of all things. God is eternal (Deut. 33:27); His word must of necessity be eternal. Isaiah tells us that the word "shall stand forever." Isa. 40:8. Peter remarks that it "endureth forever." 1 Peter 1:25.

13. How did the Lord further illustrate and emphasize the perpetual nature of His Holy Word? Matt. 24: 35; Ps. 119:89.

NOTE.—" 'Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.' God's word, or law, is eternal and unchanging—fixed and established forever in the heaven of heavens." —*The Pulpit Commentary*, on Psalms, vol. 3, p. 108.

Their Purpose

14. For what purpose was the word of God given to men? 2 Tim. 3:16, last part; Rom. 15:4.

15. What is God's design for us, so far as the Scriptures are concerned? 2 Tim. 3:17.

NOTE.—"Wonderful possibilities are open to those who lay hold of the divine assurances of God's word."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 322.

"The whole Bible is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Received, believed, obeyed, it is the great instrumentality in the transformation of character."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 319.

Illustration:

An old hunter who moved to a new community in Michigan frequently got lost, so friends bought him a compass. He got lost again one day and a searching party found him. "Why didn't you use the compass?" he was asked.

"I tried to make it point north, but the thing wiggled every time I shook it, and then it pointed southeast," he answered.

We must take the Bible, use it intelligently, and then follow its leading.

Lesson 2, for January 10, 1953

Christ and the Holy Scriptures

MEMORY VERSE: "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:27.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 2.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize Luke 24:27.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Read study help assignment.
5. Questions 7-10.
6. Questions 11, 12.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Scriptures Testify of Christ. Luke 24:25, 27, 44.

1. Concerning His first advent. Gen. 3: 15; Acts 3:24, 25.
2. Concerning His life and death. Isa. 53:1-12.
3. Concerning His resurrection, ascension, and coming kingdom. Ps. 2: 7; 16:10; 68:18; Acts 3:20, 21.

II. Christ Testifies to the Scriptures.

1. The Old Testament statements about Him were true. Luke 24:44.
2. The Scriptures all testified of Him. John 5:39.

3. His quotations from and references to the Old Testament include 66 references from the five books of Moses, 36 from the Psalms, 40 from Isaiah, and 22 from Daniel.

Background Information:

The Hebrew Scriptures used by Jesus were not arranged as are our Old Testament books today. He referred to them in Luke 24:44: "in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me." This was the threefold division of the Hebrew Scriptures as compiled by the Jews.

The Law (Pentateuch) included Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

The Prophets included Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

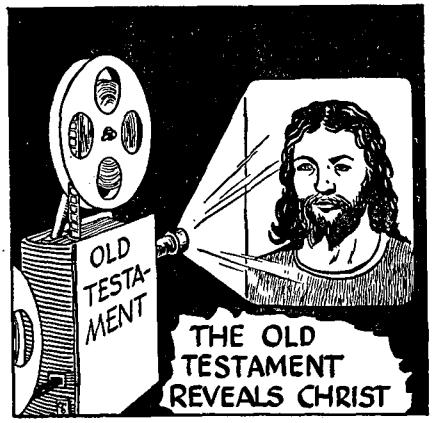
The Writings included Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles.

THE LESSON

The Scriptures Testify of Him

1. Who was foretold by all the prophets? Acts 10:43; 26:22.

NOTE.—"In every page, whether history, or precept, or prophecy, the Old Testament Scriptures are irradiated with the glory of the Son of God. . . . To Christ 'give all the prophets witness.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 211.



2. In what language did Philip declare his witness concerning the Messiah? John 1:45.

NOTE.—"The Saviour is revealed in the Old Testament as clearly as in the New. It is the light from the prophetic past that brings out the life of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament with clearness and beauty."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 799.

3. Of whom did Jesus say the Scriptures testify, and how did He use them? John 5:39; Luke 24:25, 27, 44.

NOTE.—"Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures, . . . 'They are they which testify of Me,' the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ."—*Steps to Christ,* page 92.

Concerning the First Advent

4. What is the first promise of redemption recorded in the Sacred Writings? Gen. 3:15.

5. To whom and how was this promise of the coming seed reiterated through the centuries? Gen. 22:18; Acts 3:25; Gen. 26:4; 28:14.

6. By what other figures and symbols was the coming of the Deliverer foreshadowed?

As Shiloh. Gen. 49:10.
As the Rock. Deut. 32:4; 1 Cor. 10:4.
As the Angel of the Lord. Ex. 14:19; Acts 7:35, 38.
As the Branch. Zech. 6:12.
As the I AM. Ex. 3:14; John 8:58.
As the Cornerstone. Isa. 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6.
As the Desire of all nations. Haggai 2:7.

Concerning His Life and Death

7. What did the prophet Isaiah testify concerning the life, sufferings, and death of the Sent of God? Isa. 61:1-3; 53:1-12.

NOTE.—"Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.' God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption."—*Steps to Christ,* page 15.

Concerning His Resurrection, Ascension, and Coming Kingdom

8. According to the seers of ancient days, what glory was to follow the sufferings of Jesus? Ps. 16:10, compare Acts 13:34-37; Ps. 68:18, compare Eph. 4:8.

NOTE.—"Under the inspiration of the Almighty, the sweet singer of Israel had testified of the glories of the resurrection morn. 'My flesh also,' he joyously proclaimed, 'shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell [the grave]; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 227.

9. What are some of the prophetic forecasts concerning the glorious appearing of Jesus and the setting up of His everlasting kingdom? Ps. 50: 3-5; Hab. 3:3-8. Compare Acts 3:20, 21.

10. What was the chief purpose of the writers of the New Testament? John 20:31; Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3; Rev. 1:1.

NOTE.—"All the lines of history and type, of psalm and prophecy, converge toward one center—Jesus Christ, and to the supreme event, His death on the cross for our salvation. And from that center again all the lines of history in the book of Acts, of experience in the Epistles, and of prophecy in Revelation, radiate out once more to testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."—A. M. Hodgkin, *Christ in All the Scriptures,* Preface, page 5.

Christ Testifies to the Scriptures

11. How did Jesus Himself endorse the Old Testament Scriptures? John 5:39; Luke 24:44.

NOTE.—In the New Testament, three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures are recognized—the law, that is, the Pentateuch; the prophets; and the psalms. Jesus referred to all three. See also:

The Pentateuch. John 5:44-47.
The Prophets. Luke 4:16-21.
The Psalms. Mark 12:35-37.

"The Old Testament sheds light upon the New, and the New upon the Old. Each is a revelation of the glory of God in Christ. Christ as manifested to the patriarchs, as symbolized in the sacrificial service, as portrayed in the law, and as revealed by the prophets, is the riches of the Old Testament. Christ in His life, His death, and His resurrection; Christ as He is manifested by the Holy Spirit, is the treasure of the New. Both Old and New present truths that will continually reveal new depths of meaning to the earnest seeker."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* pages 462, 463.

12. How may sinful man become acquainted with the Son of God? John 5:24; 20:31.

NOTE.—"You should search the Bible; for it tells you of Jesus. As you read the Bible, you will see the matchless charms of Jesus. You will fall in love with the Man of Calvary. . . . You may drink of the waters of salvation. . . . Then your lips will speak thanksgiving to God."—*Life Sketches,* page 293.

Illustration:

Once a piece of amber was discovered which, when viewed under a magnifying glass, was found to have embedded in it a minute insect perfectly preserved in every detail. No on knows how it got there, and no one can take it out without destroying the gem and the insect.

In like manner we know how Christ is "in all the Scriptures," and no one can take Him out of them, for He is central and supreme.

Lesson 3, for January 17, 1953

Searching the Scriptures

MEMORY VERSE: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 3.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 2 Tim. 2:15.
3. Question 4; read study help assignment.
4. Questions 5-7.
5. Questions 8, 9.
6. Questions 10-14.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Authority of the Bible.

1. Jesus believed it all. Luke 24:25.
2. It was His unerring guide. Matt. 22:29.
3. He believed the Scriptures could not be broken. John 10:35.
4. They were the Alpha and Omega, as He also was. Rev. 21:6; *Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 299.

II. The Blessings of the Bible.

1. It cleanses and sanctifies. John 15: 3; 17:17.
2. It satisfies and edifies. Ps. 119:10; Acts 20:32.
3. It comforts and strengthens. Ps. 119: 28, 52.

III. The Study of the Bible.

1. We must be ready to hear God's words. Rev. 1:3.
2. We should meditate prayerfully, daily, diligently. 1 Tim. 4:15; Ps. 119:18; *Education,* page 189.
3. We must follow the Holy Spirit's guidance. 1 Cor. 2:10, 11.

THE LESSON

The Unerring Guide

1. What evidence do we have that Jesus accepted the Scriptures as an unerring guide? Luke 24:25, 27, 44.

NOTE.—"Jesus so reverenced the Scriptures for the sole reason that they are of God in the highest sense in which those words have ever been understood. The Old Testament was to Jesus God's Book—the

Father's expressed mind and will."—John Urquhart, *The Inspiration and Accuracy of the Holy Scriptures,* pages 80, 81.

2. What further considerations lead us to conclude that the Holy Writings are unerring in their counsel? John 20:31.

NOTE.—"The Bible presents a perfect standard of character; it is an infallible guide under all circumstances, even to the end of the journey of life. Take it as the man of your counsel, the rule of your daily life."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 264.

The Alpha and Omega of Knowledge

3. What term, applied to Christ, the Eternal Word, may also properly be applied to His written word? Rev. 21:6.

NOTE.—"We have a Bible full of the most precious truth. It contains the Alpha and Omega of knowledge."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 299.

The Rule of Faith and Doctrine

4. By what should doctrines and faiths be tested? Isa. 8:20; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 3:15.

NOTE.—"The Bible, and the Bible alone, is our rule of faith."—*Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work,* page 32.

Blessings From the Study of the Word

5. What are some of the characteristics of the word of God?

ANSWER: The word of God is:

Pure. Prov. 30:5.
Holy. Rom. 1:2.
Sure. 2 Peter 1:19.
Faithful. Titus 1:9.
Reliable. 1 Kings 8:56.
Living. Heb. 4:12.

6. What can be accomplished in the lives of God's children as a result of the study of the Scriptures?

ANSWER: They can be:

Cleansed. John 15:3.
Sanctified. John 17:17.
Satisfied. Ps. 119:103.
Edified. Acts 20:32.
Comforted. Ps. 119:52.
Strengthened. Ps. 119:28.

7. When we permit our lives to be guided by God's word, how shall we regard it?

ANSWER: We shall:

Trust it. Ps. 119:42.
Meditate on it. Ps. 119:15.
Love it. Ps. 119:140.
Preach it. Acts 8:4.

Duty to Study the Bible

8. What earnest counsel is given concerning the study of the word of God? 2 Tim. 2:15.

9. What examples are given in the Bible of those who diligently studied the Scriptures? 1 Peter 1:10; Acts 17:11.

NOTE.—The original words rendered "search" in these texts mean to search into, to examine fully, to explore.

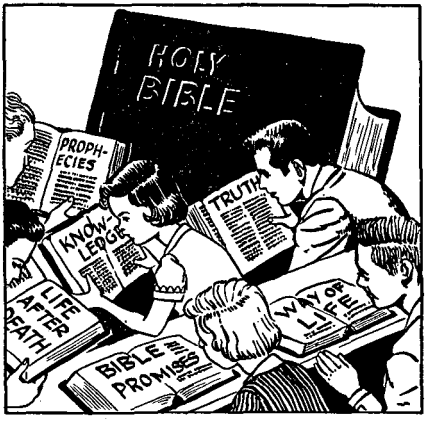
"The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice. . . . Daily they searched the Inspired Records; and as they compared scripture with scripture, heavenly angels were beside them, enlightening their minds and impressing their hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 231.

How to Study

10. What counsel does the Lord give us as to how to study His Sacred Word? Isa. 28:10.

NOTE.—"In daily study the verse-by-verse method is often most helpful. Let the student take one verse, and concentrate the mind on ascertaining the thought that God has put into that verse for him, and then dwell upon the thought until it becomes his own. One passage thus studied until its significance is clear, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view, and no positive instruction gained."—*Education,* page 189.

11. What assurance of divine help do we have as we approach the word of God? Eph. 1:17, 18.



12. Through whom does the Lord direct us in our study of His word? 1 Cor. 2:10, 11, 14; John 14:26.

13. What may we sometimes encounter in our meditation upon the divine word? 2 Peter 3:15, 16.

NOTE.—"The word of God, like the character of its divine Author, presents mysteries that can never be fully comprehended by finite beings. The entrance of sin into the world, the incarnation of Christ, regeneration, the resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible, are mysteries too deep for the human mind to explain, or even fully to comprehend. But we have no reason to doubt God's word because we cannot understand the mysteries of His providence."—*Steps to Christ,* page 111.

14. What prayers of David indicate the desires of a sincere student of the word of life? Ps. 119:18; 143:10; 25:5.

Illustration:

A great philosopher and poet had given a discourse on the internal evidences of the Bible. He closed with a statement of his own experience with the Bible. "Other books I find at my will," he said, then added impressively, "but the Bible finds *me*!"

Do you study the Bible? Has it found you?

For Further Study:

1. Searching the Bible makes us fall in love with Jesus, the Man of Calvary. See *Life Sketches,* page 293.

2. Utilizing the spare moments of a busy life in reading the word is profitable. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 463.

3. The Bible alone is our rule of faith and doctrine. *Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work,* page 32; *Gospel Workers,* page 249.

4. Some productive methods of Bible study:

a. Biographical or character study. Hebrews 11; *Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 9, 15.

b. This method gives us wide views as we read large sections at one sitting. Various inexpensive outline book studies are on the market. *The Outlined Bible,* by G. Campbell Morgan, is good, but larger.

c. Chapter-and-verse study. *The Desire of Ages,* page 390; *Education,* page 189.

d. Doctrinal study. To take a doctrine like faith, righteousness, grace, the Sabbath, and follow it through the Bible is an exhaustless source of profit.

e. Topical study. As distinct from doc-

trines, we might take themes like patience, alertness, activity, the purposes of God, etc.

f. Historical and chronological study. Such study, by a good student especially, may help him profit from events and dates. The sojourn of Israel in Egypt, the Exodus wanderings, the captivities, the apostasies and reforms in Israel, the 2300 days, are but a few illustrations.

Lesson 4, for January 24, 1953

The Word of God

MEMORY VERSE: "But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 4.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize 1 Peter 1:25.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6-8.
5. Questions 9, 10; read study help assignment.
6. Questions 11, 12.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Definition of the Word of God.
1. The words of God to man recorded in writing. Heb. 4:12.
2. The words of God to man in living, audible form. John 1:1-3, 14.

II. The Nature of the Word of God.
1. It is described as—
   a. Creative. Heb. 11:3.
   b. Sustaining. Col. 1:17.
   c. Delivering. Deut. 11:23.
   d. Healing. Matt. 8:8.
   e. Saving. Acts 13:26; *The Ministry of Healing,* page 122.
   f. Powerful. Heb. 1:3.
2. Its every promise contains the power and life of God. *Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

III. The Effects of the Word of God.
1. It conveys eternal life. John 6:51-54.
2. It brings satisfaction into human life. Jer. 15:16.

IV. Our Attitude to the Word of God.
1. We should receive it as a divine revelation. 1 Thess. 2:13; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 278.
2. We must act on its precepts. James 1:22.

THE LESSON

Definition of the Word of God

1. By what name are the Scriptures called? Heb. 4:12, first part.

2. What is the living word of God? John 1:1-3; Rev. 19:13; 1 John 1:1.

NOTE.—"By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God—God's thought made audible."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 19.

"The only-begotten Son of God is called 'the Word' because: 1. He reveals what is hidden; 2. Manifests what is unseen; 3. Actively and creatively expresses the divine thought. He speaks and it is done, commands and it stands fast. *'All things were*

made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.' With what the heart is filled the mouth runs over. That with which the heart of God is filled is locked up in the Word, who is with God and was God."—*Preacher's Homiletic Commentary:* St. John, page 34.

The Nature of the Word

3. What is said about the power and authority of God's word? Heb. 4:12, 13; Luke 4:32.

NOTE.—"In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

"The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature, and re-creates the soul in the image of God."—*Education,* page 126.

4. What are some of the recorded evidences of the working of this word of power?

ANSWER: In creating. Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 1:2; Ps. 148:5.

In upholding. Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17.

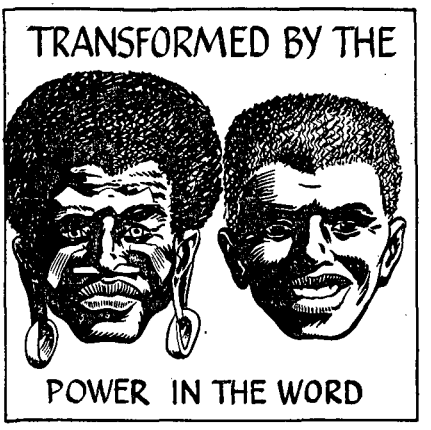
In miracle working. Mark 2:2-12; Luke 4:32-36.

In delivering. Ex. 12:23, 29; Ps. 105:28, 31, 34, 42.

5. Of what significance is it to us that the word of God is all powerful? James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

6. What important lessons may be learned from contemplation of the word of God?

ANSWER: Christ is the living Bread. John 6:51.



By the word of God we must live. Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4.

Partaking of the living Bread means everlasting life. John 6:35, 57, 58, 63.

NOTE.—"As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 390.

The Effects of the Word

7. What are some of the effects of the word of God in the lives of those who receive it? Ps. 119:9, 11; 107:20.

NOTE.—"We allow our minds to be drawn away from the word. If the word of God were eaten as the food for the soul, if it were treated with respect and deference, there would be no necessity for the many and repeated testimonies that are borne. The simple declarations of Scripture would be received and acted upon."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 393 (1948 ed, pp. 392, 393).

8. What assurance does the Lord give to those who accept and obey His Holy Word?

ANSWER: The word never fails. Joshua 21:45; 1 Kings 8:56.

The word abides in us. John 15:7; 1 John 2:14.

The word produces faith. Rom. 10:17.

Our Attitude

9. What was one outstanding feature of the Thessalonian believers in their relation to the word of God? 1 Thess. 2:13.

NOTE.—To them it was not the "word of men," but the "word of God." They "received" it as such, the living word of power, and it effectually worked in their lives.

"If we would live a true Christian life, the conscience must be quickened by constant contact with the word of God. All the precious things which at infinite cost God has provided for us will do us no good; they cannot strengthen us and produce spiritual growth unless we appropriate them. We must eat the word of God—make it a part of ourselves."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 195.

10. What was it that characterized Jeremiah in his relation to the word of God? Jer. 15:16.

NOTE.—"The followers of Christ . . . must receive and assimilate the word of God so that it shall become the motive power of life and action. . . . They must eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, or there is no life in them."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 278.

11. What is one vital factor in our relation to the word of truth? James 1:22; 1 John 2:17.

NOTE.—It is important to have a "knowledge" of the truth. 1 Tim. 2:4. It is vital that we "believe the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13), it is important that we "obey the truth" (1 Peter 1:22), and, more so, that we "love the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10).

"No matter how zealous men may be in their observance of religious ceremonies, the Lord cannot accept them if they persist in willful violation of one of His commands." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 634.

12. After we have received and obeyed the word of God, what does the Lord expect us to do? 2 Tim. 4:1, 2; Rev. 1:3.

NOTE.—"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. . . . All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 822.

"The doers of the word are those who are ruled by it, who practically comply with its requirements, who not only read, understand, and believe it, but submit to its authority, regulate their tempers and lives by its precepts. The term, too, is expressive of continuance, permanence. We must live and move in this element, we must find our occupation here the chief delight of our existence. It is only such doing that constitutes a doer of the word. 'And not hearers only.' This is what the apostle is anxious to guard against. Mark what it really is which he condemns. It is not being hearers—very far from that. It is the stopping short here, resting in it, which he condemns. He finds no fault with those who are hearers, it is with those who are hearers simply and 'not doers.' He adds, 'Deceiving your own selves.' Whatever the foundation on which they build, whatever the process by which they reach the conclusion in their own favor—all who think well of themselves, who believe that they are God's people, and on the way to heaven, while they are hearers only and not doers—all such must, and do, delude themselves. They are helped to this result. The father of lies tries to persuade them that they are all right as to their spiritual character. He labors to hide from us the truth, and to draw us into the meshes of soul-ruining error."—*The Biblical Illustrator,* St. James, page 159.

Illustration:

A skeptic acquaintance of a Christian minister of note wrote a letter offering to lend him the infidel works of Paine and Voltaire. The minister replied, thanking him,

but pointing out that he had not yet done with reading Moses and the prophets.

Reading the word and practicing the Christian life is a full-time occupation.

For Further Study:

1. God's word should be stored in the mind. *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 460.
2. Character is developed by obedience to the word. *The Desire of Ages,* pages 126, 314; *Gospel Workers,* page 250.
3. We are to claim every promise in the word. *Gospel Workers,* page 100.
4. The Bible does not teach extreme views. *Gospel Workers,* page 90.
5. Ineffective service may be caused by failure to study the word. *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 441.
6. The Bible and the Bible alone should be heard from the pulpit. *Prophets and Kings,* page 626.
7. We have much more to learn from the Bible. *Gospel Workers,* page 251; *Fundamentals of Education,* page 474.
8. Daily study and prayerful contemplation of Bible necessary. *Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 573-579.

Lesson 5, for January 31, 1953

The Perpetuity of the Prophetic Gift

MEMORY VERSE: "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper." 2 Chron. 20:20.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 5.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize 2 Chron 20:20.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6, 7; read study help assignment.
5. Questions 8-11.
6. Questions 12, 13.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Medium of the Prophetic Gift.

1. In pre-Christian days God communicated through priests, elders, angels, prophets. Gen. 14:18; 16:7; Ex. 3:16; Gen. 20:7.
   a. Enoch was a prophet. Jude 14.
   b. Abraham was a prophet. Gen. 20:1-7.
   c. Jacob prophesied on his death-bed. Gen. 49:1.
   d. Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel were among Israel's prophets.
2. The apostles revered the messages of the prophets. Rom. 1:2.
3. In the Christian Era the various gifts of the Holy Spirit came through men, and prophecy was one of these gifts. Eph. 4:8, 11.
4. The church waiting for the advent has the gifts of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 1:7; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.

Key Thoughts:

1. There is but one Spirit. Eph. 4:4.
2. There are "diversities of gifts" from this one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:4.
3. The Holy Spirit of 1 Corinthians 12 is the same as "the Spirit of Christ which was in them" (the prophets of old). 1 Peter 1:11.
4. The greatest spiritual outpouring of all time is prophesied for the last days. Joel 2:28, 32; *Christ's Object Lessons,* page 121.
5. Every true member of the church in the last days is to do pentecostal things for God. *Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 33.
6. "The theme of prophecy is Jesus. It is not certain future events, dark or bright, presented to the view of the curious and speculative; it is Jesus; earthly events and

hopes and fears only as linked with Him. (H. H. Bonar, D.D.)"—*Biblical Illustrator,* on Revelation, page 551.

7. "He [the Christian] is not at liberty to turn from them [the Scriptures] to learn his duty through any of the gifts. We say that the very moment he does, he places the gifts in a wrong place, and takes an extremely dangerous position. The word should be in front, and the eye of the church should be placed upon it, as the rule to walk by, and the fountain of wisdom, from which to learn duty in 'all good works.' "—James White, *Review and Herald,* Feb. 28, 1856.

"Seventh-day Adventists have but one Bible. That is the one foundation of faith and doctrine. The church is built upon Christ, and all its doctrine upon the living word. All spiritual gifts are gifts to the church that is built upon the word. These gifts are to minister the word of God to us, and to lead us into the Scriptures, which are our one rule of faith.

"That has always been the teaching in this advent movement. In the first little booklet issued by James White, our early leader (who became the husband of Ellen G. Harmon), he wrote, in 1847: 'The Bible is a perfect and complete revelation. It is our only rule of faith and practice.'—*A Word to the Little Flock,* page 13."—William A. Spicer, *The Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement,* page 29.

THE LESSON

The Medium

1. After sin entered the world, what were some of the agencies God used to indicate His will to men?

ANSWER: Through the priesthood. Gen. 14:18.
Through angels. Gen. 16:7.
Through prophets. Gen. 20:7.
Through elders. Ex. 3:16.
Through ministers. Ex. 24:13.

NOTE.—"It has always been part of the system of the divine government to employ *men* as instruments for the conveyance of heavenly truth and blessing to the world at large. Whether it be as the announcers of the revealed message, as the writers of the inspired Scripture, as the official representatives of God in matters relating to the atonement, or as teachers and guides of the people, human instruments have been employed." —R. B. Girdlestone, *Synonyms of the Old Testament,* page 238.

2. What were some of the distinctive names given to those who exercised the prophetic gift?

ANSWER: They were known as prophets (1 Sam. 9:9), seers, (1 Chron. 26:28), messengers (Mal. 3:1), spokesmen (Ex. 7:1, 4:16).

In the Days of the Patriarchs

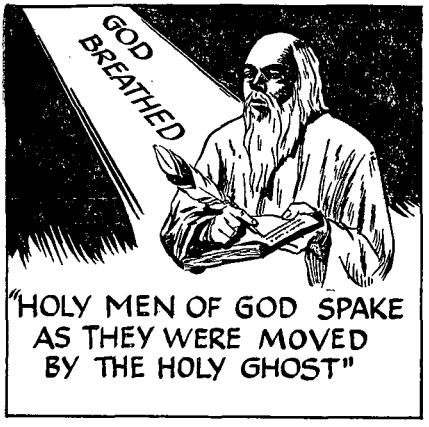
3. Who was one of the earliest prophets mentioned in the Bible? Jude 14.

NOTE.—"Through holy angels, God revealed to Enoch His purpose to destroy the world by a flood, and He also opened more fully to him the plan of redemption. By the spirit of prophecy He carried him down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 85.

In the Genesis story the first recorded act of a prophet was that he should pray or intercede for another. The expression in the text, "And he shall pray for thee," is rendered by Moffatt, "And he will intercede for you." Hence part of the work of a prophet is intercession.

4. Under what circumstances did God endorse the prophetic gift of Abraham? Gen. 20:1-7.

NOTE.—"The psalmist refers to this chapter [Genesis 20] in Abraham's experience when he says . . . God 'reproved kings for their sakes, saying, Touch not Mine anointed,



and do My prophets no harm.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 131.

5. On what occasion did Jacob exercise the prophetic gift? Gen. 49:1.

NOTE.—"At the last, all the sons of Jacob were gathered about his dying bed. And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, 'Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father,' 'that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.' Often and anxiously he had thought of their future, and had endeavored to picture to himself the history of the different tribes. Now as his children waited to receive his last blessing, the Spirit of inspiration rested upon him; and before him in prophetic vision the future of his descendants was unfolded. One after another, the names of his sons were mentioned, the character of each was described, and the future history of the tribe was briefly foretold."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 235.

"Through patriarchs and prophets . . . a long line of inspired prophecy pointed to the advent of 'the Desire of all nations.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 697.

In the Days of the Israelites

6. Who were some of the men in the days of Israel who were designated as prophets?

ANSWER: Moses. Deuteronomy 18:15.
Elijah. 1 Kings 18:36.
Elisha. 2 Kings 6:12.
Isaiah. 2 Kings 20:1.
Jeremiah. Jeremiah 29:1.
Daniel. Matthew 24:15.

NOTE.—"From the earliest times, prophets had been recognized as teachers divinely appointed. In the highest sense the prophet was one who spoke by direct inspiration, communicating to the people the messages he had received from God. But the name was given also to those who, though not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God."—*Education,* page 46.

7. In the New Testament what emphasis is given to the fact that God revealed Himself through prophets in Old Testament days? Rom. 1:2; Acts 3:18; Heb. 1:1.

In the Days of the Apostles

8. How was this gift perpetuated in the days of the apostles, and what instances are recorded of the manifestation of the prophetic gift in the apostolic church? Eph. 4:8, 11; Acts 13:1; 11:27, 28; 15:32; 21:10, 11.

NOTE.—"A particular prediction of a famine approaching, delivered by one of these prophets, his name Agabus; we read of him again prophesying Paul's imprisonment, ch. 21:10, 11. Here he stood up . . . and prophesied. . . . What he said was not of himself, . . . but *he signified it by the Spirit, the Spirit of prophecy.*"—Matthew Henry, *An Exposition of the Old and New Testament,* on Acts 11:27, 28.

9. What definite counsel from the Lord shows that the prophetic gift is a permanent possession of the church? 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-13.

NOTE.—"The church which He [Christ] founded was a church in which prophecy

was to be a continuous possession."—G. C. Joyce, *The Inspiration of Prophecy*, page 139.

" 'When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: . . . and He will show you things to come.' John 14:26; 16:13. Scripture plainly teaches that these promises, so far from being limited to apostolic days, extend to the church of Christ in all ages."—*The Great Controversy,* Introduction, page viii.

It is the purpose of God that these gifts remain in the church "till we all come into the unity of the faith [marginal reading];" "unto a perfect man;" "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

10. What symbol of the church of God further illustrates the importance of the various gifts? 1 Cor. 12:12-31.

NOTE.—"In this body there are various members, and one member cannot perform exactly the same office as another. The eyes are made for seeing, and in no case can they perform the work of the ears, which is that of hearing; neither can the ears take the place of the mouth, nor the mouth perform the office of the nose. Yet all these organs are necessary to the perfect whole and work in beautiful harmony with one another."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, page 128.

11. In this connection what are we told that a prophet was formerly called? 1 Sam. 9:9. Compare Isa. 1:1.

NOTE.—The word rendered "seer" means in the Hebrew one who sees, and hence represents a prophet who in vision sees clearly the purpose and message of God.

In the Days of the Remnant

12. Might we conclude, then, that God's plan provides for the prophetic gift to be seen in the remnant church? 1 Cor. 1:7; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.

NOTE.—"In His providence the Lord has seen fit to teach and warn His people in various ways. By direct command, by the Sacred Writings, and by the spirit of prophecy has He made known unto them His will."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 12, 13.

"In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the *Testimonies* of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 148 (1948 ed., pp. 147, 148).

13. What counsel given centuries ago by Jehoshaphat is good counsel for the church today? 2 Chron. 20:20.

NOTE.—"The errors and wrongdoings in the lives of professed Christians are recorded for the instruction of those who are liable to fall into the same temptations. The experience of one serves as a beacon light to warn others of the rocks of danger.

"Thus are revealed the snares and devices of Satan, the importance of perfecting Christian character, and the means by which this result may be obtained. Thus God indicates what is necessary to secure His blessing."—*Testimonies,* vol 4, p. 13.

"Of special value to God's church on earth today—the keepers of His vineyard—are the messages of counsel and admonition given through the prophets who have made plain His eternal purpose in behalf of mankind. In the teachings of the prophets, His love for the lost race, and His plan for their salvation, are clearly revealed."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 22.

14. What further counsel indicates that there were prophetic gifts in the Christian church? 1 Thess. 5:20.

NOTE:—"In order that one may 'quench not the Spirit,'—the Holy Spirit, who has moved upon and inspired the prophets of all ages,—the apostle Paul enjoins the believers to 'despise not prophesyings.' In order to avoid deception by a subtle conuterfeit, he adds the injunction: 'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.' "—A. G. Daniells, *The Abiding Gift of Prophecy,* page 264.

Illustration:

Many years ago a traveler in a stagecoach was publicly criticizing the Bible. He finally asserted that everything on prophecy in the Book was written long after the events took place. A minister, who had hitherto kept silent, quietly said, "Sir, I must beg leave to mention one remarkable prophecy as an exception: 'Knowing this *first*, that there shall come in the last days *scoffers*.'"

It is one thing to know, but another and greater is to believe. "Believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper."

Lesson 6, for February 7, 1953

The Prophetic Gift

MEMORY VERSE: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." 1 Cor. 12:28.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 6.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4,5; memorize 1 Cor. 12:28.
4. Questions 6, 7; read study help assignment.
5. Questions 8-10.
6. Questions 11-13.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Author of the Gift.

1. God bestows the gifts according to His own will. 1 Cor. 12:11, 18, 28; Heb. 2:4.
2. Christ spoke through the prophets. 1 Peter 2:11; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 366, 367.

II. The Names of the Gift and the Messages.

1. Three names usually used for the gift of prophecy are:
   - *a.* "The gift of prophecy." 1 Cor. 13:2.
   - *b.* "The spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.
   - *c.* "The testimony of Jesus." Rev. 19:10.
2. The names used for the messages of the prophets are:
   - *a.* "Prophecy" or "prophecies." 2 Chron. 9:29; 1 Cor. 13:8.
   - *b.* "The word of God." 1 Sam. 9:27.
   - *c.* "The Lord's message." Haggai 1:13.
   - *d.* "Testimonies." 2 Kings 17:15
   - *e.* "Counsel." Isa. 44:26.
   - *f.* "Burden." Jer. 23:33.

III. The Manifestations of the Gift.

1. Men and women were used as prophets. 2 Peter 1:21.
2. Among the prophetesses named are these:
   - *a.* Miriam. Ex. 15:20.
   - *b.* Deborah. Judges 4:4.
   - *c.* Hannah. 1 Samuel 1 and 2; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 571, 572.
   - *d.* Huldah. 2 Kings 22:14.
   - *e.* Isaiah's wife. Isa. 8:3.
   - *f.* Anna. Luke 2:36; *The Desire of Ages*, page 55.
   - *g.* Elizabeth. Luke 1:41, 42.
   - *h.* The four daughters of Philip. Acts 21:8, 9.

IV. The Nature of the Gift.

1. Prophets are often mediators between God and men. Gen. 20:7.
2. Prophets are spokesmen for God. Ex. 4:16.
3. Prophets are instructors in the law and ways of God. Jer. 32:33.
4. Prophets are reprovers of sin, exhorters to repentance. 2 Kings 17:13.

THE LESSON

The Author

1. How are the gifts of the Spirit distributed? 1 Cor. 12:8, 11.

NOTE.—Observe the expressions, "dividing to every man severally as He will," "to one is given by the Spirit," et cetera. All the children of God may enjoy the "fellowship of the Spirit" (Phil. 2:1); we may experience the "unity of the Spirit" (Eph. 4:3); and may even reveal the "fruit of the Spirit" (Eph. 5:9). But the *gifts* belong to the Lord. We cannot determine their disposal; that is the prerogative of God. He "divideth" to every man according to His own plan and purpose.

2. How was this thought impressed upon both leaders and people in Old Testament days? Ps. 105:14, 15; Neh. 9:30.

NOTE.—God's prophets were called "My prophets" (Ps. 105:15), "Thy prophets" (Neh. 9:30), "His" prophets (Rev. 10:7). Furthermore, the Spirit which came upon them was "the Spirit of *Christ*" (1 Peter 1:11), "the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Sam. 23:2), the "Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21). When the prophets testified, they declared it was "Thy Spirit" (Neh. 9:30); God declared it was "My Spirit" (Isa. 59:21).

3. Whether in Old Testament or in New Testament days, who was it that spoke through the holy prophets? 1 Peter 1:11.

NOTE.—Referring to the words of this text, the *International Critical Commentary* remarks, "The words must be accepted quite frankly. Christ was in the prophets, and from Him came their inspiration."

"It was the Son of God that gave to our first parents the promise of redemption. It was He who revealed Himself to the patriarchs. . . .

"It was He who gave to Moses the law engraved upon the tables of stone.

"It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets 'prophesied of the grace that should come unto you, searching what, or what manner of time the *Spirit of Christ* which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.' It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. 'The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 366, 367.

The Names

4. What are some of the names by which the prophetic gift is mentioned in the Scriptures of truth? Rev. 19:10; 1 Cor. 13:2.

5. By what expressions were the messages which came through the prophets of God known?

ANSWER: Prophecy. 2 Chron. 15:8.
Testimonies. 2 Kings 17:15.
The word of God. 1 Sam. 9:27.
The Lord's message. Haggai 1:13.
Counsel. Isa. 44:26.
The writing. 2 Chron. 35:4.

NOTE.—While the term "testimonies" is used many times of the "tables of the testimony," referring to the Ten Commandment law, it is used on many occasions to designate the messages of the prophets. This can be seen in Neh. 9:26, 30, 34; 2 Kings 17:13, 15; 2 Chron. 24:19. Then there is in the New Testament the expression, "the testimony of Jesus," also the interpretation of this term, "the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.

The Manifestation

6. Through whom did the Holy Spirit manifest the prophetic gift? 2 Peter 1:21.

NOTE.—The word *anthropos* in the Greek is a generic term including both men and women. It usually happened that more men than women were called to the prophetic office. Hence we find prophets referred to as "son of man," or "man of God."

"It was a new thing in Israel for a woman to speak in the name of God. . . . The people felt that sagacity like hers [Deborah's] and a spirit so sanguine and fearless must be the gift of Jehovah; it was the inspiration of the Almighty that gave her understanding."—*Expositor's Bible,* Judges, and Ruth, pages 95, 96.

7. Who were some of the women whom God called and on whom the prophetic gift was bestowed?

ANSWER: Miriam. Exodus 15:20.
Deborah. Judges 4:4.
Huldah. 2 Kings 22:14.
Anna. Luke 2:36.
Four daughters of Philip. Acts 21:8, 9.

8. Whose counsel was sought concerning the book of the law in the days of Josiah? 2 Kings 22:14.

NOTE.—"This is a most singular circumstance: At this time *Jeremiah* was certainly a prophet in Israel, but it is likely he now dwelt at *Anathoth,* and could not be readily consulted; *Zephaniah* also prophesied under this reign, but probably he had not yet *begun; Hilkiah* was *high priest,* and the priest's lips should retain knowledge. *Shaphan* was *scribe,* and must have been conversant in sacred affairs to have been at all fit for his office; and yet *Huldah* a prophetess, of whom we know nothing but by this circumstance, is consulted on the meaning of the book of the law; for the secret of the Lord was neither with *Hilkiah* the high priest, *Shaphan* the scribe, nor any other of the *servants* of the king, or *ministers* of the *temple!* We find from this, and we have many facts in all ages to corroborate it, that a pontiff, a pope, a bishop, or a priest, may, in some cases, not possess the true knowledge of God; and that a simple *woman* possessing the life of God in her soul, may have more knowledge of the divine testimonies than many of those whose office it is to explain and enforce them."—Adam Clarke, *Commentary,* on 2 Kings 22:14.

9. What was the work of a prophet of the Lord as indicated in the earliest reference to a prophet in the Bible? Gen. 20:7.

NOTE.—Reference was made to this experience in the last week's lesson, but it is referred to again to emphasize the important thing Abraham was called upon to do, and that was to "intercede" for Abimelech. It is significant that in the first reference to the work of a prophet, we find him in the role of a mediator or intercessor.

10. In the second reference to a prophet in the Holy Scriptures, what characteristic is particularly emphasized? Ex. 7:1; 4:16.

NOTE.—In the one text we observe that Aaron is called a prophet. Notice the form of the expression "Aaron . . . shall be thy prophet" (Ex. 7:1); in the other text, "he shall be thy spokesman" (Ex. 4:16). Here the prophet is a spokesman for another, and in this case, he is a spokesman for God.

Matthew Henry remarks: "Aaron . . . was . . . a notable spokesman: 'He shall be *thy prophet,*' that is, 'he shall speak from thee to Pharaoh, as prophets do from God to the

children of men.' "—*An Exposition of the Old and New Testaments,* on Exodus 7:1.

The Nature of the Gift

11. What other purpose did the prophets serve? Jer. 29:19; 32:33.

NOTE.—"The name [prophet] was given also to those who, though not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God."—*Education,* page 46.

12. What evidence is given that part of the work of God's prophets was to reprove sin, to urge repentance and the keeping of the law? 2 Kings 17:13; Ezek. 14:6.

NOTE.—"Through His prophets He had sent to His chosen people message after message of earnest entreaty,—messages that had been despised and rejected by the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel, now given over to the enemy. But in Judah there remained a goodly remnant, and to these the prophets continued to appeal. Hear Isaiah urging, 'Turn ye unto Him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.' Hear Micah declaring with confidence: 'I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. . . .

"These and other like messages revealing the willingness of God to forgive and accept those who turned to Him with full purpose of heart, had brought hope to many a fainting soul in the dark years when the temple doors remained closed; and now, as the leaders began to institute a reform, a multitude of the people, weary of the thralldom of sin, were ready to respond."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 333, 334.

"The prophets continued to protest against these evils, and to plead for rightdoing."—*Ibid.*, p. 282.

13. What earnest warning did the Lord give to Israel in the days of Jeremiah? Jer. 26:4-6.

NOTE.—"A refusal to heed the invitation of mercy that God was now offering would bring upon the impenitent nation the judgments that had befallen the northern kingdom of Israel over a century before. The message to them now was: 'If ye will not hearken to Me, to walk in My law, which I have set before you, to hearken to the words of My servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened; then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 415.

"In every age prophets had lifted up their voices against the sins of kings, rulers, and people, speaking the words which God gave them, and obeying His will at the peril of their lives. From generation to generation there had been heaping up a terrible punishment for the rejecters of light and truth. This the enemies of Christ were now drawing down upon their own heads. The sin of the priests and rulers was greater than that of any preceding generation. By their rejection to the Saviour, they were making themselves responsible for the blood of all the righteous men slain from Abel to Christ. They were about to fill to overflowing their cup of iniquity."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 618, 619.

Illustration:

In the year 1808 a grand performance of Haydn's *Creation* was given in Vienna. The composer, now an old man making his last appearance, was wheeled in, and a young royal princess took a seat beside him. As the tremendous crescendo "And there was light!" was reached, the audience, hitherto suppressed, exploded into unusual applause. The old man was too feeble to enter into it all, but as they applauded and shouted for him, he made a superhuman effort and rose. Then he cried, "No, no! not from *me,* but"—pointing to heaven—"from heaven above comes all!"

Do you accept God's gift to His church as a heaven-sent blessing?

For Further Study:

1. The prophet as a foreteller of divine purposes. *Prophets and Kings,* page 464.
2. On the work of Ellen G. White. *Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 12, 13, 232.
3. Messages for today. *Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 148; vol. 8, p. 298.

The Testimony of Jesus—The Spirit of Prophecy

MEMORY VERSE: "I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 7.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize Rev. 19:10.
3. Questions 3, 4.
4. Questions 5, 6; read study help assignment.
5. Questions 7, 8.
6. Questions 9-11.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Testimony of Jesus.

1. A characteristic of the remnant church. Rev. 12:7.
2. This term means "the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.
3. "Testimony" is used as follows:
   a. Of the Decalogue. Ex. 31:18.
   b. Of the laws of Moses. 2 Kings 23:3.
   c. Of a man's legal word. Deut. 19: 16, 18.
   d. Of the messages of the prophets. 2 Kings 17:5.
   e. Of Christ's revelations to His people. 1 Cor. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:8.

II. The Spirit of Prophecy—

1. Is the Spirit which indites the prophecy. Rev. 19:10.
2. Is a safeguard to the church. Isa. 8:20; *Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 298.

Key Phrases:

1: "The testimony of Jesus."
   a. Found twice in Authorized Version, both in Rev. 19:10.
   b. Found three times in form of "testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 1:2, 9; 12:17.
   c. Also found once as "witness of Jesus." Rev. 20:4.
   d. Similar expressions, "testimony of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:6), and "testimony of our Lord" (2 Tim. 1:8).

2. "The spirit of prophecy."
   a. Found once only in Bible. Rev. 19:10.
   b. It is the Spirit inditing the prophecy, as distinct from the gift bestowed, but they are inseparably connected.
   c. The term is well known in Jewish and Christian writings.

3. "Worship God."
   a. No man is to be worshiped, not even a prophet, but God alone. Rev. 19:10, first part; Ex. 20:3.

Key Thoughts:

1. "Worship God." We are to worship neither the gift nor the recipient, but God the Giver. Compare Matthew 4:10 "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God." We thank God for the gifts and for the messengers, but we worship only Him.

2. "The testimony of Jesus." This is the voice of Jesus speaking through the prophets both before and after the cross. The apostle Peter speaks of "the spirit of Christ which was in them" in relation to the Old Testament prophets, and His Spirit spoke through and beyond New Testament days.

The Testimony of Jesus

1. What is mentioned as one of the vital characteristics of the remnant church? Rev. 12:17; 14:12.

NOTE.—Observe that in addition to "the patience of the saints," "the commandments of God," "the faith of Jesus," there is also "the testimony of Jesus Christ."

2. What attitude of Job and of Paul is fitting for God's people today? Job 23:5; Eph. 5:17.

NOTE.—"As the end draws near and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the *Testimonies,* which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 654.

3. What other terms similar in form to "the testimony of Jesus" are used in the Sacred Writings?

ANSWER: "Testimony of Christ." 1 Cor. 1:6.
"Testimony of our Lord." 2 Tim. 1:8.
"Witness of Jesus." Rev. 20:4.
"Testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 1:2.

4. What are some of the ways the word *testimony* is used in the Bible?

ANSWER: God "testified" against His people. 2 Kings 17:13; Jer. 42:19 (margin); Neh. 9:26, 30.
God "testified" through His prophets. 2 Chron. 24:19; 2 Kings 17:13.
God "testified" by His *testimonies to the church.* 2 Kings 17:15; Neh. 9:34.

5. How is the testimony of Jesus given to the church, and what is its purpose? Rev. 1:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The voice of God was heard by the prophets whom He had appointed to a special work and to bear a special message. He sent them to repeat the same words over and over again. He had a message prepared for them that was not after the ways and will of men, and this He put in their mouths and had them proclaim. He assured them the Holy Spirit would give them language and utterance."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 405.

The Spirit of Prophecy

6. What expressions in the word of God apply to the prophetic gift?

ANSWER: The "*word* of prophecy." 2 Peter 1:19.
The *gift* of prophecy. 1 Cor. 13:2; Eph. 4:8, 11.
"The *spirit* of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.
These three expressions are closely related. One might consider the *gift* to be the quality or grace bestowed; the *spirit* to be the divine force which actuates the prophet; the *word,* the message from God through the prophet to the church.
The fruit of the Spirit is available to all the children of God, but the gifts are bestowed by God upon whomsoever He chooses. We are privileged to have the fruit; we may be chosen for the gift. "All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 92.

7. Even though used but once in the Bible, is there evidence that the term "spirit of prophecy" might have been known or been in current use in New Testament days?

ANSWER: *The Jewish Encyclopedia* uses it: "The visible results of the activity of the Holy Spirit, according to the Jewish conception, are the books of the Bible, all of which have been composed under its inspiration. All the prophets spoke 'in the Holy Spirit;' and the most characteristic sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit is the gift of prophecy, in the sense that the person upon whom it rests beholds the past and the future . . . . The Holy Spirit is at times identified with

the spirit of prophecy."—Vol. 6, p. 449.

Matthew Henry's commentary uses it concerning:

Deborah, vol. 2, p. 140; Huldah, vol. 3, p. 116; Agabus, vol. 8, p. 667; Elisabeth, vol. 7, p. 587; Simeon, vol. 7, p. 603; and Anna, vol. 7, p. 605 (Robert Carter & Brothers edition).

8. What expression in the Apocalypse shows unmistakingly the meaning of the term "testimony of Jesus"? Rev. 19:10.

NOTE.—What we have in this verse is a divine interpretation. If we ask John what he means by the expression, without shadow of doubt he replies, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." This interpretation is confirmed by comparing this verse with Rev. 22:9. Compare such phrases as:

Rev. 19:10

"See thou do it not."

"Worship God."

"I am thy fellow servant."

"Thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus."

Rev. 22:9

"See thou do it not."

"Worship God."

"I am thy fellow servant."

"Thy brethren the prophets."

Hence it must be clear to all that it is God's servants the prophets that have "the testimony of Jesus." In the light of this it is not difficult to understand why it is called "the spirit of prophecy."

A Safeguard to the Church

9. To what are we commended as a safeguard against deception? Isa. 8:20.

NOTE.—"God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church." "We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 298.

10. By what means did God guide and preserve ancient Israel? Hosea 12:13.

NOTE.—"God desired to make of His people Israel a praise and a glory. . . . Their obedience to the law of God would make them marvels of prosperity before the nations of the world. . . . In the most definite manner Christ through Moses had set before them God's purpose, and had made plain the terms of their prosperity."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 288.

11. What admonition and promise given to Israel is good counsel for the church today? 2 Chron. 20:20.

NOTE.—"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—*Life Sketches,* page 196.

Illustration:

Henry Ward Beecher used to tell the story of how, in the early days of railroads, a precaution against accidents was taken. As a train was about to start, the brakeman on the last car would shout, "All right here!" The next brakeman would hear him and shout, "All right here!" So the call went along till it reached the conductor, who then knew all was ready to go.

When the church through the ages has heard the messages of God's servants, all has been well. Can you say today, "All right here!"?

Lesson 8, for February 21, 1953

The Relationship of the Spirit of Prophecy to the Bible

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

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 8.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize Isa. 8:20.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6, 7; read study help assignment.
5. Questions 8, 9.
6. Questions 10, 11.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Word of God.
1. Its supreme authority.
   a. The testimony of the Scriptures.
   b. The testimony of the Reformation.
   c. The testimony of the spirit of prophecy.
   d. The testimony of the church.
2. Its successive revelations.
   a. The pentateuch.
   b. The prophets.
   c. The writings.
   d. The New Testament.

II. The Testimony of Jesus.
1. It exalts the Bible.
2. It points to the Bible.
3. It amplifies the Bible.
4. It simplifies the Bible.

Key Thoughts:

1. The Bible is inspired in its teaching, expressed in the language of godly men. The hundreds of copies of originals accepted by the Christian church contain inspired doctrine and counsel, preserved by God's providence.

2. God's word is supreme, unique, containing God's complete message of salvation for all men.

3. The messages of the spirit of prophecy never replace, change, or modify the messages of Scripture. They expound, magnify, and beautify all that the word has taught. They lighten the pathway of the remnant church.

THE LESSON

The Word of God

1. What testimony is borne regarding the word of God as being the standard of doctrine and conduct? 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Isa. 8:20; Acts 17:11; Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.

2. How have Christian people demonstrated their loyalty to the principles of the word of God? Rev. 12:11.

NOTE.—The German princes at the Diet of Spires declared, " 'There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God. . . . The Lord forbids the teaching of any other doctrine. . . . The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts; . . . this Holy Book is, in all things necessary for the Christian, easy of understanding, and calculated to scatter the darkness.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 203.

3. What testimony has been borne by the pioneers of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church concerning the word of God and the gift of prophecy?

ANSWER: This was well expressed by James White, one of the early pioneers of the advent cause.

"Every Christian is therefore in duty bound to take the Bible as a perfect rule of faith and duty. He should pray fervently to be aided by the Holy Spirit in searching the Scriptures for the whole truth, and for his whole duty. He is not at liberty to turn from them to learn his duty through any of the gifts. We say that the very moment he does, he places the gifts in a wrong place, and takes an extremely dangerous position. The word should be in front, and the eye of the church should be placed upon it, as the rule to walk by, and the fountain of wisdom, from which to learn duty in 'all good works.' But if a portion of the church err from the truths of the Bible, and become weak, and sickly, and the flock become scattered, so that it seems necessary for God to employ the gifts of the Spirit to correct, revive, and heal the erring, we should let Him work." —*Review and Herald,* April 21, 1851.

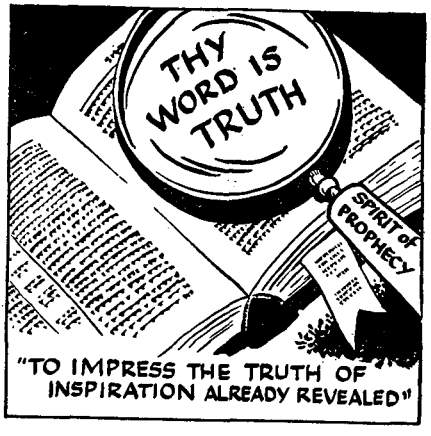
Its Successive Revelations

4. Into what recognized parts might we regard the Holy Scriptures as being divided? Luke 24:44; John 20: 30, 31.

NOTE.—These recognized parts of the Holy Scriptures are "the law of Moses" (the Pentateuch); "the prophets;" and "the psalms" (holy writings); and the New Testament. Together they constitute the Holy Scriptures we have today.

5. What Scriptural evidence shows that these parts of the oracles of God are intimately and harmoniously related? Luke 24:27, 32, 44, 45.

NOTE.—Jesus considered the three sections of the Old Testament as a united whole. The New Testament books are also considered "Scriptures." See 2 Peter 3:16. Observe the



emphasis on the word *other* in this text.

We might consider each succeeding revelation as amplifying or enlarging the one which preceded it; for instance, the prophets called attention to the law of Moses and considerably amplified the message of Moses. The New Testament does the same for the entire Old Testament.

The Testimony of Jesus

6. Who were some of the prophets whose writings were not included in the Old Testament Scriptures?

ANSWER: Nathan the prophet. 2 Chron. 9:29.
Gad the seer. 1 Chron. 29:29.
Iddo the prophet. 2 Chron. 13:22.
Jehu the prophet. 2 Chron. 20:34.

If God had divinely appointed prophets who gave messages to His people in olden days, whose messages were not in any way a part of the Holy Scriptures, might not God have such a prophet today?

7. What is the attitude of Mrs. White's writings to the Bible?

ANSWER: Exalt the Holy Scriptures.

"The *Testimonies* are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 606.

8. How do the writings of Ellen G. White stress the inspiration of the Bible?

ANSWER: "I recommend to you, dear reader, the word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that word we are to be judged. God has, in that word, promised to give visions in the 'LAST DAYS;' not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth."—*Early Writings,* page 78. (Written in 1851.)

NOTE.—"The *Testimonies* of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 674.

"The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed."—*Ibid.,* p. 665.

"The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles." —*Ibid.,* vol. 4, p. 323.

9. What can be named as another important point in this relationship?

ANSWER: They amplify the Scriptures.

NOTE.—Just as the writings of the prophets amplified and enlarged the truth taught by Moses; just as the New Testament opens up and enriches the teaching of the Old Testament, so the messages through the spirit of prophecy beautify, enlarge, and enrich our understanding of the divine oracles.

Mrs. S. M. I. Henry forcefully expressed this in the following lines:

"The manifestation of the power of the Spirit of God was as clear as sunlight; and in that light I saw the Testimony as simply a *lens* through which to look at the truth. It at once grew from a lens to a telescope,—a perfect, beautiful telescope, subject to all the telescopic conditions and limitations,—directed toward the field of the heavens,—that field, *the Bible.* Clouds may intervene between it and a heaven full of stars,—clouds of unbelief, of contention; Satan may blow tempests all about it; it may be blurred by the breath of our own selfishness; the dust of superstition may gather upon it; we may meddle with it, and turn it aside from the field; it may be pointed away toward empty space; it may be turned end for end, so that everything is so diminished that we can recognize nothing. We may change the focus so that everything is distorted out of all harmonious proportions, and made hideous; it may be so shortened that nothing but a great piece of opaque glass shall appear to our gaze. If the *lens* is mistaken for the *field,* we can receive but a very narrow conception of the most magnificent spectacle with which the heavens ever invited our gaze; but in its proper office as a medium of enlarged and clearer vision,—as a *telescope,*—the Testimony has a wonderfully beautiful and holy office.

"Everything depends upon our relation to it and the use which we make of it. In itself it is only a glass through which to look, but in the hand of the divine Director, properly mounted, set at a right angle, and adjusted to the eye of the observer, with a field clear of clouds, it will reveal *truth* such as will quicken the blood, gladden the heart, and open a wide door of expectation."—*Gospel of Health,* January, 1898, vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 27, 28.

10. What can be regarded as still another vital phase of this relationship?

ANSWER: The Testimonies simplify the word of God.

NOTE.—"Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the *Testimonies* simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 605.

11. How might this relationship be further expressed?

ANSWER: Mrs. White very beautifully stated her work in the following words:

"Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."—*Colporteur Evangelist,* page 37.

NOTE.—An important thing to remember

is that first of all we are to prove the prophetic gift. Then having settled in our hearts that it is of God, it in turn helps us better to understand the divine word. It is effectual in "the perfecting of the saints" and "the edifying of the body of Christ."

Illustration:

"Harmony makes small things grow; lack of it makes great things decay." The harmony between the Bible and the spirit of prophecy through Mrs. White have been the means of blessing and upbuilding this cause.

Lesson 9, for February 28, 1953

The Church's Relation to the Prophets

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

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 9.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3; memorize 1 Thess. 5:19-21.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7, 8; read study help assignment.
5. Questions 9-11.
6. Questions 12-14.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Tests of the Gift.

1. False prophets necessitate careful investigation. 1 John 4:1.
2. Miracles no proof of genuineness. Luke 7:28; John 10:41.
3. God, Christ, and the law of God are exalted by the true prophet. Deut. 13:1-4; 1 John 4:2, 3; Isa. 8:20.
4. God's prophets warn of danger. Acts 11:27-30.

II. The Purpose of the Gift.

1. To direct, unify, and edify the church. John 14:26; Eph. 4:12, 13.
2. To inspire the church to do God's work. Acts 10:9, 10; 16:9.

THE LESSON

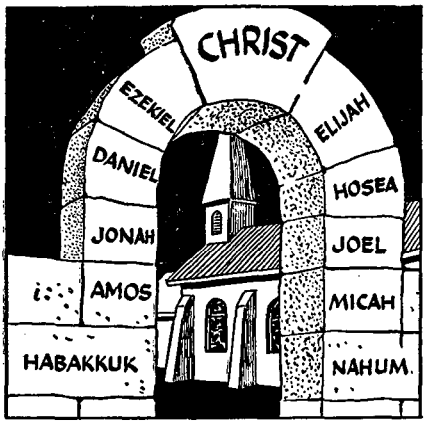
Tests of the Gift

1. What warning has been given to the church in the last days? Matt. 7:15; 24:11.

NOTE.—This warning given by the Saviour is applicable to His church until the end. The warning is not against "prophets," but against "false prophets." This would certainly indicate that there would be "true prophets" also.

2. What should be our attitude toward the counsels of the prophet sent from God? Jer. 7:25; 2 Chron. 20:20; Eph. 3:5.

3. What will be one vital feature in the teachings of the messengers of the Lord? Prov. 29:18; Dan. 9:10, 11; Rev. 12:17.



NOTE.—"Now, as then, . . . He sounds the note of warning, and reproves sin just as faithfully as in the days of Jeremiah."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 165.

To His remnant people God "has revealed His will, and of them He requires obedience."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 10.

General Tests

4. In harmony with the counsel of God, what attitude should the church take toward those professing to have the gift of prophecy? 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 John 4:1.

NOTE.—"We are to try the spirits by the tests which God has given us in His word." —*Early Writings,* pages 141, 142.

5. What indication is given in the Scriptures that the working of miracles is not in itself a sign of the true prophetic gift? Deut. 13:1-3; Matt. 24:24; Rev. 13:13, 14.

6. What example is given that proves a true prophet does not necessarily perform miracles? Luke 7:28; John 10:41.

Physical Tests

7. What are some of the physical characteristics of God's prophets when in vision, as recorded in the Scriptures?

ANSWER: Lose all natural strength. Dan. 10:8.
Receive supernatural strength. Dan 10:18.
Eyes are open in vision. Num. 24:16.
Do not breathe. Dan. 10:17.
God controls the tongue. 2 Sam. 23:2.
Unconscious of surroundings. 2 Cor. 12:2-4.

8. What physical manifestations in the experience of Ellen G. White when in vision correspond to those recorded in the Bible?

ANSWER: "The physical manifestations in many of her visions correspond to the experience of the prophets of old. We refer to the physical manifestations under which many of these visions were given, similar to the experience of Daniel and other prophets of the Old Testament.

"We do not, however, regard these physical manifestations as the principal convincing evidences of the divine call to Mrs. White. Rather, they constitute subsidiary or contributing evidences."—F. M. Wilcox, in *Review and Herald,* Jan. 19, 1950.

Spiritual Tests

9. Enumerate some of the characteristics of a true prophet.

ANSWER: Exalts the true God. Deut. 13:1-4.
Confesses Christ came "in the flesh." 1 John 4:2, 3.
Teaches in harmony with the law of God. Isa. 8:20.
Known by their fruits. Matt. 7:15-20.
Warns of dangers. Acts 11:27-30.
At times writes testimonies before time comes for delivery. 2 Chron. 21:12, margin.

NOTE.—"The great proof of her [Ellen G. White's] call to divine ministry was shown in the answer of her work to prophetic prediction; in the spirit which characterized her ministry throughout the years; in the correspondence of her teachings to those of the Bible; in the marked manner in which she was used of God to save His church in many crises; and by the fruit her ministry bore through all the years of her earthly life and which is still appearing as a result of her labors."—F. M. Wilcox, in *Review and Herald*, Jan. 19, 1950.

The Purpose

10. What might be considered as important features in the work of the Holy Spirit in the church?

ANSWER: To teach. John 14:26, first part.
To guide. John 16:13, first part.
To testify. John 15:26.
To remind. John 14:26, last part.
To reprove or convict. John 16:8.
To reveal. John 16:13.

11. What are the gifts to accomplish for the church of Christ?

ANSWER: To perfect the saints. Eph. 4:12, first part.
To preserve against false doctrine. Eph. 4:14.
To preserve the unity of the faith. Eph. 4:12, 13.
To ensure prosperity. 2 Chron. 20:20.

12. What outstanding examples may be cited of how God used the prophets to bring messages of counsel and warning to individuals? 2 Sam. 12:1-7; Acts 21:10, 11.

13. What were some experiences where the spirit of prophecy gave direction concerning the course of action to be followed?

ANSWER: In the choice of Saul. Acts 9:10.
In carrying the gospel to the Gentiles. Acts 10:19, 20.
In opening work in specific areas. Acts 16:9.

14. In the light of these considerations, to what counsel should we take heed? 1 Thess. 5:19-21.

Illustration:

A great American preacher used a simple illustration of God's guidance of His church.

A child is in a boat with his father, and wants to do the rowing. The father knows that the child's knowledge of the coast and currents and the art of rowing are inadequate. Yet he wants his child to row. He gives the boy the oars and himself takes the rudder. The boy's rowing is uneven, for he has not learned to hold in his stronger right arm and to exert fully his left. So the boat tends to be pulled around. But the strong hand of the father is on the rudder, and he keeps to the right course by rectifying the mistakes of his offspring.

Do you see how, through the ages, the true prophets of God have guided the church through her mistakes and wanderings to the haven of safety?

For Further Reading:

1. On the inspiration of a true prophet, S. N. Haskell, quoted in *Divine Predictions Fulfilled*, by F. C. Gilbert, page 29.
2. On Mrs. White's visions, *The Prophetic Gift*, by J. N. Loughborough, pages 40-43.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

March 28, 1953—Far Eastern Division

Lesson 10, for March 7, 1953

The Nature of the Church of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; . . . that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Eph. 5:25-27.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 10.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize Eph. 5:25-27.
3. Questions 3-5.
4. Questions 6-8.
5. Questions 9, 10; read study help assignment.
6. Questions 11-13.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Definition of the Church.
1. Believers who have heard God's call.
2. Local and general groups. 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 5:25.

II. The Scope of the Church.
1. Multitudes of the human family on earth in all ages.
2. Myriads of angels in heaven. Heb. 12:22; *Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 31.

III. The Foundation of the Church.
1. Christ is the foundation. 1 Cor. 3:11; *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, page 216.
2. The apostles and prophets shared in the building. Eph. 2:20.

IV. The Symbols of the Church.
1. An army with armor and a captain. 2 Tim. 2:3, 4; Heb. 2:10.
2. A flock with a shepherd. Luke 12:32; Ps. 23:1.
3. A temple of living stones. Eph. 2:21, 22; 1 Peter 2:5.
4. A vine. Isaiah 4:7.
5. The body of Christ. Rom. 12:4, 5.

V. The Order and Unity of the Church.
1. An orderly, harmonious organization. 1 Cor. 14:40; *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 26; *The Desire of Ages*, page 680.

VI. The Hope of the Church.
1. The blessed hope of Christ's return. Titus 2:11-13.

THE LESSON

The Definition

1. As the children of God, with what is it our privilege to be connected? 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47.

NOTE.—*a*. We are added *to* and are baptized *into* the church; hence each member becomes an integral part of the mystical body of Christ.

b. The Greek word *ekklesia*, rendered "church," means "called out." This word applies to any kind of assembly. See Acts 19:39, 41. To us, however, with its associated words, it means "the church of God" (Acts 20:28), "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16), "the church of the living God." (1 Tim. 3:15).

2. In what two senses can the word *church* be understood? Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 1:2.

NOTE.—The word church is used in a *local* as well as a *general* sense. In Matthew 16:

18; 18:17 reference is made to the church at large, irrespective of location; it means the church in all the world. In 1 Corinthians 1:2 and many other like scriptures, it refers to a specific local church, such as the one in Corinth, or in Paris, or in Washington. Further, it might mean a small as well as a large group of believers. Note the expression, "the church that is in their house." 1 Cor. 16:19.

The Scope

3. What use of the term "church" in the Scriptures shows that it is not limited in application to the Christian dispensation? Acts 7:38; Heb. 12:22, 23.

NOTE.—"The church of God below is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven . . . constitute one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God. In the inner court of heaven they listen to the testimony of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 366.

The Foundation

4. Who is the foundation of the church of God? 1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4.

NOTE.—God is spoken of as the Rock many times in the Old Testament. "He is the Rock," Deut. 32:4. He is "the Rock of Ages," Isa. 26:4, margin. Referring to the "angel of the Lord," the Father said, "My name is in Him" (Ex. 23:20, 21); so the Rock of the Old Testament is the Christ of the New Testament, "and that Rock was Christ."

"Christ, the word, the revelation of God, —the manifestation of His character, His law, His love, His life,—is the only foundation upon which we can build a character that will endure."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 213, 214.

5. How are we to understand the Saviour's expression, "upon this Rock I will build My church"? Matt. 16:18.

NOTE.—"Human power and human might did not establish the church of God, and neither can they destroy it. Not on the rock of human strength, but on Christ Jesus, the Rock of Ages, was the church founded, 'and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 595, 596.

"Jesus continued: 'I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' The word Peter signifies a stone, a rolling stone. Peter was not the rock upon which the church was founded."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 412, 413.

6. Who were associated with Christ in the building up of His church on earth? Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:14.

NOTE.—"Christ is represented as dwelling in His people. Believers are represented as 'built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 291, 292 (1948 ed., p. 291).

The Symbols

7. In connection with the figure of the temple, how are Christ and His people represented in its construction? 1 Peter 2:4-6.

NOTE.—"Christ crucified is the foundation laid by apostles and prophets in their preaching; Christ glorified is the crowning completion of the whole structure. We begin with Christ; we end in Christ. The temple starts with Christ, and as it rises tier by tier it is growing up to Christ. Christ, the Head of the body and the Chief Cornerstone of the church, is both the supreme authority and the perfect glory of His people."—*The Pulpit Commentary,* on Epistle to the Ephesians, page 103.

8. By what other symbols has the Lord illustrated the work of His church? 2 Tim. 2:3, 4; Heb. 2:10; John 10:14.

NOTE.—"The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 394.

"Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 725.

"As an earthly shepherd knows his sheep, so does the divine Shepherd know His flock that are scattered throughout the world. 'Ye My flock, the flock of My pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God.' "—*Gospel Workers,* page 181.

The Order

9. How has the Lord indicated that proper arrangements should characterize His church on earth? 1 Cor. 14:40.

NOTE.—"Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God's people on the earth."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 26.

"Christ designs that heaven's order, heaven's plan of government, heaven's divine harmony, shall be represented in His church on earth."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

10. What are some of the illustrations given in the Scriptures concerning order in the church?

ANSWER: In the plan for leaders of different rank. Ex. 18:21; Eph. 4:11.

In the plan for the encampment of Israel. Num. 10:1-6.

In the organization of the early church. 1 Cor. 12:28.

In the ordaining of ministers and officers. Titus 1:5; Acts 13:1.

The Unity

11. What is that divine principle which binds the members of the church together in true fellowship? Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:13; Heb. 13:1.

12. What is God's ultimate purpose for His church? Eph. 4:3-5, 12, 13.

The Hope

13. What is the blessed hope of the church of God? Titus 2:11-13.

NOTE.—"One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming, to complete the great work of redemption. To God's pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in 'the region and shadow of death,' a precious, joy-inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is 'the resurrection and the life,' to 'bring home again His banished.' The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures."—*The Great Controversy,* page 299.

"The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, 'the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ' was the 'blessed hope.' "—*Ibid.,* p. 302.

Illustration:

Samuel Smiles wrote the phrase which has been used in many a home and office, "A

place for everything, and everything in its place."

It has a great meaning for the church, applying to its physical arrangements, and particularly to its membership.

"Order governs the world. The devil is the author of confusion," said Dean Swift.

Are you in your place in the Advent Movement, keeping rank, marching forward for God?

For Further Reading:

1. God's regard for His church. *Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 165, 298 (1923 ed., pp. 168, 301); *Prophets and Kings,* page 590; *Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 42.
2. The church throughout the ages. *The Acts of the Apostles,* page 12.
3. The church on earth and in heaven. *Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 366; vol. 7, p. 31.
4. The final exaltation of the church. *The Desire of Ages,* page 26.

Lesson 11, for March 14, 1953

The Organization of the Church of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free." 1 Cor. 12:13.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 11.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4-6.
4. Questions 7, 8; memorize 1 Cor. 12:13.
5. Questions 9, 10; read study help assignment.
6. Questions 11, 12.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Its Consecrated Leadership.

1. Able, God-fearing, blameless men of truth. Ex. 18:21; 1 Tim. 3:1-4.
2. Unswervingly loyal to principle. *Education,* page 57.

II. Its Related Organizations.

1. The local churches. See 1 Peter 5:13; Rev. 3:7, et cetera.
2. The provincial churches. Titus 1:5; *The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 91, 92.

III. Its Distributed Responsibilities and Activities.

1. Deacons to attend to business of church. Acts 6:1-6.
2. Letters and visiting brethren to keep churches together. Acts 15:23-25; 2 Cor. 8:18, 19.

IV. Its Unified Action.

1. Co-operation in Israel and in church of Christ. Neh. 3:1, 2; 2 Cor. 6:1.
2. Sympathetic relations. Rom. 12:10.

V. Its Bond of Love.

1. The love of God for the individual is primary and basic. Eph. 2:4.
2. Christ's love for the church is supreme. Eph. 5:25.

THE LESSON

The Leadership

1. Under what type of leadership does the church of Christ succeed in its mission? Ex. 18:21, first part; Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:1-4, 6, 7.

NOTE.—"The greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle

to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education,* page 57.

2. What was the first step taken by Jesus in the organization of the early church? Mark 3:13, 14.

NOTE.—"It was at the ordination of the Twelve that the first step was taken in the organization of the church that after Christ's departure was to carry on His work on the earth. . . .

"Look upon the touching scene. Behold the Majesty of heaven surrounded by the Twelve whom He has chosen. He is about to set them apart for their work. By these feeble agencies, through His word and Spirit, He designs to place salvation within the reach of all.

"With gladness and rejoicing, God and the angels beheld this scene. The Father knew that from these men the light of heaven would shine forth; that the words spoken by them as they witnessed for His son, would echo from generation to generation till the close of time."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 18, 19.

3. How did the church appoint leaders to carry responsibility? Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:8.

NOTE.—"Officers were appointed in each church, and proper order and system was established for the conduct of all the affairs pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the believers."—*Ibid.,* p. 185.

Without organization no institution or organization can prosper. A nation without organized government would soon be in chaos. A business enterprise without organization would fail. So it would be with the church. Without organization it would disintegrate.

The Subsidiary Organizations

4. As the church extended its conquests, what developments became necessary in its organization? Ex. 18: 21, last part; Acts 15:23, 41.

NOTE.—In apostolic times the church was organized into groups known as the tens, the fifties, the hundreds, and the thousands, even as Israel had been in the days of Moses. As the work grew, it became necessary to have not only local churches, but groups of local churches. Note the expressions: "the churches of Judea," Gal. 1:22; "the churches of Macedonia," 2 Cor. 8:1; "the saints which are in all Achaia," 2 Cor. 1:1.

"The Lord in His wisdom has arranged that by means of the close relationship that should be maintained by all believers, Christian shall be united to Christian, and church to church. Thus the human instrumentality will be enabled to co-operate with the divine. Every agency will be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all the believers will be united in an organized and well-directed effort to give to the world the glad tidings of the grace of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 164.

5. What evidences do we have of the distribution of church responsibilities in the early days? Acts 6:1-3; Gal. 2:7.

6. How have the principles of both Old and New Testament organization been exemplified in the advent movement?

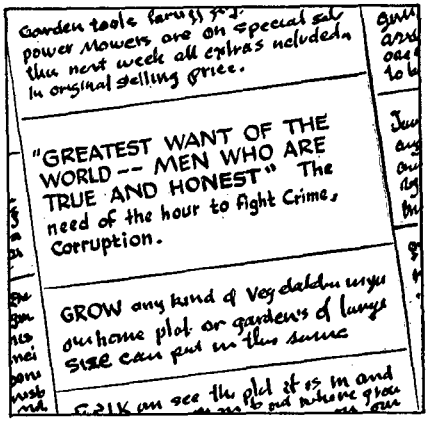
ANSWER: In Israel there were organizations of tens, each with its leader; of fifties with their leaders; of hundreds, each with its own director; then of the thousands over which were rulers or princes. These were responsible, the smaller to the larger, the leaders of tens to the leaders of fifties, the leaders of fifties to the leaders of hundreds, the hundreds to thousands, and the thousands to the leaders of the general body. Might we see a parallel to this in the Adventist Church, with the tens representing the churches, the fifties the conferences, the hundreds the unions, and the thousands the divisions, all being supervised by the General Conference?

"The division of the General Conference into District Union Conferences was God's arrangement."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, pp. 232, 233 (1948 ed., p. 232).

Business Activities

7. How was the business of the church, such as selection of officers and plans for the work, carried forward in the apostolic days? 2 Cor. 8:18, 19; Acts 14:23.

NOTE.—Observe the expression "chosen of the churches." In the other text we see Paul ordaining elders in the churches. Rotherham's and Weymouth's translations indicate how this was done, "appointing unto them by vote in each assembly [elders]." "They selected elders by show of hands."



"Tell it to the church, and let action be taken."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 617.

"Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 236.

"The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences; and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, pp. 236, 237.

8. What plan was followed concerning the delegation from local churches to larger councils of the church? Acts 15:1, 2, 6.

NOTE.—In this council there was a chairman; there were delegates, and an action was adopted to be sent to the churches. Verses 13, 19, 23. Voting was done in much the same manner as we vote today. The Greek word rendered "chosen" in 2 Corinthians 8:19 and "ordained" in Acts 14:23 means lifting up or stretching out the hand.

Concerning the council at Jerusalem we read:

"The entire body of Christians was not called to vote upon the question."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 196.

"The council which decided this case was composed of apostles and teachers who had been prominent in raising up the Jewish and Gentile Christian churches, with chosen delegates from various places."—*Ibid.*

Working Together

9. What experience in the Old Testament church illustrates how members may work together? Neh. 3:1, 2; 1 Chron. 12:33, 38.

NOTE.—In Nehemiah 3 observe the expressions "next unto him" and "after him" used nearly thirty times.

"Each man became a Nehemiah in his turn, and helped to make stronger the heart and hand of his neighbor."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 638.

10. How is this thought of unity in service emphasized in the apostolic church? 2 Cor. 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:9.

NOTE.—It is well to meditate on these and similar expressions: "being knit together in love" (Col. 2:2), "striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27), "workers together with Him" (2 Cor. 6:1), "helping together by prayer" (2 Cor. 1:11), "we are laborers together" (1 Cor. 3:9).

Sympathetic Relationships

11. What is to be the relationship of members toward one another in the church of Christ? Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 2:8.

NOTE.—The words "kindly affectioned" and "affectionately desirous" are the only instances in the New Testament of the use of these words in their original Greek form. But they show the deep love of the apostle for the believers; they indicate also the relationship which should obtain in the church today.

In all church relationships, in discussions, in plans, in service, one important guiding principle should be recognized. We are not independent of one another; we are part of the living church; each member must consider the result of his actions on other members of the church.

"We must consider the relation that each worker sustains to the other workers connected with the cause of God. . . . We must not bar the mind against counsel. In our plans for the carrying forward of the work, our mind must blend with other minds."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 500.

"They should defer their individual judgment to the judgment of the body of the church."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 18.

"All these [differences] may be avoided if self is surrendered to God and the followers of Jesus obey the voice of the church." —*Ibid.,* p. 19.

Christ's Love for His Church

12. How is the love of Christ for His church expressed? Jer. 31:3; Eph. 2:4.

NOTE.—"I testify to my brethren and sisters that the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 15.

13. To what extent did Christ love His church? Eph. 5:25.

NOTE:—"Christ is present in every assembly of the church. He is ecquainted with everyone connected with His service. He knows those whose hearts He can fill with the holy oil, that they may impart it to others. Those who faithfully carry forward the work of Christ in our world, representing in word and works the character of God, fulfilling the Lord's purpose for them, are in His sight very precious. Christ takes pleasure in them as a man takes pleasure in a well-kept garden and the fragrance of the flowers he has planted."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 419 (1948 ed., pp. 418, 419).

14. What is Christ's ultimate standard for His church? Eph. 5:27.

Illustration:

Billy Bray, the famous Cornish preacher, lived among the tin miners. He was preaching to a large group of them, and told the story of two mines, one very prosperous, the other very poor.

"Suppose I work at the poor one. The hours are long, the wages are poor," he is reported as saying. "On payday I go to the rich mine, but they remind me I do not work there, and I must go for wages where I find my work. 'Oh,' I say, 'I don't like the wages there; I like your wages better!' Will they pay me their wages if I don't do their work?"

Turning suddenly on his congregation, Billy Bray said, "You must serve Christ here if you want His reward by and by!"

Are you working together with your fellows in the church of Christ on earth?

For Further Reading:

1. On the need for unity today. *Testimonies,* vol. 9, pp. 257, 258; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 376; *The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

2. On democratic action in the church. *Testimonies,* vol. 8, pp. 236, 237; *The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 196, 197.

Lesson 12, for March 21, 1953

Leadership in the Church of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them." Ex. 18:21.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 12.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1-3.
3. Questions 4, 5; memorize Ex. 18:21.
4. Questions 6-8.
5. Questions 9, 10; read study help assignment.
6. Questions 11, 12.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Call to Leadership.

1. God calls men through the Holy Ghost. Acts 20:28.
2. First step in organization of church was ordination of twelve apostles, who were comparable to twelve patriarchs. *The Acts of the Apostles,* page 18; *The Desire of Ages,* p. 291.

II. The Requisites of Leadership.

1. Spiritual rectitude and fear of God. Ex. 18:21; 1 Cor. 13:1; *The Ministry of Healing,* page 37.
2. Loving directors. Rom. 12:8.

III. The Responsibilities of Leadership.

1. They must feed with truth, and lead unselfishly. 1 Peter 5:1, 2.
2. They must do all for the perfecting and edifying of the saints. Eph. 4:11, 12.

IV. The Relationships of Leaders.

1. True leaders are servants of all. Mark 10:42, 43; 1 Peter 5:3.
2. They will contend for principles, but not against individuals.

THE LESSON

The Call

1. What provision for leadership did God make in the apostolic church? 1 Cor. 12:28.

NOTE.—Besides apostles, et cetera, God provided for "governments." The Greek word used here means steering or directing, and is translated by Moffatt "administrators," and by Weymouth "powers of organization." It is evident that Paul directed the churches, 1 Cor. 7:17; 16:1; also that he directed the workers, 1 Cor. 4:17; Eph. 6: 21-23. The thought of direction is indicated also in the term "overseers," Acts 20:28; "chief men," Acts 15:22. The word rendered "chief" is in other places rendered "judge" and "governor."

2. What were some of the terms used to designate the leaders of the apostolic church? Eph. 4:11; Acts 20:28.

NOTE.—Various terms were used, as elders, deacons, overseers, chief men, pastors, teachers, evangelists, et cetera. The term "elder" was applied to two groups of men—those like Paul the apostle, and the group of local elders. The former were ordained by the church at large, and could serve the church in all the world. The latter were ordained

by action of and for the local church, which ordination qualified them to serve in that local sphere.

3. What principles enter into the choice of leaders in the church of Christ? Acts 6:3-6.

NOTE.—Leaders in the church were not appointed by those holding higher office in the church; neither were they alone appointed by the church members. The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes that both ministry and laity should share in the responsibility of electing leaders. This is Biblical, as will be seen:

a. In the choice of the seven. Peter said to the church, "Look ye out." Following this, "they chose" and later the apostles appointed. Acts 6:3, 5, 6.

b. In the ordination of local elders. Referring again to Acts 14:23, we see that Paul counseled with the church; and the church, in selecting the elders, voted concerning them by the uplifted hand.

Sometimes God calls the individual directly, as He did in the case of Paul; even then the individual so called is brought into touch with the church. Acts 9:4, 6, 17. Later, the church says Amen to this call of God: this was seen in the decision to ordain. Acts 13:1-3.

The Requisites

4. What spiritual qualifications does the Lord require of leaders in His work? Ex. 18:21; Acts 6:3.

NOTE.—These scriptures should be prayerfully pondered by every leader in the church. On the expression "hating covetousness," the Menge translation of the German Bible reads, "Men who cannot be bought or sold with bribes."

5. What kind of men does the Lord desire His leaders to be?

ANSWER: Men of courage. Acts 15:25, 26.
Men of conviction. 1 Chron. 12:32.
Men who work with steady purpose. 2 Cor. 8:10, 11.
Men who speak well of their fellow laborers as did Paul. 1 Cor. 16:10, 11.
Men of just judgment. Deut. 16:18-20.

This is God's counsel to those who sit on committees, men who have to make decisions.

NOTE.—Josiah G. Holland has well said:

"God give us men. A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands!
Men whom the lust of office does not kill,
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,
Men who possess opinions and a will,
Men who have honor, men who will not lie."

6. How are leaders warned against independence in judgment? Prov. 24:6. Compare 1 Chron. 13:1.

NOTE.—"We must move discreetly, sensibly, in harmony with the judgment of God-fearing counselors; for in this course alone lies our safety and strength."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 257.

The Responsibilities

7. What responsibilities rest upon those who are called to leadership? 1 Peter 5:2, 3; Rom. 12:8.

NOTE.—In the one text Peter speaks of "taking the oversight;" in the other Paul speaks of him "that ruleth." Ruling in the church is different from what it is in the world. The true leader does not stay behind and push, but, like the faithful shepherd, he will go before and guide the sheep. He will not urge the church to do anything he is not willing to do himself; he will take the initiative and show the way. The true leader in the church will also "feed the flock of God."

8. What should be the ultimate objective of church leadership? Eph. 4:11, 12.

NOTE.—The idea in these texts is that the objective of the gifts of leadership is the perfecting of God's people. Such was Paul's goal. Col. 1:28. This will be accomplished quite largely by leading believers into fruitful avenues of missionary endeavor. Rotherham in his translation of Ephesians 4:12 gives, "with a view to the fitting of the saints for the work of ministering," and Weymouth's translation is, "in order fully to equip His people for the work of serving." This is the solemn responsibility of leadership.

"There should be a well-organized plan for the employment of workers to go into all our churches, large and small, to instruct the members how to labor for the upbuilding of the church and also for unbelievers. It is training, education, that is needed."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 117.

"The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, pp. 116, 117.

9. What will be the final test of successful leadership? 1 Cor. 3:13, 14.

NOTE.—It is important that genuine, solid work be done, care being taken to see that the work does not ravel out.

The Relationships

10. What counsel does the Lord give concerning the relation of church members to the leaders of the church? 1 Thess. 5:13; Heb. 13:7, 17.

NOTE.—"There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power, which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising; for he who does this despises the voice of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 163, 164.

11. What instruction does God give as to the relation the leaders sustain to the members of the church? Mark 10:42-44; 1 Peter 5:3.

NOTE.—The apostle states that "we showed ourselves gentle when among you as a nursing mother cherishing her own children." 1 Thess. 2:7, Weymouth.

12. What example did Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, leave to His undershepherds? Matt. 14:14; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13; Matt. 9:36.

NOTE.—Christ the Lord in His contacts with the people was deeply touched with their spiritual and physical needs. Notice that He "was moved with compassion toward them"—in a time of hunger, in a time of sickness, in a time of death, and in a time of spiritual need.

"He left His heavenly home to seek for us. Shall we not become His undershepherds, to seek for the lost and straying? Shall we not reveal in our lives His divine tenderness and compassion?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 54.

Illustration:

Phocion, the Athenian general and statesman, was advancing to defend the coasts ravaged by Nucion. Many of his Athenian followers, however, were impertinent and offered him gratuitous and dictatorial advice.

"Well, well!" he exclaimed, "how many generals we have, and how few soldiers!"

Are you a good soldier, or are you a would-be "general"?

For Further Reading:

1. Leadership is not dependent on wealth or learning, but on humility and spirituality. *The Ministry of Healing*, page 37.

2. Leadership is not love of office, but a call from God. Eph. 4:11.

3. We should move discreetly, in harmony with God-fearing leaders. *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 257.

Lesson 13, for March 28, 1953

The Objectives of the Church of Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Go ye therefore, and make disciples (or, Christians) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matt. 28:19, margin.

STUDY HELP: "The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and the Church," chapter 13.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Questions 1, 2; memorize Matt. 28:19.
3. Questions 3, 4; read study help assignment.
4. Questions 5-7.
5. Questions 8-11.
6. Questions 12, 13.
7. Review the entire lesson.

Lesson Outline:

I. Work for the World.
In preaching the gospel, in exalting Christ, in winning souls for God.

II. Comfort for the Church.
In worship, in fellowship, in unity.

III. Service Through the Church.
In missionary effort, in financial responsibility, in concerted action.

Key Thoughts:

1. "Go ye." The great imperative of the gospel is to go to others with it.

2. "Preach the gospel." Preaching includes every form of missionary endeavor.

3. "Teaching all nations." Making clear by precept and example the joys of the Christian way of life.

4. "Baptizing them." The goal of all Christian endeavor.

5. "All power is given unto Me." The reason why the church is to go to all the world and win souls for Christ.

6. "In the name . . ." The New Testament church was on fire with the blessed name of Jesus.

THE LESSON

Christ and His Church

1. How does Jesus regard His church on earth? Eph. 5:25, 29.

NOTE.—"God has a people in which all heaven is interested, and they are the one object on earth dear to the heart of God." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 41.

2. How intimate is our relationship with Jesus through the church? Eph. 5:30, 32.

NOTE.—"It [the church] is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 12.

3. What is the plan of God for carrying the gospel message to all the world? Mark 16:15.

NOTE.—This is by preaching, 1 Cor. 1:21; by publishing, Isa. 52:7; by witnessing, Acts 26:22. This calls for announcing or telling the gospel both publicly and privately, and not only so, but *living* as well as *preaching* the truth. Rom. 2:21; 1 Cor. 9:27.

4. Who is to be the center of all our preaching? 1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2.

NOTE.—Our preaching is to be Christ-centered; every truth radiates from Him. In our witness for God, Christ is to be "magnified," Phil. 1:20; He is to be glorified, 1 Cor. 6:20; He is to be "all, and in all," Col. 3:11. We are to preach:

"Christ crucified, Christ risen, Christ ascended into the heavens, Christ coming again. . . .

"Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people, lift Him up in sermon, in song, in prayer. Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to 'the Lamb of God.' "—*Gospel Workers,* pages 159, 160.

5. What is the supreme objective in all the efforts of the church of God? Matt. 28:19.

NOTE.—God's purpose is that we "seek and . . . save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), and that we seek to "catch men" (Luke 5:10). "He that winneth souls is wise." Prov. 11:30. Notice the encouraging promise to soul winners. "They that turn many to righteousness [shall shine] as the stars." Dan. 12:3.

"Our greatest burden should be . . . the salvation of souls."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 85.

"The conversion of souls to God is the greatest, the noblest work in which human beings can have a part."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 52.

Comfort for the Church

6. What symbol illustrates the relationships which should obtain in His church? Gal. 6:10; 2 Cor. 6:18.

7. What is one way in which the joy and happiness of church relationship is expressed? Col. 3:16; Ps. 133: 1; John 17:21.

NOTE.—The church is the place where God's children learn to live together in Christian fellowship; it is the grand rehearsal for living together in heaven. The constant grinding and subsequent smoothing of the pebbles on the beach, illustrate quite aptly the experiences which come to us in our contacts in church life.

"Unity existing among the followers of Christ is an evidence that the Father has sent His Son to save sinners. It is a witness to His power; for nothing short of the miraculous power of God can bring human beings with their different temperaments together in harmonious action, their one aim being to speak the truth in love."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 194.

8. What word expresses God's plan that His people enjoy the communion of saints? 1 John 1:3, 7.

NOTE.—"The word 'fellowship' means participation, partnership."—*Gospel Workers,* page 392.

"When consecrated believers assemble, . . . charity, or love, the bond of perfectness, will encircle them. Love to God and their fellow men flows out naturally in words of

affection, sympathy, and esteem for their brethren."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 509.

Service Through the Church

9. What is embraced in the Saviour's commission to the church? Matt. 28:19, 20.

NOTE.—We are to *baptize* disciples, we are to *teach* disciples; we are not only to *seek for them,* but we are to seek to *keep them* in the church. The one is important, so also is the other.

10. What progressive work is essential in Christian growth? Heb. 6:1, 2; 2 Peter 3:18.

11. To how many does the Saviour's commission to preach and teach the gospel message apply? Mark 13:34.

NOTE.—Observe the expression, "and to every man his work." The members of the early church were eager to witness for God. "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:4.

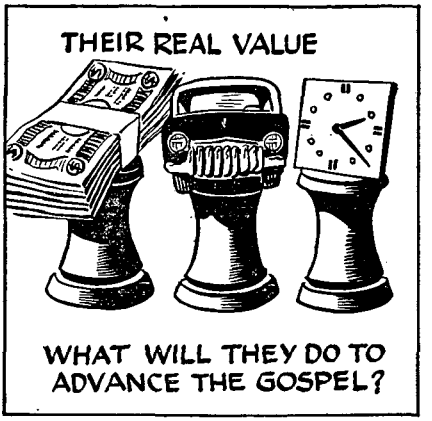
"The commission that Christ gave to His disciples just before His ascension is the great missionary charter of His kingdom."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 14.

"Christ gave this commission to His disciples as His chief ministers, the architects who were to lay the foundation of His church."—*Ibid.*

"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 822.

12. What passages in the Holy Scriptures illustrate the work of winning men and women to God? Luke 5:9, 10; Jer. 16:16; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15.

NOTE.—"In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as



watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. . . . There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 19.

13. In addition to that of working individually for souls, what other responsibility has the Lord laid upon His children? Mal. 3:8, 10.

NOTE.—"Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence,—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 71.

14. What is it our privilege to receive, as we enter wholeheartedly into the service of God? Acts 1:8; Lev. 8:24.

NOTE.—As we consecrate, God sanctifies. The illustration in Leviticus 8 fittingly represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit for

service. The ear, the hand, and the foot were anointed; the ear, to signify that we hear God's voice; the foot, that we walk with Him; the hand, that we now work with Him. What a blessed privilege!

"As the divine endowment—the power of the Holy Spirit—was given to the disciples, so it will today be given to all who seek aright. . . . In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself, making Himself a fountain of divine influences, to give health and life to the world."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 273.

Illustrations:

1. Emerson, in speaking on the ethics of human service, said, "Serve and thou shalt be served. If you love and serve men, you cannot, by any hiding or stratagem, escape the remuneration."

Christ has provided all the power we need for service, and if we willingly use His power in the finishing of His work, we know He will come with His unfailing reward. "To every man his work;" and, if it is unselfishly done, it is equally true to say, "To every man his reward."

2. A good pastor once said, "It is a rule of mine never to do anything myself which I can get someone else to do." He had the right idea. He had a church to induce into Christian activity. If he did all the work, they would lose their chance, and thereby they would be damaged. He saw that the work was done; but he let the people have the benefit and blessing of doing it.

For Further Reading:

"Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity.

"The church is God's agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellancy of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 600.

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THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

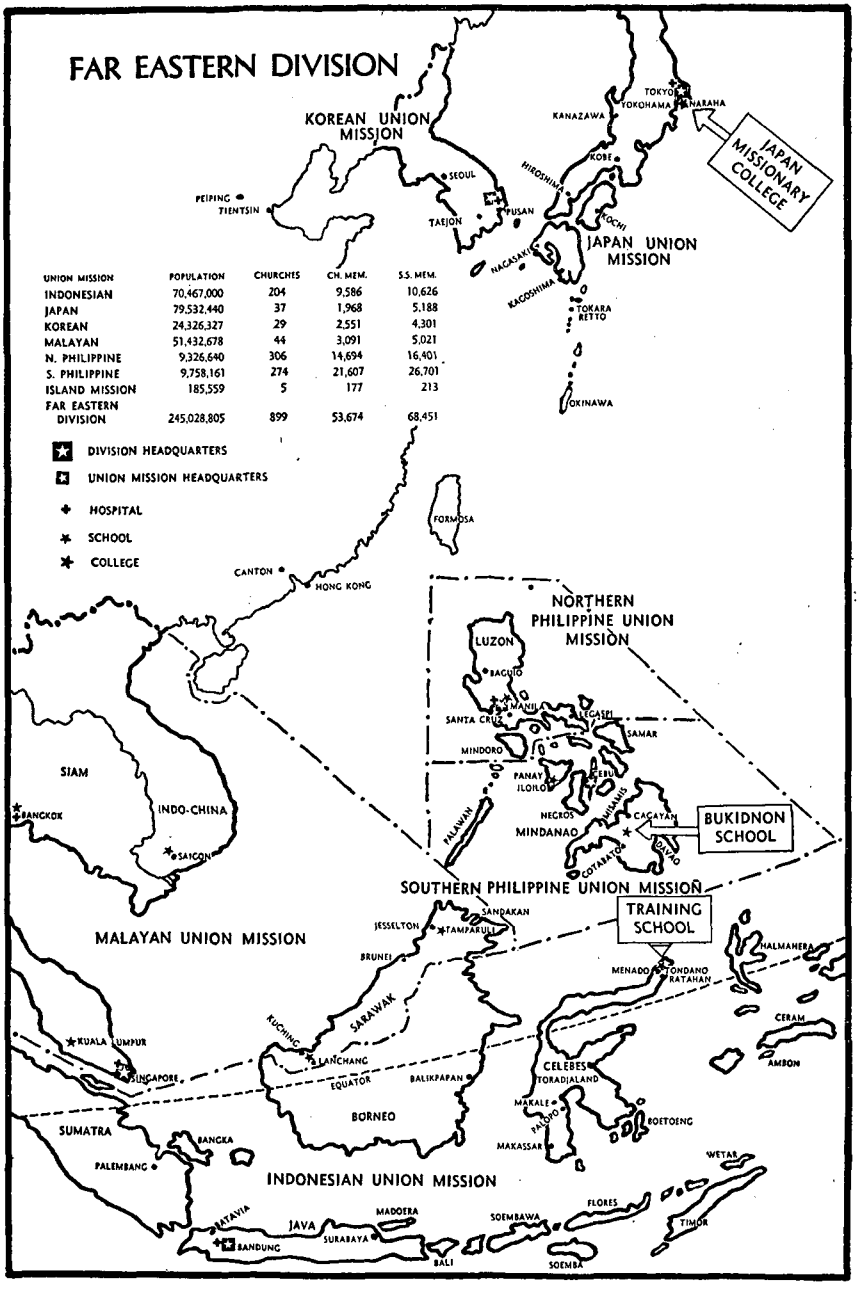
March 28, 1953—Far Eastern Division

The overflow from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 28 will go to the Far Eastern Division to help in providing essential buildings and equipment in three major educational institutions:

1. Japan Missionary College, near Tokyo. This is our only secondary or collegiate school in Japan, and it is badly handicapped by a lack of essential buildings and equipment.

2. The North Celebes Training School in the Indonesia Union. This school has several incomplete buildings which must be finished before it can function efficiently.

3. The new junior college now being started on the island of Mindanao. This college will meet an urgent need for educational facilities in the newly organized South Philippine Union Mission.



UNION MISSION	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEM.	S.S. MEM.
INDONESIAN	70,467,000	204	9,586	10,626
JAPAN	79,532,440	37	1,968	5,188
KOREAN	24,326,327	29	2,551	4,301
MALAYAN	51,432,678	44	3,091	5,021
N. PHILIPPINE	9,326,640	306	14,694	16,401
S. PHILIPPINE	9,758,161	274	21,607	26,701
ISLAND MISSION	185,559	5	177	213
FAR EASTERN DIVISION	245,028,805	899	53,674	68,451

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

UNION MISSION HEADQUARTERS

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LESSONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1953

Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the second quarter of 1953 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. They will thus be able to follow the daily study of the lesson.

The general topic of the lesson is "Lessons From the Lives of the Patriarchs." The memory verse is Genesis 1:26. Lesson 1 for April 4 is entitled, "The Father of Our Race." The Study Help is *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 44-62. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Gen. 2:7; Luke 3:38.
Ques. 2. Gen. 1:27.
Ques. 3. Gen. 2:8, 9.
Ques. 4. Gen. 2:21-24.
Ques. 5. Gen. 2:15.
Ques. 6. Gen. 1:29; 2:16.
Ques. 7. Gen. 2:2, 3; Ps. 111:4.
Ques. 8. Gen. 2:17 (margin).
Ques. 9. Gen. 3:1-7.
Ques. 10. Gen. 3:8-13.
Ques. 11. Gen. 3:14.
Ques. 12. Gen. 3:15.
Ques. 13. Gen. 3:17-19.
Ques. 14. Gen. 3:22-24; 4:1, 2; 5:3-5.
Ques. 15. Rom. 5:12; Luke 4:6.
Ques. 16. 1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Luke 19:10.
Ques. 17. Rom. 5:19; 6:23, Micah 4:8.