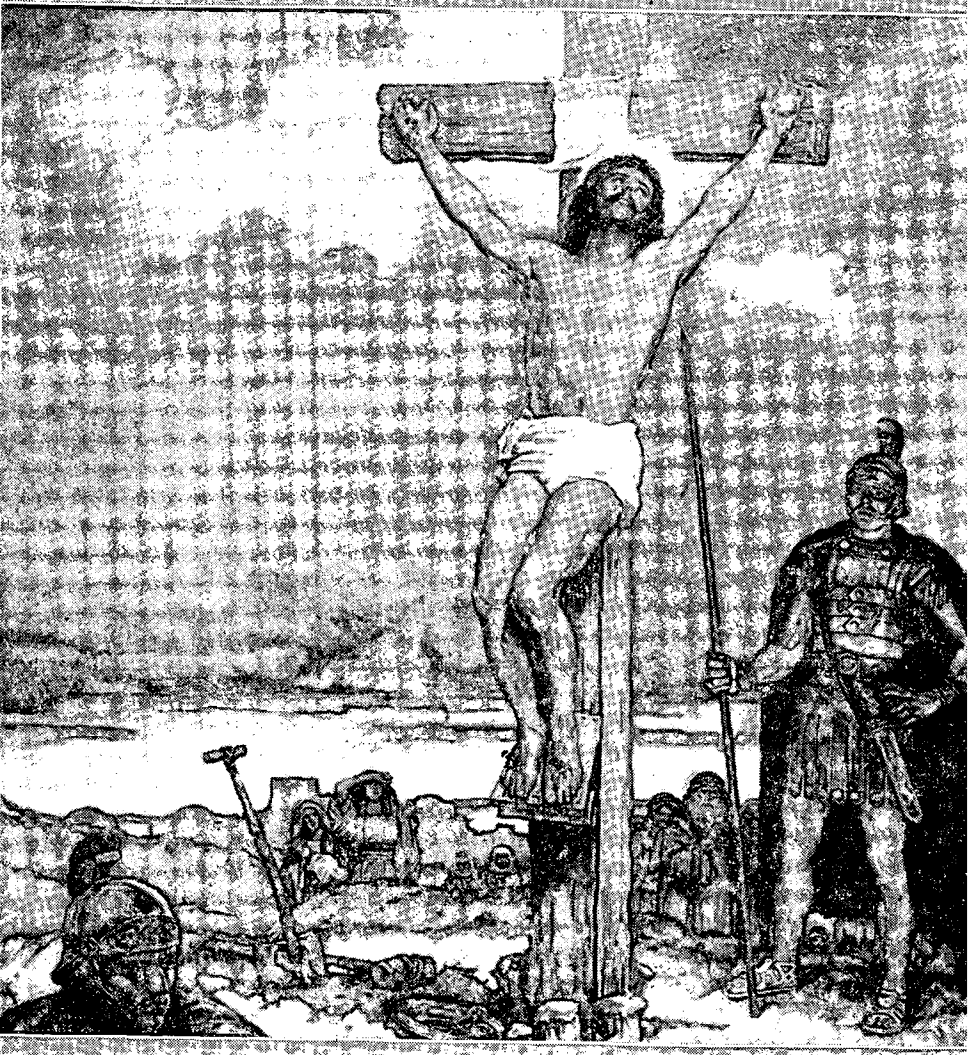
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY



TRIUMPHANT IN SUFFERING

SENIOR DIVISION. No. 238. FOURTH QUARTER. 1954

INDIVIDUAL SABBATH-SCHOOL OFFERING GOAL

"As God hath prospered him."

MY WEEKLY GOAL (Check Amount)

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

DAILY LESSON STUDY PLEDGE

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

Name _____

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

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

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

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

TRIUMPHANT IN SUFFERING

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

"It is harder for me to overcome sorrow and pain than to get the victory over doubt and sin," said an honest Christian. In these days of insecurity, trial, and sorrow, when so many people are acutely aware of suffering, we long to know God's answer to our question, "Why?"

It is not easy for the strongest Christian to endure pain, loss of the dearest loved one on earth, or to suffer humiliation and defeat. Sometimes one may grow rebellious and begin to doubt God's leading in his life, saying, "God does not care what happens to me." But even when the shadows are darkest, his loving heavenly Father is by his side.

Why do the good have to suffer? Why did God test the patriarchs, such as Abraham, Jacob, Job, and Moses? How may I help my neighbor who in his hour of sorrow is rebelling against God? How may I prepare to stand in the time of "Jacob's trouble" which shall come upon the remnant church? These are questions we need to have answered. It is the purpose of these lessons to find the Bible answer for many of the perplexing queries that retard our spiritual growth.

To every individual, suffering must come. Whether it makes him bitter and rebellious or produces deeper consecration and more spiritual wisdom, depends upon his attitude in times of test. There is nothing more wonderful than to see a sincere child of God who, burdened by sorrow and almost crushed by trials, still prays on, trusts on, and knows that his Redeemer lives. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith." 1 John 5:4, R.S.V.

The trusting child knows that his Father will not allow him to suffer more than he can endure. He knows that after the trial will come the glorious triumph. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Cor. 4:17.

Lesson 1, for October 2, 1954

The Origin of Sin and Suffering

MEMORY VERSE: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isa. 43:2.

STUDY HELP: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 33-43, 67-70.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thoughts; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: The Origin of Sin and Suffering

II. God's Perfect Plan

1. God's perfect way. Ps. 18:30.
2. God's perfect creation. Gen. 1:31.

III. Lucifer Mars God's Plan

1. The origin of sin. 1 John 3:8.
2. Lucifer's original nature. Ezek. 28:15.
3. Evil traits in Lucifer. Isa. 14:13, 14.

IV. Sin Enters the World

1. The original nature of man. Gen. 1:27.
2. The basis of human happiness. Gen. 2:16, 17.
3. The result of disobedience. Gen. 3:16, 17.
4. The wages of sin. Rom. 5:12.
5. The suffering of a sinful world. Rom. 8:22, 23.

V. God and Human Suffering

1. The cause of suffering and death. Rom. 6:23.
2. The spirit in which God chastens. Deut. 8:5.
3. Compassion in affliction. Lam. 3:31-33.
4. The promise of comfort and help. Isa. 43:2.

Key Thoughts:

1. The Power of Choice. "From the moment He [God] bestowed on man the power of choice He had to permit man to make those wrong choices which resulted in pain and evil for the human race. So pain and evil are here not because of any inherent limitation in God's sovereignty or defect in His goodness, but because of man's willful and disastrous wrong choices." —James W. Wilson, "The Conquest of Pain," *Religion in Life*, vol. 19, No. 2, p. 166.

2. The Inheritance of Suffering. "I need not rack my soul with the torturing thought that my illness and pain are my fault. . . . We must beware lest by our own folly or sin, we leave a legacy of pain to those who follow later. God cannot prevent the suffering of the innocent without altering the whole basis of human life and rearranging it on a plan which would be far less good than the present one."—Leslie D. Weatherhead, *The Mystery of Pain* (quoted in *Religion in Life*, vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 169, 170).

THE LESSON

Introduction: The Origin of Sin and Suffering

Since God is love, and the foundation of His government is a law of love, why are sorrow, pain, and tragedy the common lot of humanity: In every age man has attempted to find the answer to the "mystery of suffering." The question is thrust upon us with terrible urgency in these tension-filled days when death comes suddenly and terrors strike without warning.

It is impossible to understand the universal problem of sorrow and suffering without a knowledge of His word and faith in His divine plan. The Bible story of how Adam and Eve disobeyed their Maker and brought the dominion of sin into the world is the only explanation of suffering and death.

It is sin that brings all the suffering, the tears, the agony of death. As long as we live in a world under the curse, everyone —good and bad—will feel the results of sin. God may permit trial and suffering to test His children, as He did Job; but it is Satan who thrusts the evil and tragedy upon man. Living in a world blighted by sin, we can by faith see a loving God who knows the meaning of suffering. We can know "the comfort of God," and this comfort will be our strength when we pass through "the valley of the shadow."

God's Perfect Plan

1. What is one of the attributes of God? Ps. 18:30.

2. As the earth came from the hands of the Creator, what was its condition? Gen. 1:31.

NOTE.—"The creation was now complete. . . . No taint of sin, or shadow of death, marred the fair creation."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 47.

Lucifer Mars God's Plan

3. In whom did sin originate? 1 John 3:8.

NOTE.—"Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 21.

4. What was the nature of Lucifer as God created him? Ezek. 28:15.

NOTE.—The historical characters "the king of Tyrus" (Ezek. 28:12) and "the king of Babylon" (Isa. 14:4) are used to present the nature of Satan. In some English translations "Lucifer" is used in Isaiah 14:12; in other versions, "morning star," "light bearer," or "shining star of the dawn." In *Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 35, Isaiah 14:1-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-15 are applied to Lucifer or Satan.

5. What evil traits later appeared in Lucifer's character? Isa. 14:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. . . . Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 35.

Sin Enters the World

6. In whose image did God create man? Gen. 1:26, 27.

NOTE.—"Man was to bear God's image, both in outward resemblance and in character. . . . His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God, and in perfect obedience to His will."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 45.

7. Upon what was man's happiness and his enjoyment of a perfect world based? Gen. 2:16, 17.

NOTE.—"They could obey and live, or disobey and perish. God had made them the recipients of rich blessings; but should they disregard His will, He who spared not the angels that sinned, could not spare them; transgression would forfeit His gifts, and bring upon them misery and ruin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 53.

8. When man disobeyed his Creator, what came to the world? Gen. 3:16, 17.

NOTE.—"Instead of the happy labor heretofore appointed them, anxiety and toil were to be their lot. They would be subject to disappointment, grief, and pain, and finally to death."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 59.

9. In addition to sorrow and suffering, what terrible fate befell man as the result of sin? Rom. 5:12.

10. How did Paul describe the suffering of a sinful world? Rom. 8: 22, 23.

God and Human Suffering

11. What is the cause of suffering and death to the human race? Rom. 6:23.

NOTES.—"Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 113.

"Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts. The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, leading men to look upon God as the author of sin, and suffering, and death."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24.

12. In what spirit does God chasten His children? Deut. 8:5.

13. What is mixed with God's justice in meting out grief and affliction? Lam. 3:31-33.

14. In time of trial and sorrow, what precious promise may the child of God claim? Isa. 43:2.

Suggestion for Meditation

"Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their characters better than they themselves know them. He sees that some have powers and susceptibilities which, rightly directed, might be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances that they may discover in their character the defects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects, and to fit themselves for His service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to assail them that they may be purified."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 471.

Lesson 2, for October 9, 1954

Men Who Endured Suffering

MEMORY VERSE: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Rom. 8:18.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 148-155; "The Great Controversy," pages 616-621.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thoughts; Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Ques. 7-10.
5. Ques. 11-13.
6. Read Study Helps.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: Examples of Faith and Patience

II. Abraham Endured Trials

1. Sustained by faith. Heb. 11:17-19.
2. Abraham's character. Gen. 22:12.

III. Jacob Faced Sorrow and Death

1. The patriarch faced Esau. Gen. 32:7.
2. Triumphant in time of crisis. Gen. 32:24-28.
3. The time of "Jacob's trouble." Jer. 30:7.

IV. How Moses Was Sustained in Trial

1. Faith in the eternal reward. Heb. 11:24-27.
2. When faith weakened. Num. 20:7-11.
3. The sin of unbelief. Num. 20:12.
4. The final testimony of Moses. Deut. 33:27.

V. Paul's Suffering and Triumph

1. Paul and Silas in prison. Acts 16:22-25.
2. Rejoicing in infirmities. 2 Cor. 11:23-28; 12:10.
3. Triumphant in persecution. Rom. 8:37.
4. The ultimate good from suffering. Rom. 5:3-5.

Key Thoughts:

1. Abraham's Testing. "There came a moment in the life of Abraham, as there may come to every man, when it must be discovered whether he is willing to pay the utmost price for what his conscience tells him ought to be compelling. The faith of the Bible is that God will so enter into and identify Himself with human suffering that it will become redeeming."—Walter R. Bowie, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 1, p. 645.

2. Jacob's Endurance. "When a man is forced to wrestle with moral reality and its consequences, he may try to get rid of them as quickly as he can. But Jacob's quality was otherwise. Caught in the grip of judgment, his prevailing desire was not for escape. He would hold on until something decisive happened. In punishment, as in prosperity, he would not let the experience go until he had wrung a blessing from it."—Walter R. Bowie, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 1, p. 724.

3. The Sin of Moses. "The position of honor that Moses had heretofore occupied did not lessen his guilt, but greatly magnified it. Here was a man hitherto blameless, now fallen. Many in a similar position would reason that their sin would be overlooked because of their long life of unwavering fidelity. But no; it was a more serious matter for a man who has been honored of God to show weakness of character in the exhibition of passion than if he had occupied a less responsible position."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 370.

4. Paul's Need and God's Grace. "In Paul's case God's answer was the assurance that His grace was sufficient for all his need. . . . There are divine compensations for every handicap in life. There are spiritual resources that can enable a man to triumph over his defect, and even to win something out of it which was not possible before."—James Reid, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 409.

THE LESSON

Introduction: Examples of Faith and Patience

Following the admonition of the apostle James in the fifth chapter and tenth verse of his epistle to "Take . . . the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience," we shall study in this lesson the experiences of some of the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles as examples of suffering and patience.

"These examples of human steadfastness, in the might of divine power, are a witness to the world of the faithfulness of God's promises—of His abiding presence and sustaining grace. As the world looks upon these humble men, it cannot discern their moral value with God. It is a work of faith to calmly repose in God in the darkest hour—however severely tried and tempest-tossed, to feel that our Father is at the helm."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 525.

Abraham Endured Trials

1. What sustained Abraham when he was faced with the greatest test of his life? Heb. 11:17-19.

NOTE.—"Abraham obeyed God. He did not consult his feelings, but with a noble faith and confidence in God he prepared for his journey. With a heart rent with anguish he beheld the proud and loving mother gazing with fond affection upon the son of promise. But he led that loved son away. Abraham suffered, yet he did not let his will rise in rebellion against the will of God. Duty, stern duty, controlled him. He dared not consult his feelings or yield to them for one moment."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 454.

2. In this time of great trial and suffering what was revealed concerning Abraham's character? Gen. 22:12.

NOTE.—"The trial was far more severe than that which had been brought upon Adam. Compliance with the prohibition laid upon our first parents involved no suffering; but the command to Abraham demanded the most agonizing sacrifice. All heaven beheld with wonder and admiration Abraham's unfaltering obedience. All heaven applauded his fidelity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 155.

Jacob Faced Sorrow and Death

3. What was Jacob's reaction when he knew he must meet his vengeful brother? Gen. 32:7.

4. In the hour of crisis what experience changed the current of Jacob's life? Gen. 32:24-28.

NOTE.—"While he was thus battling for his life, the sense of his guilt pressed upon his soul; his sins rose up before him, to shut him out from God. But in his terrible extremity he remembered God's promises, and his whole heart went out in entreaty for His mercy."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 197.

"When tribulation comes upon us, how many of us are like Jacob! We think it the hand of an enemy; and in the darkness we wrestle blindly until our strength is spent, and we find no comfort or deliverance. To Jacob the divine touch at break of day revealed the One with whom he had been contending,—the Angel of the covenant; and, weeping and helpless, he fell upon the breast of Infinite Love, to receive the blessing for which his soul longed. We also need to learn that trials mean benefit, and not to despise the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when we are rebuked of Him."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 25.

5. Of what is Jacob's trial a symbol to the church of God? Jer. 30:7.

NOTE.—"Jacob's trouble" is the term used to describe the testing and trial of

God's people in the final crisis. (See *The Great Controversy,* page 616.)

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is!"—*The Great Controversy,* page 621.

How Moses Was Sustained in Trial

6. At the time when Moses decided to "suffer affliction with the people of God," what assurance upheld and sustained him? Heb. 11:24-27.

NOTE.—"Moses had been instructed in regard to the final reward to be given to the humble and obedient servants of God, and worldly gain sank to its proper insignificance in comparison. . . . He looked beyond the gorgeous palace, beyond a monarch's crown, to the high honors that will be bestowed on the saints of the Most High in a kingdom untainted by sin. He saw by faith an imperishable crown that the King of heaven would place on the brow of the overcomer. This faith led him to turn away from the lordly ones of earth, and join the humble, poor, despised nation that had chosen to obey God rather than to serve sin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 246.

7. In an hour of test how did Moses once show his lack of faith? Num. 20:7-11.

8. What was the sin of Moses on this occasion? Num. 20:12.

NOTE.—"Moses and Aaron had assumed power that belongs only to God. . . . Wearied with the continual murmuring and rebellion of the people, Moses had lost sight of his Almighty Helper, and without the divine strength he had been left to mar his record by an exhibition of human weakness. The man who might have stood pure, firm, and unselfish to the close of his work, had been overcome at last."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 418.

9. Notwithstanding disappointment, what was the final testimony of Moses? Deut. 33:27, first part.

NOTE.—"As Moses reviewed the result of his labors, his life of trial and sacrifice seemed to have been almost in vain. Yet he did not regret the burdens he had borne. He knew that his mission and work were of God's own appointing."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 472.

Paul's Suffering and Triumph

10. When enduring physical suffering for the sake of the gospel, what spirit did Paul and Silas manifest? Acts 16:22-25.

THE MOST DIFFICULT SONG IS THE ONE ACCOMPANIED BY SUFFERING.

NOTE.—"Paul and Silas suffered the loss of all things. They suffered scourging, and were in no gentle manner thrown upon the cold floor of a dungeon in a most painful position, their feet elevated and fastened in the stocks. Did repinings and complaints then reach the ear of the jailer? Oh, no! From the inner prison, voices broke the silence of midnight with songs of joy and praise to God. These disciples were cheered by a deep and earnest love for the cause of their Redeemer, for which they suffered." —*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 406.

11. How did Paul accept physical suffering and hardships? 2 Cor. 11:23-28; 12:10.

NOTE.—"Paul reminded his brethren that as Christ's messengers, he and his fellow laborers were continually in peril. The hardships they endured were wearing away their strength. 'We which live,' he wrote, 'are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.' Suffering physically through privation and toil, these ministers of Christ were conforming to His death."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 331.

12. After listing the sorrows and persecutions that come, what was Paul's testimony of victory? Rom. 8:37.

NOTE.—"Paul carried with him the atmosphere of heaven. All who associated with him felt the influence of his union with Christ. The fact that his own life exemplified the truth he proclaimed, gave convincing power to his preaching. Here lies the power of truth. The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 510, 511.

13. What did Paul see as the ultimate good to be received by those who endure tribulation with patience? Rom. 5:3-5.

Suggestion for Meditation

"Whatever our distress, we can be sure that God sees us and that God cares for us. If ever we are tempted to cry out with the psalmist, 'No man cared for my soul,' let us remember that God cares for us and that His providence is over us. As Jeremy Taylor, the master of English style, once put it, 'We are safer in God's storm, with God present, than we are in the calm of the world.' "—Clarence Macartney, *Chariots of Fire* (quoted in *The Watchman-Examiner,* Sept. 4, 1952, p. 813).

Lesson 3, for October 16, 1954

David's Victory Over Sorrow

MEMORY VERSE: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Ps. 34:19.

STUDY HELP: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 643-648.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thoughts; Introduction; Ques. 1-3.
3. Ques. 4-6.
4. Ques. 7-9.
5. Ques. 10-13.
6. Read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: A Man Who Faced Many Crises

II. A Young Man of Faith

1. Spiritual preparation. 1 Sam. 16:13.
2. Walking with God. 1 Sam. 16:18.
3. Faith in time of danger. 1 Sam. 17:45, 47.

III. David Suffers at Saul's Hands

1. A king's jealousy. 1 Sam. 18:29.
2. Dangers beset David. 1 Sam. 20:3.
3. Strength from God. Ps. 18:3-6.

IV. David Suffers for His Sins

1. Sin revealed. 2 Sam. 12:9, 10.
2. Sorrow after repentance. 2 Sam. 12:15-18.
3. David's sons dishonor him. 2 Sam. 13:28, 29; 15:10, 14.
4. The king's humiliation. 2 Sam. 15:30.
5. The loss of Absalom. 2 Sam. 18:33.

V. Beyond the Tragedy

1. God is a shield. Ps. 3:1-5.
2. God is my refuge. Ps. 27:5; 34:19; 57:1.

Key Thoughts:

1. David, an Object Lesson. "God intended the history of David's fall to serve as a warning that even those whom He has greatly blessed and favored are not to feel secure, and neglect watchfulness and prayer. And thus it has proved to those who in humility have sought to learn the lesson that God designed to teach. From generation to generation, thousands have thus been led to realize their own danger from the tempter's power. The fall of David, one so greatly honored by the Lord, has awakened in them distrust of self. They have felt that God alone could keep them by His power through faith. Knowing that in Him was their strength and safety, they have feared to take the first step on Satan's ground."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 724.

2. Suffering Develops Character. The psalmist declared, "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." Ps. 4:1. David realized that suffering changed character; it gave him a different perspective on life and made him humble before his God. The word "character" is from the Greek which means *to cut out, to carve or engrave* as with a graving tool. Affliction is the sharp tool by which much of life's carving is done.

THE LESSON

Introduction: A Man Who Faced Many Crises

David loved God and attempted sincerely to follow the divine precepts, but the man stumbled and fell again and again on the pathway to heaven. Young David, after being anointed king, suffered at the hand of rebellious Saul, who became a fierce enemy. Persecution and the threat of death hung over David for months and years, yet he continued to trust in the Eternal One.

Later in life, when prosperity and honor came to David, when dangers no longer beset him, the king brought sorrow and tragedy upon himself and upon others by his sins. The crimes of murder and adultery brought divine judgment upon David. Still later in his career the king suffered again and his life was in jeopardy because, as a father, he had failed to discipline his sons.

Human weakness almost overwhelmed David, yet he repented of his evil deeds, returned to the Lord, and received forgiveness. Truly, the life of this king of Israel illustrates how some of the trials, sorrows, and sufferings are the result of enemies; some are the harvest of our own sowing; while still others are the result of living in a sin-cursed world. May we be able to say as did David: "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Ps. 34:6.

A Young Man of Faith

1. When the youthful David was anointed king of Israel, what spiritual

HIGH POSITION OR HONOR DOES NOT PROTECT ONE FROM SIN OR SORROW.

experience came to him? 1 Sam. 16:13.

NOTE.—"Daily revelations of the character and majesty of his Creator, filled the young poet's heart with adoration and rejoicing. In contemplation of God and His works, the faculties of David's mind and heart were developing and strengthening for the work of his afterlife. He was daily coming into a more intimate communion with God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 642.

2. What was the testimony of Saul's servants concerning David? 1 Sam. 16:18.

3. When faced by the giant Goliath, how did David express his confidence in God? 1 Sam. 17:45, 47.

David Suffers at Saul's Hands

4. When Saul saw that God blessed David, what was the king's attitude toward the young man? 1 Sam. 18:29.

NOTE.—"It was the providence of God that had connected David with Saul. David's position at court would give him a knowledge of affairs, in preparation for his future greatness. It would enable him to gain the confidence of the nation. The vicissitudes and hardships which befell him, through the enmity of Saul, would lead him to feel his dependence upon God, and to put his whole trust in Him. And the friendship of Jonathan for David was also of God's providence, to preserve the life of the future ruler of Israel. In all these things, God was working out His gracious purposes, both for David and for the people of Israel."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 649.

5. How did David describe the danger he faced at Saul's hand? 1 Sam. 20:3.

6. On whom did David call in the hour when he suffered innocently at Saul's hand? Ps. 18:3-6.

David Suffers for His Sin

7. After David had caused the death of Uriah, what divine message came to the king? 2 Sam. 12:9, 10.

NOTE.—"The history of David furnishes no countenance to sin. It was when he was walking in the counsel of God, that he was called a man after God's own heart. When he sinned, this ceased to be true of him until by repentance he had returned to the Lord."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 723.

8. Though David repented of his sin and was forgiven, what further agony came to him? 2 Sam. 12:15-18, first part.

NOTE.—"The sentence of death was transferred from David to the child of his sin. Thus the king was given opportunity for

repentance; while to him the suffering and death of the child, as a part of his punishment, was far more bitter than his own death could have been."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 722.

9. Because David failed to discipline his sons, what sorrow came upon him? 2 Sam. 13:28, 29; 15:10, 14.

NOTE.—"David had neglected the duty of punishing the crime of Amnon, and because of the unfaithfulness of the king and father, and the impenitence of the son, the Lord permitted events to take their natural course, and did not restrain Absalom. When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, God Himself will take the case in hand. His restraining power will be in a measure removed from the agencies of evil, so that a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 728.

10. What humiliation came to King David? 2 Sam. 15:30.

NOTE.—"When David went up the Mount Olivet, 'and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot,' the Lord was looking pityingly upon him. David was clothed in sackcloth, and his conscience was scourging him. The outward signs of humiliation testified of his contrition. In tearful, heartbroken utterances, he presented his case to God, and the Lord did not forsake His servant. Never was David dearer to the heart of Infinite Love than when, conscience-smitten, he fled for his life from his enemies, who had been stirred to rebellion by his own son."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 24, 25.

11. In what pathetic words did David express his sorrow for the troubled life and tragic death of Absalom? 2 Sam. 18:33.

Beyond the Tragedy

12. Through all his suffering and sorrow what sustained David? Ps. 3:1-5.

13. How did David express his courage and faith in the Eternal One? Ps. 27:5; 34:19; 57:1.

NOTE.—"The psalms of David pass through the whole range of experience, from the depths of conscious guilt and self-condemnation to the loftiest faith and the most exalted communing with God. His life record declares that sin can bring only shame and woe, but that God's love and mercy can reach to the deepest depths, that faith will lift up the repenting soul to share the adoption of the sons of God. Of all the assurances which His word contains, it is one of the strongest testimonies to the faithfulness, the justice, and the covenant mercy of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 754.

Suggestion for Meditation

"His [Jesus'] bosom was to mankind what the ocean is to the world. The ocean has its own mighty tide; but it receives and responds to, in exact proportion, the tidal influences of every estuary, and river, and small creek which pours into its bosom. So it was in Christ; His bosom heaved with the tides of our humanity: but every separate sorrow, pain, and joy gave its pulsation, and received back influence from the sea of His being."—*The Biblical Illustrator,* Matthew, page 167.

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Lesson 4, for October 23, 1954

Job, a Man Tested and Tried

MEMORY VERSE: "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10.

STUDY HELP: "Education," pages 154-156.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-9.
5. Ques. 10-12.
6. Ques. 13-15; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: A Saint Suffers for His Faith

II. The Integrity of Job

1. God's testimony. Job. 1:8.
2. Satan's accusation. Job 1:9-11.
3. God permits affliction. Job 1:12.
4. Sickness strikes. Job 2:7.
5. The counsel of Job's wife. Job 2:9.
6. Attitude of relatives and friends. Job 19:13, 14.

III. The Trial of False Reasoning

1. Eliphaz's view. Job 4:7.
2. Bildad's assumption. Job 8:4.
3. The charge of evil conduct. Job 22:5-9.
4. Trouble the penalty of sin. Job 22:10, 11.

IV. The Triumph of Job

1. Job's confession of faith. Job 23:10.
2. Teachable in trial. Job 13:15, 16.

V. Job's Faith Rewarded

1. A vision of God's greatness. Job 40:3, 4; 42:6.
2. Full deliverance. Job 42:10.
3. An example to Christians. James 5:11.

Key Thought:

We Shall Come Forth. "According to his faith, so was it unto Job. 'When He hath tried me,' he said, 'I shall come forth as gold.' So it came to pass. By his patient endurance he vindicated his own character, and thus the character of Him whose representative he was. And 'the Lord turned the captivity of Job; . . . also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. . . . So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning.' "—*Education,* page 156.

THE LESSON

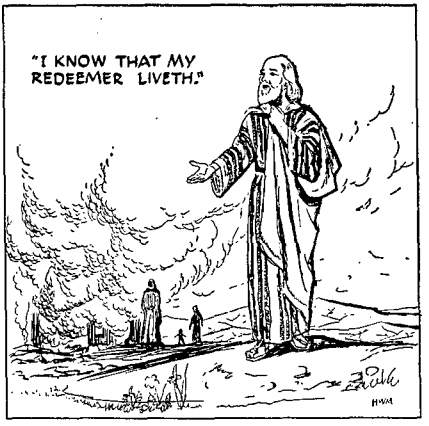
Introduction: A Saint Suffers for His Faith

The book of Job teaches that suffering may befall the righteous, not as a chastening for sin, but as a trial of their faith. The book also sets forth the danger of thinking that rightdoing brings prosperity, while wickedness reaps misfortune in this life.

The book of Job, centering in the problem of suffering, is an object lesson of how a patient man trusted in God and was eventually rewarded for his faith. The ordeal of affliction and loss drew Job nearer to his heavenly Father. The man thought

he knew God, but when pain and trouble pulled the curtain of darkness about his soul, the sufferer longed to be closer to heaven. Job cried, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him!" Although the pain-wracked man could not see the way ahead, he trusted God's leading. "He knoweth the way that I take," testified Job; "when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:3, 10.

If, like Job, our trials and disappointments draw us closer to the heart of God, they will not have been in vain.



The Integrity of Job

1. What was God's testimony concerning Job? Job 1:8.

NOTE.—One basic question answered by the book of Job is, "Doth Job fear God for nought?" In other words, "Is there a man anywhere who serves God because it is the right thing to do, and because he loves his Maker?" The answer of Job's life is "Yes."

2. What accusation did Satan bring against this righteous man? Job 1: 9-11.

NOTE.—"Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name."—*Education,* page 154.

3. How fully did God consent to the affliction of Job? Job 1:12.

4. After Job had lost his possessions and his children, what further trial came to him? Job 2:7.

5. What was the attitude of Job's wife toward his suffering and sorrow? Job 2:9.

NOTE.—The woman was puzzled and bewildered by trial and suffering. She had no faith to help her see beyond the shadow.

"Satan had taken away Job's wealth, his children and his health, but he did not take away his wife—her influence was used to make Job's trial greater."—Gordon Chilvers, in *Moody Monthly,* July, 1953, p. 807.

6. During Job's affliction, what attitude did his relatives and acquaintances have toward him? Job 19:13, 14.

The Trial of False Reasoning

7. What false reason for suffering did Eliphaz imply? Job 4:7.

NOTE.—The "comforters" of Job saw no possible reason for Job's suffering other than some hidden sin.

"The object of this question is manifestly to show to Job the inconsistency of the feelings which he had evinced. He claimed to be a righteous man. He had

instructed and counseled many others. He had professed confidence in God, and in the integrity of his own ways. . . . 'There must have been,' is the meaning of Eliphaz, 'something wrong, when such calamities come upon a man, and when his faith gives way in such a manner. It would be contrary to all the analogy of the divine dealings to suppose that such a man as Job had professed to be, could be the subject of overwhelming judgments; for who, I ask, ever perished, being innocent? It is a settled principle of the divine government, that no one ever perishes who is innocent, and that great calamities are a proof of great guilt.' This declaration contains the essence of all the positions held by Eliphaz and his colleagues in this argument."—Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament,* vol. 1, p. 144.

8. What reason did Bildad give for the death of Job's children? Job 8:4.

NOTE.—"Bildad here *assumes* that the children of Job had been wicked, and had been cut off in their sins. This must have cut him to the quick, for there was nothing which a bereaved father would feel more acutely than this."—Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament,* vol. 1, p. 197.

9. What charge of evil conduct is made against Job? Job 22:5-9.

10. Because of his supposed evil life, what did Eliphaz say had befallen Job? Job 22:10, 11.

NOTE.—"Job's professed friends were miserable comforters, making his case more bitter and unbearable, and Job was not guilty as they supposed. Those who are under the pain and distress of their own wrongdoing, while Satan is seeking to drive them to despair, are the very ones who need help the most. . . . Most pitiable is the condition of one who is suffering under remorse; he is as one stunned, staggering, sinking into the dust. And many who suppose themselves to be righteous, become exasperating comforters; they deal harshly with these souls."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 350.

The Triumph of Job

11. In his darkest hour what confession of faith in God's plan for his life did Job express? Job 23:10.

12. As his trials increased, how did suffering Job show that his faith was growing stronger? Job 13:15, 16.

NOTE.—"From the depths of discouragement and despondency Job rose to the heights of implicit trust in the mercy and the saving power of God. Triumphantly he declared: 'Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 163, 164.

Job's Faith Rewarded

13. After God revealed Himself to the suffering one, what change took place in Job's spiritual experience? Job 40:3, 4; 42:6.

NOTE.—"When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself, and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly, and to make his last years the best of his life."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 164.

14. When did God bring full deliverance to His faithful servant? Job 42:10.

15. Of what does the apostle James make Job an example to all Christians? James 5:11.

Suggestion for Meditation

"It is precisely from the company of the sons and daughters of affliction that the

most convinced believers of all the ages have sprung. Who are the men whose names stand on the dramatic roll call of the faithful in Hebrews? Are they men whose days were happy and unclouded and serene, souls for whom the sun was always shining and the skies unvisited by storm or midnight? If anyone imagines that such is the background of faith, let him listen to this—'They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword, destitute, afflicted, tormented; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.' That, declares the New Testament, has been in every age faith's grim heredity! And it is not from sheltered ways and quiet, sequestered paths, it is from a thousand crosses, that the cry ascends—'Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.' "—James S. Steward, *The Strong Name,* page 153.

Lesson 5, for October 30, 1954

Why Jesus Suffered

MEMORY VERSE: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." Phil. 3:10.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," chapter 1; "Testimonies," vol. 2, pp. 200-215.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-6.
4. Ques. 7-10.
5. Ques. 11-14.
6. Read Study Helps.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: Jesus, "a Man of Sorrows"

II. Our Example in Suffering

1. The mystery of God in the flesh. John 1:1, 14.
2. In His steps. 1 Peter 2:21.
3. Made like His brethren. Heb. 2:17.
4. Made sin for us. 2 Cor. 5:21.
5. Able to save. Heb. 2:18.

III. What Christ Learned in Suffering

1. Learned obedience. Heb. 5:8.
2. Made perfect through sufferings. Heb. 2:10.
3. Sympathizes with our infirmities. Heb. 4:15.

IV. The Revelation of Divine Love

1. He suffered for us. 1 Peter 4:1.
2. He grieved over rejection of His love. Matt. 23:37; Luke 19:41, 42.
3. He sympathizes with us in sorrow. John 11:33, 35.

V. The Fellowship of Christ's Sufferings

1. Partakers with Christ. 1 Peter 4:12, 13.
2. The gift of love. Rom. 5:8.
3. God afflicted with us. Isa. 63:9.

Key Thought:

"Suffered Being Tempted." "This phrase gives an insight into the nature of Christ's temptations. The body given Him

was not such that He was unaffected by temptations, so that for Him in reality there were no temptations. There are good people whose disposition is such that certain temptations that are very severe to others are no temptation to them. But this was not Christ's experience; for if it had been, He would not have experienced the terrific struggle of a poor sinner who is mightily tempted to yield. Christ must be tempted in all points like as we are! He must actually suffer being tempted."—M. L. Andreasen, *The Book of Hebrews,* page 108.

THE LESSON

Introduction: Jesus, "a Man of Sorrows"

Old Testament prophecies pointed to the coming of the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Suffering Servant. In stooping to take our nature, Jesus accepted the weight of woe, the agony and suffering, that was the lot of the human family because of sin. "In all their affliction He was afflicted." Isaiah gives the supreme portrayal of the suffering Saviour in the fifty-third chapter of his book.

"Since Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our griefs."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24. This is the glorious fellowship that we have with the Father and the Son. They are acquainted with all that we suffer.

Our Example in Suffering

1. What wonderful mystery is revealed through Jesus Christ? John 1:1, 14.

NOTE.—"The union of the divine with the human nature is one of the most precious and most mysterious truths of the plan of redemption. It is this of which Paul speaks when he says: 'Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.' . . . Christ stooped to take upon Himself human nature, that He might reach the fallen race and lift them up. But the minds of men had become darkened by sin, their faculties were benumbed and their perceptions dulled, so that they could not discern His divine character beneath the garb of humanity."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 746.

2. What glorious example of suffering has been given to every child of God? 1 Peter 2:21.

NOTE.—"Shall we complain of hardship and trial in the work of overcoming on our own account, when we remember the sufferings of our Redeemer in the wilderness of temptation, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on Calvary? All these were endured to show us the way and to bring us the divine help that we must have or perish."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 371.

3. What was necessary in order for Jesus to become a faithful high priest? Heb. 2:17.

4. In what terrible burden of humanity did Jesus share? 2 Cor. 5:21.

NOTE.—"Made Him to be sin." Jesus never yielded to temptation; therefore He knew no sin as the result of evil-doing. David Brown points out that Jesus was "the representative *Sin Bearer* (vicariously) of the *aggregate sin* of all men past, present, and future. The sin of the world is *one,* therefore the *singular,* not the *plural,* is used."—Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory,* on 2 Cor. 5:21.

5. What experience in the life of Jesus Christ makes Him better able to help us in the hour of trial? Heb. 2:18.

NOTE.—"If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was 'in all points tempted like as we are.' Heb. 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given him from God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24.

What Christ Learned in Suffering

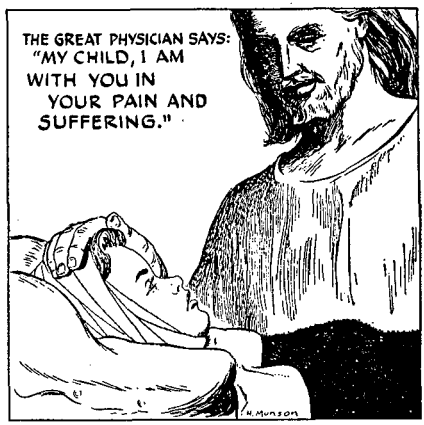
6. What was the supreme lesson the Saviour learned in His earthly experiences? Heb. 5:8.

7. Through what experiences did the Son of God become our perfect Saviour and Redeemer? Heb. 2:10.

NOTE.—"Suffering serves a definite purpose in the plan of God. If Christ had come to this earth and had done the perfect will of God; if He had failed in nothing but lived blamelessly before God and man; yet He would not have met God's standard or man's need without suffering." —M. L. Andreasen, *The Book of Hebrews,* page 98.

8. How did Jesus become acquainted with the sorrows and trials of humanity? Heb. 4:15. Compare Isa. 43:2.

NOTE.—"Christ suffers with us as we suffer, but He does more. Many of our difficulties are a result of infirmities, not of outright rebellion or wicked stubbornness, but a lamentable weakness that makes us give in instead of resisting, and causes all manner of difficulty. Even this condition Christ understands. He may not be able to excuse us, but we may be assured that He feels with us and understands; for He Himself was tempted in all points like as we are, or as a literal translation might give it, 'in the way of resemblance.' "—M. L. Andreasen, *The Book of Hebrews,* pages 179, 180.



The Revelation of Divine Love

9. For whom did Christ endure suffering? 1 Peter 4:1.

NOTE.—"None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity."—*Steps to Christ,* page 16.

10. How did the Son of God treat those who rejected Him? Matt. 23:37; Luke 19:41, 42.

NOTE.—The Lord suffered the agony of rejection because sinners were blind to their need of salvation and they spurned the love of God manifest in His Son.

11. When Martha and Mary grieved because of the death of their brother,

how did Jesus reveal His sympathy? John 11:33, 35.

NOTE.—"It was not only because of the scene before Him that Christ wept. The weight of the grief of ages was upon Him. He saw the terrible effects of the transgression of God's law. He saw that in the history of the world, beginning with the death of Abel, the conflict between good and evil had been unceasing. Looking down the years to come, He saw the suffering and sorrow, tears and death, that were to be the lot of men. His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 534.

The Fellowship of Christ's Suffering

12. How may we enter into fellowship with our Saviour? 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

NOTE.—"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. . . . And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 224, 225.

13. How did the Father reveal His infinite love for sinners? Rom. 5:8.

NOTE.—"Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him."—*Education,* page 263.

14. How has the Father's love been manifested to His children through their testings and trials? Isa. 63:9.

Suggestion for Meditation

"No sorrow, no agony, can measure with that which was endured by the Son of God. Man has not been made a sin bearer, and he will never know the horror of the curse of sin which the Saviour bore. . . . The agony which Christ endured broadens, deepens, and gives a more extended conception of the character of sin, and the character of the retribution which God will bring upon those who continue in sin. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ to the repenting, believing sinner."—Ellen G. White, MS. 35, 1895, quoted in *The Ministry,* May, 1938, pp. 38, 39.

Lesson 6, for November 6, 1954

God's Presence With the Suffering

MEMORY VERSE: "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 167-176; "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 509-513.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1.
3. Ques. 2-4.
4. Ques. 5-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Helps.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: We Are Not Alone

II. The Agony of Loneliness

1. Elijah's despondency. 1 Kings 19:4, 14.
2. David's feeling of isolation. Ps. 10:1; 13:1.
3. Prophecy of Messiah's loneliness. Isa. 63:3.
4. Christ's agonizing cry of aloneness. Matt. 27:46.
5. Paul's loneliness in prison. 2 Tim. 4:16.

III. God Is Beside Us

1. The apostle's Comforter. 2 Tim. 4:17, 18.
2. God's chariots and horsemen. 2 Kings 6:15-17.
3. The fourth companion. Dan. 3:24, 25.

IV. Our Refuge and Strength

1. The source of comfort. 2 Cor. 1:3.
2. Preparation to help others. 2 Cor. 1:4.
3. Promises of help. Isa. 41:10.

V. Comfort in Sorrow

1. Sharers of Christ's sufferings. 2 Cor. 1:5.
2. The rod and staff. Ps. 23:4.
3. A place for our cares. 1 Peter 5:7.

Key Thought:

How Little We Know. "Those who have not the peculiar trials to which another is subjected may flatter themselves that they are better than he. But place them in the furnace of trial, and they might not endure it nearly as well as the one they censure and misjudge. How little we can know of the heart anguish of another. How few understand another's circumstances."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 55.

THE LESSON

Introduction: We Are Not Alone

There are times when we feel like throwing up our hands and saying, "What have I done to deserve all this trouble? I can't understand why I must suffer for something I haven't done." While much of the sickness, pain, and sorrow in our world is the result of breaking natural laws, yet there is suffering which cannot be explained. There are forces beyond man's control—such as lightning, earthquakes, and disease germs—which destroy him. Why should one innocent child be paralyzed by a virus and another escape?

We cannot solve all the mysteries of sorrow and suffering; but we can go forward by faith, knowing we are not alone. When we can sincerely pray, as did Jesus, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39), we can triumph over our affliction.

The Agony of Loneliness

1. When Elijah was physically exhausted and spiritually discouraged, what request did he make? 1 Kings 19:4, 14.

NOTE.—He felt lonely and deserted. Life seemed worthless, and he wanted to die.

"If, under trying circumstances, men of spiritual power, pressed beyond measure, become discouraged and desponding; if at times they see nothing desirable in life, that they should choose it, this is nothing

strange or new. Let all such remember that one of the mightiest of the prophets fled for his life before the rage of an infuriated woman. A fugitive, weary and travel-worn, bitter disappointment crushing his spirits, he asked that he might die. But it was when hope was gone, and his lifework seemed threatened with defeat, that he learned one of the most precious lessons of his life. In the hour of his greatest weakness he learned the need and the possibility of trusting God under circumstances the most forbidding."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 173.

2. How did David express his feeling of separation from God? Ps. 10:1; 13:1.

THERE IS PRECIOUS FELLOWSHIP IN BEING ABLE TO SAY, "I, TOO, HAVE SUFFERED."

3. What prophecy was made concerning the loneliness of the Messiah's life? Isa. 63:3, first part.

NOTE.—"Yet through childhood, youth, and manhood, Jesus walked alone. In His purity and His faithfulness, He trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him. He carried the awful weight of responsibility for the salvation of men. He knew that unless there was a decided change in the principles and purposes of the human race, all would be lost. This was the burden of His soul, and none could appreciate the weight that rested upon Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 92.

4. In what agonizing words did the suffering Saviour express His feeling of despair in His final hours on the cross? Matt. 27:46.

NOTE.—"The sins of the world were upon Him, also the sense of His Father's wrath as He suffered the penalty of the law transgressed. It was these that crushed His divine soul. It was the hiding of His Father's face—a sense that His own dear Father had forsaken Him—which brought despair. The separation that sin makes between God and man was fully realized and keenly felt by the innocent, suffering Man of Calvary. He was oppressed by the powers of darkness. He had not one ray of light to brighten the future."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 214.

5. In the days of imprisonment at Rome how did Paul reveal his loneliness? 2 Tim. 4:16.

NOTE.—"Without money, without friends, without counsel, the aged prisoner stood before Nero—the countenance of the emperor bearing the shameful record of the passions that raged within; the face of the accused telling of a heart at peace with God. Paul's experience had been one of poverty, self-denial, and suffering. Notwithstanding constant misrepresentation, reproach, and abuse, by which his enemies had endeavored to intimidate him, he had fearlessly held aloft the standard of the cross."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 493, 494.

God Is Beside Us

6. Who stood by Paul in his suffering and imprisonment? 2 Tim. 4:17, 18.

NOTE.—The word "strengthened" in the

Greek means "infused power into." It is Paul's dynamic description of how the power of Christ filled his life.

"If ever his ardor in the path of duty for a moment flagged, one glance at the cross and the amazing love of Christ revealed in His unparalleled sacrifice was enough to cause him to gird up anew the loins of his mind and press forward in the path of self-denial."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 457.

7. When Elisha's servant could see only enemies surrounding him, what did God reveal to him? 2 Kings 6:15-17.

NOTE.—The experience of Elisha's servant gives courage to God's remnant people in their final trial, for we read: "Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but Jesus will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. . . . They themselves know not how securely they are shielded. Urged on by Satan, the rulers of this world are seeking to destroy them; but could their eyes be opened, as were the eyes of Elisha's servant at Dothan, they would see the angels of God encamped about them, by their brightness and glory holding in check the hosts of darkness."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 474, 475.

8. Who appeared with the three Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace? Dan. 3:24, 25.

NOTE.—How changed is the suffering we must endure when we know that Jesus is beside us!

"The Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire. In the presence of the Lord of heat and cold, the flames lost their power to consume."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 508, 509.

Our Refuge and Strength

9. To whom can we look for comfort in all our afflictions? 2 Cor. 1:3.

NOTE.—"To see the love of God alters our whole outlook. Pain and sorrow are absorbing facts. They may shut out the face of God. Yet they can be the means of illumination. Need and despair can make us sensitive to the love of God, from which the security and sufficiency of this material world may screen our eyes. Those who turn to God in their deep need find that He responds."—James Reid, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 280.

10. When we have been comforted, what are we prepared to do? 2 Cor. 1:4.

NOTE.—"Suffering in which we have found for ourselves the comfort of God is an equipment for service. It puts us alongside of others. It gives us entry to their pain, making them willing to listen to us. We can speak with authority, for we have been there. . . . When affliction becomes the means of the knowledge of God and of equipment for service, it finds its place in an ordered world. It is taken up into the purpose of God. It makes sense." —James Reid, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 281.

11. What special promise does God give to those who are lonely and afraid? Isa. 41:10.

Comfort in Sorrow

12. How do the sufferings of Christ bring comfort to the child of God? 2 Cor. 1:5.

NOTE.—"The thought that in his afflictions he was sharing in Christ's sufferings was part of Paul's comfort. . . . It may mean simply that as Paul was suffering for his faith and through the love for his brethren which Christ had created, his sufferings were of the same kind as the sufferings of

Christ. . . . No one can enter, as He [Christ] did, into the full experience of human guilt which He bore on the cross. No one can offer to God the perfect penitence which comes from His insight into the depth of human sin. But there is a real sense in which Christ died that we might do for others in our degree what He did, carrying the burden of their sin, and revealing in the love that suffers the love that saves."—James Reid, *The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, pp. 281, 282.

13. In darkness and suffering what will comfort us? Ps. 23:4.

NOTE.—"No wise forward look can ignore the possibility of many sorrows and the certainty of some. Hope has ever something of dread in her eyes. The road will not be always bright and smooth, but will sometimes plunge down into grim canyons, where no sunbeams reach. But even that anticipation may be calm. 'Thou art with me' is enough. He who guides into the gorge will guide through it. It is not a cul-de-sac, shut in with precipices, at the far end; but it opens out on shining table-lands, where there is greener pasture."—*The Expositor's Bible,* on Ps. 23:4.

14. What are we admonished to do with our trials and burdens? 1 Peter 5:7.

NOTE.—"Throw the whole of your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." —Weymouth's translation of 1 Peter 5:7.

Suggestion for Meditation

"Oh, was there ever suffering and sorrow like that endured by the dying Saviour! It was the sense of His Father's displeasure which made His cup so bitter. It was not bodily suffering which so quickly ended the life of Christ upon the cross. It was the crushing weight of the sins of the world, and a sense of His Father's wrath. The Father's glory and sustaining presence had left Him, and despair pressed its crushing weight of darkness upon Him and forced from His pale and quivering lips the anguished cry: 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 209.

Lesson 7, for November 13, 1954

What Suffering Can Do

MEMORY VERSE: "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us." 2 Tim. 2:12.

STUDY HELP: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," pages 70-72.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. *Key Thought; Introduction;* Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. *Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.*
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: The Purpose for Us in Suffering

II. How to Meet Trials

1. Joyful acceptance. James 1:2.
2. Fruit of chastening. Heb. 12:11.
3. Developing patience. Rom. 5:3.

4. Patience the goal of Christian perfection. Col. 1:10, 11; Rev. 14:12.

III. Affliction Has Its Blessings

1. Leads to obedience. Ps. 119:67, 71.
2. Causes realization of sin. Ps. 25:18.
3. Manifests God's works. John 9:3.

IV. Suffering, a Preparation to Meet God

1. Prepares us for Christ's appearing. 1 Peter 1:7.
2. Prepares us to reign with Him. 2 Tim. 2:12.
3. Prepares the way for witnessing. Luke 21:12, 13.

V. Through Trial to Perfection

1. Suffering builds character. 1 Peter 5:10.
2. God chastens in love. Heb. 12:5, 6.
3. Persecution, the Christian's lot. 2 Tim. 3:12.
4. Promise of victory. James 1:12.

Key Thought:

God Sees the Gold. "The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious, which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines. The blacksmith puts the iron and steel into the fire that he may know what manner of metal they are. The Lord allows His chosen ones to be placed in the furnace of affliction, to prove what temper they are of, and whether they can be fashioned for His work."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 471.

THE LESSON

Introduction: The Purpose for Us in Suffering

The measure of our Christian experience is not how much we suffer but how we accept the trials and afflictions. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour we may expect to share in His sufferings, for the followers of the Master will always have trials and tribulation thrust upon them by a sinful world. When Paul was converted, God told Ananias, "I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:16, A.R.V.

Suffering may bring many benefits to Christians. It helps us to be understanding of our fellow men and to be sympathetic with their problems. Suffering draws many men to Christ. They realize their helplessness when they are laid low by sickness or trouble. In the darkness, they seek God's love.

Beyond sorrow there is a glorious reward. We shall receive a crown of life and reign with Christ forever. In that day the suffering and cares of this life will fade away and seem as nothing compared with the joys of eternity.

How to Meet Trials

1. What is to be the Christian's attitude when trials and suffering come? James 1:2.

2. If the child of God accepts test and trial in the right spirit, what may they produce in his life? Heb. 12:11.

NOTE.—"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Heb. 12:11, R.S.V.

The chastening can produce the "fruit of righteousness" if the child of God has been "trained by it." Suffering and trial are educative forces. We can learn in this school or we can turn away embittered and, at the same time, remain ignorant of God's plan to train us for His service.

3. What Christian virtue is developed through tribulation? Rom. 5:3. Compare James 1:3, 4.

NOTE.—"None who receive God's word are exempt from difficulty and trial; but when affliction comes, the true Christian does not become restless, distrustful, or despondent. Though we cannot see the definite outcome of affairs, or discern the purpose of God's providences, we are not to cast away our confidence. Remembering the tender mercies of the Lord, we should cast our care upon Him, and with patience wait for His salvation."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 60, 61.

4. How is patience spoken of as the goal of Christian perfection? Col. 1:10, 11; Rev. 14:12.

Affliction Has Its Blessings

5. How did affliction benefit the psalmist in his religious experience? Ps. 119:67, 71.

6. When he was afflicted, for what did David pray? Ps. 25:18.

NOTE.—"God's purpose is not merely to deliver from the suffering that is the inevitable result of sin, but to save from sin itself. The soul, corrupted and deformed, is to be purified, transformed, that it may be clothed in 'the beauty of the Lord our God,' 'conformed to the image of His Son.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 95.

7. For what special reason may disease and suffering sometimes come upon an individual? John 9:3.

NOTE.—"It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. . . .

"The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ's disciples. . . . The disciples were not called upon to discuss the question as to who had sinned or had not sinned, but to understand the power and mercy of God in giving sight to the blind. It was evident that there was no healing virtue in the clay, or in the pool wherein the blind man was sent to wash, but that the virtue was in Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 471.

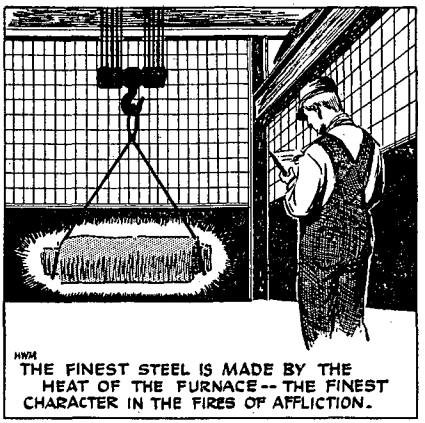
Suffering, a Preparation to Meet God

8. If we accept trials in the spirit of Jesus, for what event may they help us prepare? 1 Peter 1:7.

NOTE.—"Many who profess the name of Christ and claim to be looking for His speedy coming, know not what it is to suffer for Christ's sake. Their hearts are not subdued by grace, and they are not dead to self, as is often shown in various ways. At the same time they are talking of having trials. But the principal cause of their trials is an unsubdued heart, which makes self so sensitive that it is often crossed."—*Early Writings,* page 113.

9. If we enter into suffering with our blessed Lord, for what honor will it help prepare us? 2 Tim. 2:12.

NOTE.—"The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' . . . Now the decisions of earth are reversed. 'The rebuke of His people shall He take away.' . . . They are no longer feeble, afflicted, scattered, and oppressed. Henceforth they are to be ever with the Lord. They stand before the throne clad in richer robes than the most honored of the earth have ever worn. They are crowned with diadems more glorious than were ever placed upon



the brow of earthly monarchs. The days of pain and weeping are forever ended. The King of glory has wiped the tears from all faces; every cause of grief has been removed."—*The Great Controversy,* page 650.

10. Under what circumstances may some of God's faithful children be called upon to testify for Him? Luke 21:12, 13.

NOTE.—"Before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you, and they will betray you to synagogues and put you in prison, when you will be brought before kings and governors for the sake of My name. Then will be your opportunity of witnessing for Me."—*The Twentieth Century New Testament,* on Luke 21:12, 13.

"The proclamation of the gospel has ever been carried forward in this world in the face of opposition, peril, loss, and suffering. . . . Reproach and persecution have separated many from earthly friends, but never from the love of Christ. Never is the tempest-tried soul more dearly loved by his Saviour than when he is suffering reproach for the truth's sake. 'I will love him,' Christ said, 'and will manifest Myself to him.' When for the truth's sake the believer stands at the bar of earthly tribunals, Christ stands by his side. When he is confined within prison walls, Christ manifests Himself to him, and cheers his heart with His love."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 85.

Through Trial to Perfection

11. What will be the effect of suffering on our character if we bear it patiently? 1 Peter 5:10.

NOTE.—"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, and strengthen you." 1 Peter 5:10, R.S.V.

12. What experience must come to all of God's children? Heb. 12:5, 6.

NOTE.—"God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others. 'I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil.' The very trials that task our faith most severely, and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet, and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 129.

13. Even though the Christian walks close to God, what will be his lot? 2 Tim. 3:12.

NOTE.—"Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne, gives us a new experience, and advances us in the work of character building. The soul that through divine power resists temptation, reveals to the world and to the heavenly universe the efficiency of the grace of Christ."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 171.

14. What cheering promise is made to those who endure trials and temptation? James 1:12.

Suggestion for Meditation

"Sorrow, indeed, is not peculiar to Christians. Of it, all are partakers. But Christian endurance is part of a fellowship with Christ, in which we learn of Him. In the warm air of prosperity a hot mist rises round the soul, that hides from view the great realities, and that deceives and misleads us with its vain mirage. But in suffering, taken in Christ's way and in fellowship with Him, in the pain of disappointment and of loss, and especially in the exercise of submission, we are taught feelingly where our true treasure is; and we are trained to consent to separations and privations, for the sake of Christ, and under the influence of the love of Christ." —*The Expositor's Bible,* on Phil. 3:10, 11.

Lesson 8, for November 20, 1954

Beyond the Shadow of Death

MEMORY VERSE: "For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death." Ps. 48:14.

STUDY HELP: "The Desire of Ages," pages 524-536.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-6.
4. Ques. 7-10.
5. Ques. 11-13.
6. Ques. 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: The Christian's Hope

II. The Giver of Life

1. Our God forever. Ps. 48:14.
2. The Prince of life. Acts 3:15.
3. The resurrection and life. John 11:25.
4. The gift for man. John 10:10.

III. Death Comes to Every Man

1. The universal call. Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27.
2. The sleep of death. John 11:11.
3. An unconscious state. Job 14:21; Ps. 146:4.

IV. The Resurrection Hope

1. The voice of life. John 5:25, 28.
2. We shall answer. Job 14:15.
3. A lively hope. 1 Peter 1:3.
4. Hope beyond sorrow. 1 Thess. 4:13, 14; 1 Cor. 15:19, 20.

V. Victory Over Death

1. Christ holds the keys. Rev. 1:18.
2. Death shall be vanquished. 1 Cor. 15:54.
3. Comfort for the mourners. Jer. 31:16.

Key Thought:

The Reality of Christ's Resurrection. "Let us make no mistake: the reality of Christ's resurrection as a fact has entered more deeply than any other historic event into the lives of millions since those early years. It gave the martyrs courage as they faced the perils of the amphitheater. It has dotted the greater part of the civilized world with noble shrines, their towers and spires pointing triumphantly to the skies."—F. Townley Lord, *The Conquest of Death,* page 73.

Introduction: The Christian's Hope

We are not asked to make any sacrifice which the heavenly Father was not willing to make when He gave His Son to redeem a lost world. We see a cross on which an innocent Man died so "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Do we care enough in our sorrow to see His face? Do we care enough to accept His promises as our hope? When death robs us of our dear ones, there is an emptiness in our hearts as wide as the heavens. There is only One who can fill that emptiness, and in tender words He says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5.

The Giver of Life

1. How long will God be our strength and guide? Ps. 48:14.

NOTE.—"It is true that disappointments will come; tribulation we must expect; but we are to commit everything, great and small, to God. He does not become perplexed by the multiplicity of our grievances nor overpowered by the weight of our burdens. His watchcare extends to every household and encircles every individual; He is concerned in all our business and our sorrows. He marks every tear; He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 742.

2. What does the apostle Peter declare Jesus Christ to be? Acts 3:15. See margin.

NOTE.—"To the believer, Christ is the resurrection and the life. In our Saviour the life that was lost through sin is restored; for He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. He is invested with the right to give immortality. The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 786, 787.

3. What glorious promise breaks the hopelessness of death for the Christian? John 11:25.

NOTE.—"Christ endured an agonizing death under the most humiliating circumstances that we might have life. He gave up His precious life that He might vanquish death. But He rose from the tomb, and the myriads of angels who came to behold Him take up the life He had laid down heard His words of triumphant joy as He stood above Joseph's rent sepulcher proclaiming: 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 230.

4. What did the Son of God bring to man as the result of His earthly ministry and sacrifice? John 10:10.

Death Comes to Every Man

5. How universal is the call of death? Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27.

NOTE.—Of the billions of human beings who have lived on this earth, only two have escaped from it alive—Enoch and Elijah, who were translated to heaven. Every other being, including the Son of God, has tasted the bitter cup of death.

6. In the words of Jesus, what is man's condition in death? John 11:11.

NOTE.—"The Bible clearly teaches that the dead do not go immediately to heaven. They are represented as sleeping until the resurrection. In the very day when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broken, man's thoughts perish. They that go down to the grave are in silence. They know no more of anything that is done under the sun. Blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment to them. They sleep; they are awakened by the trump of God to a glori-

ous immortality."—*The Great Controversy*, page 550.

7. How do Job and David describe man's unconscious state in the grave? Job 14:21; Ps. 146:4.

The Resurrection Hope

8. What does Jesus declare will awaken the dead? John 5:25, 28.

9. When the righteous dead hear the voice of the Son of God, what will they do? Job 14:15.

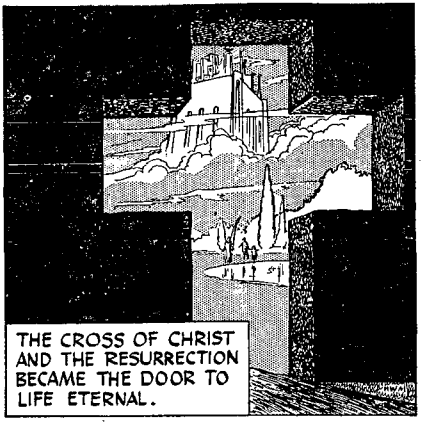
10. How is the Christian hope of the resurrection described by the apostle Peter? 1 Peter 1:3.

11. In what respect is the sorrow of a Christian different from that of an unbeliever in the presence of death? 1 Thess. 4:13, 14; 1 Cor. 15: 19, 20.

NOTE.—"If the cross and the tomb were the end of Jesus, . . . is there any guarantee at all that the grave is not the end? Paul thinks not. . . . The chasm is fixed, and none may cross it if there is no resurrection of the dead. Love and immortal longings are finished forever 'if Christ has not been raised.' Little wonder that Paul's written words throb with deep emotion as he faces the full implication of this doubt of the resurrection of Jesus."—*The Interpreter's Bible*, vol. 10, p. 232.

Victory Over Death

12. Who holds the keys of death? Rev. 1:18.



13. At the second advent of Christ what victory will be gained? 1 Cor. 15:54.

14. What promise is made to those who mourn? Jer. 31:16.

Suggestion for Meditation

"Our sorrows do not spring out of the ground. God 'doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' When He permits trials and afflictions, it is 'for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.' If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek comfort in Him!

"The trials of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process, it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 23, 24.

Lesson 9, for November 27, 1954

Facing Our Sorrow

MEMORY VERSE: "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them." Deut. 33:27.

STUDY HELP: "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 524, 525, 574, 577.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: Strength to Endure

II. The Universal Experience of Sorrow

1. Sorrow causes men to say, "Why was I born?" Job 3:20; Jer. 20:18.
2. Sorrow affects our physical nature. Job 17:7; Prov. 15:13, last part.
3. Sorrow overwhelms the weak. 2 Cor. 2:7.

III. Reconciled to God's Will

1. The Christian's comfort. 1 Thess. 4:13.
2. We are sustained in sorrow. Deut. 33:27.
3. Christ's example. John 18:11.
4. "Thy will be done." Matt. 6:10.

IV. Courage to Carry On

1. God gives strength to bear the burden. Ps. 55:22.
2. Ezekiel had courage in time of loss. Ezek. 24:18.
3. There is comfort for those who mourn. Matt. 5:4; Jer. 31:13.
4. The Lord is nigh the brokenhearted. Ps. 34:18.

V. Some Day We'll Understand

1. We see but dimly now. 1 Cor. 13:12.
2. We prepare for the kingdom. 2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:18.
3. We know the glory that awaits us. 1 Cor. 2:9.

Key Thought:

The Lifting Power of Jesus. "God would not have us remain pressed down by dumb sorrow, with sore and breaking hearts. He would have us look up, and behold His dear face of love. The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands, to have us look to Him in simple faith, permitting Him to guide us. His heart is open to our griefs, our sorrows, and our trials. He has loved us with an everlasting love, and with loving-kindness compassed us about. We may keep the heart stayed upon Him, and meditate upon His loving-kindness all the day. He will lift the soul above the daily sorrow and perplexity, into a realm of peace."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pages 25, 26.

THE LESSON

Introduction: Strength to Endure

Sorrow can be a message from God calling the wandering, rebellious individual to return to the heavenly Father. What is our response when sorrow comes? Do we find

that God is our "Refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms," or do we misunderstand sorrow and defy it?

Men misunderstand suffering and sorrow when they see in it nothing but punishment. They may feel, "This is what I deserve for my sins. Now I'm paying the penalty." Or again they may say, "I'm having some misfortune." To look upon sorrow in either of these ways is to fail to hear God's voice. The loving Father does not want us to suffer; but when the ordeal comes, He longs to see us turn to Him with a humble and contrite heart that we may learn the spiritual lesson it may teach us.

The Universal Experience of Sorrow

1. What question comes to many when sorrow and tribulation seem to overwhelm them? Job 3:20; Jer. 20:18.

2. How may sorrow affect the physical condition of the sufferer? Job 17:7; Prov. 15:13, last part.

NOTE.—"The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize. Many of the diseases from which men suffer are the result of mental depression. Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces, and to invite decay and death."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 241.

3. What can anguish and sorrow do to those who are weakened by their burdens? 2 Cor. 2:7.

NOTE.—"Pain, if sanctified, creates tenderness towards others. Alone it may harden and shut up the man within himself, a student of his own nerves and ailments, . . . but, mixed with grace, our aches and pains are an ointment supplying the heart, and causing the milk of human kindness to fill the breast."—*The Biblical Illustrator,* Hebrews, vol. 2, p. 500.

Reconciled to God's Will

4. Though death brings sorrow and grief to all, what comfort has the Christian in his loss? 1 Thess. 4:13, 14.

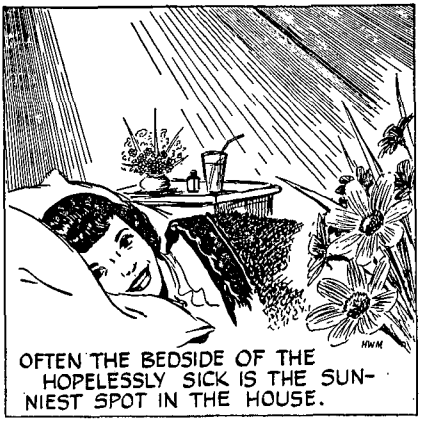
NOTE.—"If we are called upon to meet bereavement, let us accept the bitter cup, remembering that a Father's hand holds it to our lips."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 233.

5. What sustains the child of God in the hour of sorrow? Deut. 33:27.

NOTE.—"*Underneath are the everlasting arms;* that is, the almighty power of God is engaged for the protection and consolation of all that trust in Him, in their greatest straits and distresses, and under their heaviest burdens. . . . How low soever the people of God are at any time brought, everlasting arms are underneath them to keep the spirit from sinking, from fainting, and the faith from failing, even when they are pressed above measure."—Matthew Henry, *An Exposition of the Old and New Testament,* vol. 1, Deuteronomy, p. 883.

6. In facing suffering and sorrow, what example did the Saviour give His followers? John 18:11; Matt. 26:42.

NOTE.—"Few things are easier than to perceive, to extol the goodness of God, the bounty of Providence, . . . when all things go well, when our health, our spirits, our circumstances, conspire to fill our hearts with gladness. . . . But this is not the trial, or the proof [of our submission to God's will]. . . It is in the chambers of pain, the pressures of infirmity; in grief, in misfortune: through gloom and horror—that it will be seen, whether we



OFTEN THE BEDSIDE OF THE HOPELESSLY SICK IS THE SUNNIEST SPOT IN THE HOUSE.

hold fast our hope, our confidence, our trust in God; whether this hope and confidence be able to produce in us resignation, acquiescence, and submission."—*The Biblical Illustrator,* James, page 376.

7. What is to be our prayer when darkness and sorrow engulf us? Matt. 6:10.

Courage to Carry On

8. How may we receive strength to carry the burden of sorrow? Ps. 55:22.

9. How did the faithful prophet Ezekiel face personal loss and sorrow? Ezek. 24:18.

NOTE.—How touching in simplicity and submission is Ezekiel's record: "At even my wife died." The loss and bereavement came as a shock to the man, for he had lost "the desire of his eyes." God asked the prophet to carry on his important mission, and Ezekiel did not fall under the stroke. With faith to believe that God's way is best he carried on in the face of tragic loss. What a lesson to every sorrowing soul!

10. What promise is made to those who mourn? Matt. 5:4; Jer. 31:13.

11. What sweet assurance is given to the brokenhearted? Ps. 38:18.

Someday We'll Understand

12. Why can we not in this life grasp the meaning of all the sorrow and loss that comes to us? 1 Cor. 13:12.

13. If sorrow and affliction are accepted in the spirit of Christ, for what will they prepare us? 2 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 8:18.

NOTE.—*Affliction* here is transmuted into glory beyond. The humiliating sufferings of life in Christ's service are the means by which the spirit is purified, developed, and brought to blossom in the beauty of Christlikeness. The affliction is *slight* and *momentary* by comparison with the *glory* which is massive and unfading. Paul can say this because he does not look merely to 'the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen' (vs. 18)."—*The Interpreter's* Bible, vol. 10, pp. 323, 324.

14. As we face trial and grief, to what may we look forward by faith? 1 Cor. 2:9.

NOTE.—"Wonderful as the past had been —and we must remember always that Paul lived on this side of the crucifixion of Jesus—his life was centered in the living Christ. . . . How foolish of the Corinthian Christians to be squabbling about unimportant matters when all these rich prospects already guaranteed in their experience are open to them! How pertinent is the same thought for our own day and generation: what a rebuke in particular to all defeatism and pessimism!"—*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, pp. 39, 40.

Suggestion for Meditation

"That sorrow, even the deepest and most hopeless, has been blessed, no one can deny. It has taught many a deeper thoughtfulness, a truer estimate of the world and its interests, a more simple trust in God. It has opened the eyes of many to the sufferings of others, and changed boisterous rudeness into tender and delicate sympathy. It has given many weak ones the opportunity of demonstrating the nearness and the strength of Christ, as out of weakness they have been made strong. Often the sufferer in a home is the most thankful member of it. Often the bedside is the sunniest spot in the house, though the bedridden one knows that he or she will never be free again. It is not impossible for a Christian in everything to give thanks (1 Thess. 5:16-18)."—*The Expositor's Bible,* vol. 6, p. 354.

Lesson 10, for December 4, 1954

Yielding to God's Will

MEMORY VERSE: "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." Ps. 37:5.

STUDY HELP: "Messages to Young People," pages 151-156.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-6.
4. Ques. 7-9.
5. Ques. 10-12.
6. Ques. 13; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: "Have Thine Own Way"

II. Renouncing Our Selfish Will

1. The way of death for the disobedient. Prov. 14:12.
2. God points the way. Isa. 30:20, 21.
3. To know God's will. Col. 1:9.

III. The Test of Discipleship

1. The test of doing God's will. Matt. 7:21.
2. Obeying God's will from the heart. Eph. 6:6.
3. Love is manifest in obedience. John 14:23.

IV. Jesus Accepted His Father's Will

1. Jesus did His Father's will. John 4:34; 6:38.
2. Submission to suffering and death. Luke 22:42.
3. Obedience came through suffering. Phil. 2:8; Heb. 5:8.

V. Ready to Do His Will

1. Commit our way to God. Ps. 37:5.
2. In suffering commit our ways to God. 1 Peter 4:19.
3. Jesus has overcome the world. John 16:33.
4. Obedience brings eternal life. 1 John 2:17.

Key Thought:

A Surrendered Will. "It will require a sacrifice to give yourself to God; but it is a sacrifice of the lower for the higher, the earthly for the spiritual, the perishable for the eternal. God does not

design that our will should be destroyed; for it is only through its exercise that we can accomplish what He would have us do. Our will is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, purified and refined, and so linked in sympathy with the divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power. However bitter and painful this surrender may appear to the willful, wayward heart, yet 'it is profitable for thee.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 96, 97.

THE LESSON

Introduction: "Have Thine Own Way"

Are we willing to submit our plans to the divine Architect? Or do we snatch the blueprints of our life from Him in headstrong defiance? God "is able to deliver." Dan. 3:17. He is able to save "to the uttermost." Heb. 7:25. He can do more than "all that we ask or think." Eph. 3:20. This is the Omnipotent One into whose hands we commit our ways.

In every prayer we breathe there must be a willingness on our part to accept the divine answer. It is our business to find God's purpose for us. That was Christ's way. In His prayer which He taught the disciples is the crucial test: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Renouncing Our Selfish Will

1. What is the end of the way for those who refuse to know God's will for their life? Prov. 14:12.

NOTE.—"Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. They will have no place in the kingdom of heaven, for they are at war with the very principles of heaven. In disregarding the will of God, they are placing themselves on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and man."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 82, 83.

2. Through what method does the heavenly Father sometimes show us His plan for our lives? Isa. 30:20, 21.

NOTE.—"And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide Himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left."—R.S.V.

The heavenly Father is our wonderful Teacher. Even in times of adversity and affliction He speaks to us, pointing out the way we should go. "In offering the prayer that Christ has given, we surrender ourselves to the guidance of God, asking Him to lead us in safe paths. We cannot offer this prayer in sincerity, and yet decide to walk in any way of our own choosing. We shall wait for His hand to lead us, we shall listen to His voice, saying, 'This is the way; walk ye in it.' "—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 171.

3. What did Paul pray would be the experience of every Christian in relation to the will of God? Col. 1:9.

The Test of Discipleship

4. What did Jesus declare to be the supreme test of loyalty in His followers? Matt. 7:21.

5. What admonition did the apostle Paul give as to our relation to God's will? Eph. 6:6.

NOTE.—"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power. We

receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to every one who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 176.

6. How will the follower of Jesus manifest his love for his Saviour? John 14:23.

Jesus Accepted His Father's Will

7. What did Christ say concerning His relationship to His Father's will? John 4:34; 6:38.

NOTE.—"The obedience that Christ rendered, God requires from human beings today. He served His Father with love, in willingness and freedom. 'I delight to do Thy will, O My God,' He declared; 'yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Ps. 40:8."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 282.

8. When faced with the anguish and torture of the cross, how did the Saviour express His submission to His Father's will? Luke 22:42.

NOTE.—"Jesus' prayer before the cross holds the secret of all the Christian life that has come after the cross, 'Not My will, but Thine be done.' In the will is the vantage point of the good and evil alike. . . . Unconditional surrender to Him means that one's will is freed, purified, renewed. . . . This is no mechanical slavery, or the cowardly rolling of one's responsibility over to other shoulders. It is the kind of divine-human co-operation that is imperative for growth. 'Not My will, but Thine.' As E. H. Pruden has said: 'When a man is in tune with Christ, his lips will be saying and his hands will be doing what Christ wants.' Here is the highest discipline of the will."—*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 589.

9. At what cost did the Son of God learn obedience? Phil. 2:8, Heb. 5:8.

"THE OBEDIENCE THAT CHRIST RENDERED, GOD REQUIRES FROM HUMAN BEINGS TODAY."

Ready to Do His Will

10. What promise is given to the Christian who places himself willingly in the hands of God? Ps. 37:5.

NOTE.—"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His [Christ's] heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 312.

11. What admonition does the apostle Peter give to those who accept God's will when faced with the ordeal of sorrow and suffering? 1 Peter 4:19.

NOTE.—"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator."—R.S.V.

12. What encouragement does Jesus give us to meet the sorrows and trials of life? John 16:33.

13. How is the acceptance of God's will linked with eternal life? 1 John 2:17.

Suggestion for Meditation

"This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man. But the infinite sacrifice of God in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a sacrifice for sin, enables Him to say, without violating one principle of His government: 'Yield yourself up to Me; give Me that will; take it from the control of Satan, and I will take possession of it; then I can work in you to will and to do of My good pleasure.' When He gives you the mind of Christ, your will becomes as His will, and your character is transformed to be like Christ's character. . . . There is no such thing as following Christ unless you refuse to gratify inclination and determine to obey God. It is not your feelings, your emotions, that make you a child of God, but the doing of God's will. A life of usefulness is before you if your will becomes God's will. Then you may stand in your God-given manhood, an example of good works."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 515.

Lesson 11, for December 11, 1954

Comforting Those Who Mourn

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Isa. 50:4.

STUDY HELP: "The Desire of Ages," pages 478-484.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thoughts; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-6.
4. Ques. 7-9.
5. Ques. 10-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: Hope for the Helpless

II. Approaching the Sorrowing

1. The plight of those without comfort. Ps. 69:20.
2. How to become sympathetic. Ezek. 3:15.
3. Our expression of sympathy. Rom. 12:15.

III. The Sympathy of the Saviour

1. Hope for the grief-stricken. Luke 7:13.
2. Compassion for the sick and careworn. Matt. 9:36; 14:14.
3. "Let not your heart be troubled." John 14:1-3.
4. How Jesus became one with the sorrowing. Heb. 4:15.

IV. Pointing the Brokenhearted to Christ

1. Bear the burdens of the heavy-laden. Gal. 6:2.
2. Jesus gives rest. Matt. 11:28, 29.
3. Serve the Saviour by deeds of love. Matt. 25:40.
4. Christians are fitted to comfort others. 2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

V. A Message of Hope

1. Have faith in God. Mark 11:22.
2. Words of comfort for the weary. Isa. 50:4.
3. Pray for those in need. James 5:16.

Key Thought:

A Word in Season. "In all our associations it should be remembered that in the experience of others there are chapters sealed from mortal sight. On the pages of memory are sad histories that are sacredly guarded from curious eyes. There stand registered long, hard battles with trying circumstances, perhaps troubles in the home life, that day by day weaken courage, confidence, and faith. Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be strengthened and encouraged by little attentions that cost only a loving effort. To such the strong, helpful grasp of the hand by a true friend is worth more than gold or silver. Words of kindness are as welcome as the smile of angels.

THE LESSON

Introduction: Hope for the Helpless

For many a sorrowing man or woman the pattern of life has been shattered. Broken pieces lie about, and the bereaved lacks the courage to pick them up and go on again.

To those who mourn in hopeless despair we can bring Jesus, "the resurrection, and the life." We can point them to Jesus, the mender of broken lives, who will take the fragments that have been scattered by sin and sorrow, and re-create a new life. The Saviour who calmed the storm-tossed Sea of Galilee can speak peace to the grief-swept life.

Approaching the Sorrowing

1. How does David describe the condition of those who have no comfort in time of sorrow? Ps. 69:20.

NOTE.—"Through the psalmist the Redeemer had prophesied of Himself:

'. . . They gave Me also gall for My meat;
And in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.' . . .

"These portrayals of the bitter suffering and cruel death of the Promised One, . . . were rich in promise; for of Him whom 'it pleased the Lord to bruise,' . . . Jehovah declared:

'He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.'"

—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 691, 692.

How comforting it is to know that Jesus went through the deepest agony a human being can suffer, yet He endured all in order that we might be saved from the penalty of sin.

2. By what experience did Ezekiel learn to be sympathetic with those who were in trouble? Ezek. 3:15.

3. What are we admonished to do to express true sympathy for those who mourn? Rom. 12:15.

The Sympathy of the Saviour

4. How did Jesus express love and sympathy for the brokenhearted widow who had lost her only son? Luke 7:13.

5. In what spirit did the Saviour look upon the multitude of sick and careworn souls? Matt. 9:36; 14:14.

NOTE.—"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Matt. 9:36, R.S.V.

"How does a crowd affect us? It can arouse a vague excitement. It can feed our pride—as in some parades. It can make us combative. It can quicken blood lust or some other frenzy. But does it fill us with compassion? That was its effect on Jesus. The word translated compassion is actually a much stronger word: it implies pain of love. He saw the people of His land as shepherdless people. They were as if wolves had harried them and left them bleeding, because they had none to lead and protect them."—*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 7, p. 360.

6. With what precious promise did Jesus comfort His sorrowing disciples? John 14:1-3, 16.

NOTE.—"At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 669, 670.

7. Why is Jesus able to be sympathetic with every human being in his trials and sorrows? Heb. 4:15.

Pointing the Brokenhearted to Christ

8. How can the Christian help those who are burdened with anxiety and sorrow? Gal. 6:2.

NOTE.—"Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep

TO THE STORM-TOSSED SEA OF HUMANITY, JESUS SAYS: "PEACE, BE STILL!"

away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart expression of Christlike sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 30.

9. To whom may the child of God point the distressed and sorrowing? Matt. 11:28, 29.

NOTE.—"Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be open for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon your Burden Bearer." —*The Ministry of Healing,* page 72.

10. When we bring comfort and help to the needy and sorrowing, for whom do we truly minister? Matt. 25:40.

NOTE.—"What a oneness Jesus here expresses as existing between Himself and His suffering disciples! He makes their

case His own. He identifies Himself as being in person the very sufferer. Mark, selfish Christian: every neglect of the needy poor, the orphan, the fatherless, is a neglect of Jesus in their person."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 26.

11. Why is every follower of Christ particularly qualified to comfort those who are in affliction? 2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

NOTE.—" 'The comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God' is therefore the only form of comfort which is effective. Sympathy which merely assures people that we feel for them can do little. It may even increase their trouble by communicating a sense of our helplessness. It may feed their self-pity. The true comforter is one who can carry to others the strength of an experience in which God has given him the victory. This comfort is of universal application. It applies to all situations. It speaks to the hearts of people *in any affliction.* All troubles find healing in a right relationship with God, and in the opening of the mind to His message." —*The Interpreter's Bible,* vol. 10, p. 281.

A Message of Hope

12. What message of Jesus can be carried to every sorrowing soul who is weak in faith? Mark 11:22.

13. If we are filled with God's Spirit, what may be our daily experience in bringing comfort to others? Isa. 50:4.

NOTE.—"Every kind and sympathizing word spoken to the sorrowful, every act to relieve the oppressed, and every gift to supply the necessities of our fellow beings, given or done with an eye to God's glory, will result in blessings to the giver."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 56.

14. How are we to intercede with our heavenly Father for those who are in need? James 5:16.

Suggestion for Meditation

"There is a reason why the darkness of sorrow deepens our affection for one another. The reason is that we are both more lovable and more loving when sorrow softens us. When a man is riding high in unbroken success, we may admire and applaud him, yet feel little affection for him. But when adversity knocks him off his high horse, and he picks himself up, mellowed in spirit, courageously showing that he can take it, then our admiration is enriched by affection. The man is more lovable."—Ralph W. Sockman, *The Higher Happiness,* page 51.

Lesson 12, for December 18, 1954

Preparing for the Time of Trouble

MEMORY VERSE: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pages 616-634.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: An "All-Out" Conflict

II. A Time of Great Trouble

1. When the time of trouble begins. Dan. 12:1.
2. A day of distress and destruction. Joel 1:15; 2:11.
3. The time of "Jacob's trouble." Jer. 30:5, 7.

III. The Door of Mercy Is Closed

1. Every man's fate is sealed. Rev. 22:11.
2. A futile search for God's word. Amos 8:11, 12.

IV. God's People in the Hour of Trial

1. The promise of protection. Rev. 3:10.
2. Sheltered from the storm. Ps. 27:5; 91:9, 10.
3. The armor for the Christian. Eph. 6:11, 12.
4. The weapon against evil. Eph. 6:17.

V. When the Crisis Comes

1. God's people will have a defense. Isa. 33:15, 16.
2. The death decree. Rev. 13:15.

VI. God Delivers His Faithful Ones

1. Waiting for Christ's coming. Isa. 25:9.
2. Coming out of great tribulation. Rev. 7:13, 14.
3. Receiving the blessings of heaven. Rev. 7:16, 17.

Key Thought:

Wrestling With God. "It was an hour of fearful, terrible agony to the saints. Day and night they cried unto God for deliverance. To outward appearance, there was no possibility of their escape. The wicked had already begun to triumph, crying out, 'Why doesn't your God deliver you out of our hands? Why don't you go up, and save your lives?' But the saints heeded them not. Like Jacob, they were wrestling with God. The angels longed to deliver them, but they must wait a little longer; the people of God must drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism."—*Early Writings,* pages 283, 284.

THE LESSON

Introduction: An "All-Out" Conflict

Soldiers of the cross will be called upon to face an "all-out" war against the forces of evil that seek to destroy the soul. This is not a time when Christians can be content with half-hearted measures for spiritual defense. God has warned that "the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Rev. 12:12.

The question for every soldier of the cross to face is, "Am I prepared to meet my Captain when He returns?" The remnant people will endure the testing and trial because they are established upon God's word. They will possess patience and the faith of Jesus.

A Time of Great Trouble

1. When does the time of trouble begin? Dan. 12:1.

NOTE.—"When Christ shall cease His work as Mediator in man's behalf, then this time of trouble will begin. Then the case of every soul will have been decided, and there will be no atoning blood to cleanse from sin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 201.

2. How does the prophet Joel describe the day of the Lord? Joel 1:15; 2:11.

3. What does Jeremiah call the period of distress and trial that will come on the earth? Jer. 30:5, 7.

NOTE.—"Jacob's experience during that night of wrestling and anguish represents the trial through which the people of God

must pass just before Christ's second coming. . . . As Jacob was threatened with death by his angry brother, so the people of God will be in peril from the wicked who are seeking to destroy them. And as the patriarch wrestled all night for deliverance from the hand of Esau, so the righteous will cry to God day and night for deliverance from the enemies that surround them."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 201.

The Door of Mercy Is Closed

4. What divine proclamation is given at that time concerning man's fate? Rev. 22:11.

NOTE.—"When Jesus leaves His position as man's Intercessor before God, the solemn announcement is made, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' Then the restraining Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 201.

5. In the day of trouble for what will men search in vain? Amos 8:11, 12.

God's People in the Hour of Trial

6. When God's people must stand alone in the crisis, what promise will be fulfilled for them? Rev. 3:10.

NOTE.—"Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise, 'I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 619.

7. How will God intervene to save His faithful ones in the time of Jacob's trouble? Ps. 27:5; 91:9, 10.

NOTE.—"The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace. The time of trouble is a fearful ordeal for God's people; but it is the time for every true believer to look up, and by faith he may see the bow of promise encircling him."—*The Great Controversy,* page 633.

8. What spiritual equipment will enable us to stand in the time of trouble? Eph. 6:11, 12.

9. What weapon will help us in our fight against evil? Eph. 6:17.

NOTE.—"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," will be the strength of every Christian in the darkest hours that shall come to this earth. "Only those who have been diligent students of the Scrip-

tures, and who have received the love of the truth, will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all, the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation, the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible, and the Bible only?"—*The Great Controversy,* page 625.

When the Crisis Comes

10. When famine and distress sweep over the earth, what loving care will the Lord have for His faithful ones? Isa. 33:15, 16.

NOTE.—"The people of God will not be free from suffering; but while persecuted and distressed, while they endure privation, and suffer for want of food, they will not be left to perish. That God who cared for Elijah, will not pass by one of His self-sacrificing children. He who numbers the hairs of their head, will care for them; and in time of famine they shall be satisfied. While the wicked are dying from hunger and pestilence, angels will shield the righteous, and supply their wants."—*The Great Controversy,* page 629.

11. What decree against God's people will be issued by the enemies of truth? Rev. 13:15.

NOTE.—"A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob's trouble."—*Life Sketches,* page 117.

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof."—*The Great Controversy,* page 635.

God Delivers His Faithful Ones

12. As the faithful remnant look up in the darkness and see Jesus coming in power and glory, what do they say? Isa. 25:9.

13. What words of praise are given to those who have stood steadfast for God in the time of trouble? Rev. 7:13, 14.

NOTE.—"In all ages the Saviour's chosen have been educated and disciplined in the school of trial. They walked in narrow paths on earth; they were purified in the furnance of affliction. For Jesus' sake they endured opposition, hatred, calumny. They followed Him through conflicts sore; they endured self-denial and experienced bitter disappointments. By their own painful experience they learned the evil of sin, its power, its guilt, its woe; and they look upon it with abhorrence. . . . Having been partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are fitted to be partakers with Him of His glory."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 649, 650.

14. What glorious promise is given to the redeemed concerning the end of all sorrow and suffering? Rev. 7:16, 17.

Suggestion for Meditation

"To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come,—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God's children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!" —*Education,* page 183.

Lesson 13, for December 25, 1954

When Sorrow and Suffering End

MEMORY VERSE: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:10.

STUDY HELP: "The Great Controversy," pages 662-678.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT

1. General survey of the lesson.
2. Key Thought; Introduction; Ques. 1, 2.
3. Ques. 3-5.
4. Ques. 6-8.
5. Ques. 9-12.
6. Ques. 13, 14; read Study Help.
7. Review the entire lesson; read the Suggestion for Meditation.

Lesson Outline:

I. Introduction: Homesick for Heaven

II. God's World of Tomorrow

1. A city is prepared. Heb. 11:16.
2. A promised new heaven and earth. 2 Peter 3:13.
3. A new creation. Isa. 65:17.

III. The End of Heartaches and Tears

1. We shall see His face. Rev. 22:4.
2. Disease, pain, and death are ended. Rev. 21:4.
3. There shall be no more crying. Isa. 65:19.
4. There shall be no night there. Rev. 21:23, 25.

IV. Peace and Security for Evermore

1. The redeemed will be secure. Isa. 65:21, 22.
2. A land of peace and rest. Isa. 32:18; 60:18.
3. A land where sickness is unknown. Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6.

V. The Land of Beginning Again

1. Sin cannot enter. Rev. 21:27.
2. Our citizenship is changed. Col. 1:12, 13.
3. Obedience required to enter God's kingdom. Rev. 22:14.
4. The promise of eternal happiness. Isa. 35:10.

Key Thought:

Perplexities Will End. "There are homes for the pilgrims of earth. There are robes for the righteous, with crowns of glory and palms of victory. All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying. As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 286.

THE LESSON

Introduction: Homesick for Heaven

Men of God through the ages have been homesick for that better land beyond the reach of sin, suffering, and death. The heroes of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews—sometimes called the Westminster Abbey of the Bible—were not satisfied

with this world after they had heard of the home God was preparing for them.

"We will never prepare for a better world," says one writer, "until we are tired of the one we are in." Are we homesick for God's new creation? Are we prepared to see our Saviour face to face? May we be able to say as did John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20.

God's World of Tomorrow

1. What has God prepared for those who suffered persecution, sorrow, and trial, yet stood firm in the faith? Heb. 11:16.

2. How does the apostle Peter express the longing of every follower of Christ? 2 Peter 3:13.

NOTE.—"We are still amidst the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities. Let us consider most earnestly the blessed hereafter. Let our faith pierce through every cloud of darkness and behold Him who died for the sins of the world. He has opened the gates of paradise to all who receive and believe on Him. To them He gives power to became the sons and daughters of God. Let the afflictions which pain us so grievously become instructive lessons, teaching us to press forward toward the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ. Let us be encouraged by the thought that the Lord is soon to come."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, pp. 286, 287.

3. What does God say concerning His new creation? Isa. 65:17.

NOTE.—The margin reads: "Come upon the heart;" that is, "to be desired." The former world of sin and suffering will not be remembered or desired.

The End of Heartaches and Tears

4. What will be the greatest joy of the redeemed as they enter God's kingdom? Rev. 22:4.

5. From what enemies will the ransomed of the Lord be forever free? Rev. 21:4.

6. What will never be heard in the home of the redeemed? Isa. 65:19.

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

7. In the glory of God's presence what is said concerning the light of the city? Rev. 21:23, 25.

NOTE.—"In the city of God 'there shall be no night.' None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close. 'And they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light.' The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the

Holy City with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day."—*The Great Controversy,* page 676.

Peace and Security for Evermore

8. What promise of eternal security is given to the dwellers in the new earth? Isa. 65:21, 22.

9. In contrast to the ravages of war and strife suffered by millions today, what will be their experience in that new land? Isa. 32:18; 60:18.

10. What will be the physical condition of all who enjoy God's kingdom? Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6.

The Land of Beginning Again

11. How can we be certain that the curse of sin shall not again appear to mar God's plan? Rev. 21:27.

NOTE.—"The nations of the saved will know no other law than the law of heaven." —*Prophets and Kings,* page 732.

12. For what wonderful change of citizenship may every Christian give thanks? Col. 1:12, 13.

NOTE.—"Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."—R.S.V. translation of Col. 1:12, 13.

13. What is the requirement for citizenship in the kingdom of God? Rev. 22:14.

14. Beyond the trial and sorrow of this life, what glorious promise will be fulfilled? Isa. 35:10.

NOTE.—"The conflict is over. Tribulation and strife are at an end. Songs of victory fill all heaven as the ransomed ones take up the joyful strain, Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again, a triumphant conqueror."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 602.

Suggestion for Meditation

"The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love." —*The Great Controversy,* page 678.

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THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 25, 1954—Taiwan (Formosa)

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow of the fourth quarter, 1954, will help in establishing the first Seventh-day Adventist sanitarium-hospital on the island of Taiwan (Formosa). It is hoped that the honest in heart who come for physical healing to this institution will feel the evangelizing influence of the gospel and will be drawn to the Saviour.

A number of former workers in China have taken up work among the people of Taiwan, and a strong work is going forward through the Voice of Prophecy Bible correspondence courses and other lines of work. Those who have labored long years in the Orient have shouldered the burden in this land of opportunity. They are earnestly laboring here for the twelve million people of the island, who are mainly Chinese. They are looking to Sabbath-school members round the world to give them a helping hand, through the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, in building their much-needed sanitarium-hospital.

LESSONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1955

Sabbath-school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of next year 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 lessons is "Lessons From the Miracles of Jesus." The first lesson is entitled "Faith at a Wedding Feast." The memory verse is John 2:5. The study help is *The Desire of Ages,* pages 144-153. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. John 2:1 (first part), 2.
Ques. 2. John 2:1, last part.
Ques. 3. John 1:40, 41, 43, 45.
Ques. 4. John 2:3.
Ques. 5. John 2:4.
Ques. 6. John 7:3-8, 30; 8:20.
Ques. 7. John 2:5.
Ques. 8. John 2:6, 7.
Ques. 9. John 2:8.
Ques. 10. John 2:9, 10.
Ques. 11. John 2:11, first part.
Ques. 12. John 2:11, last part.

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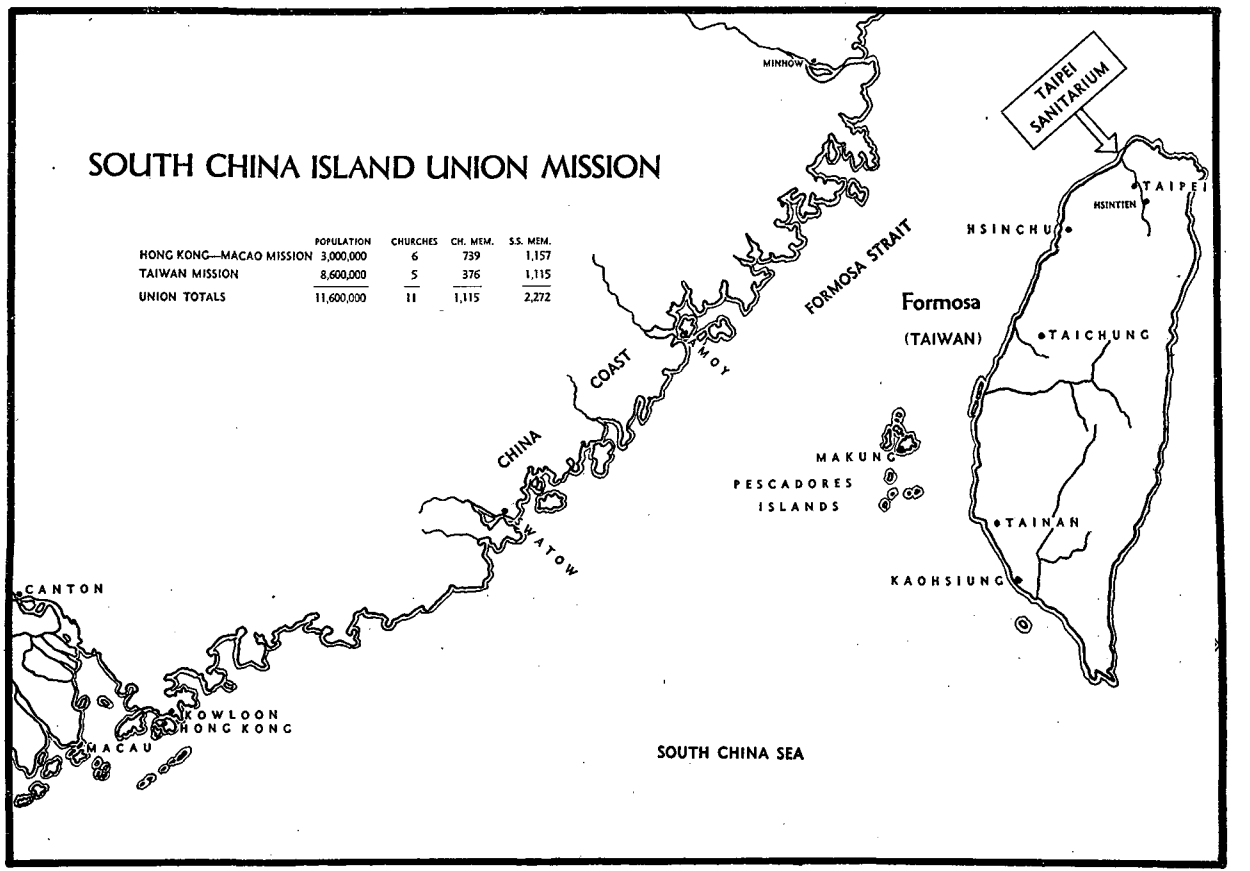
	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEM.	S.S. MEM.
HONG KONG—MACAO MISSION	3,000,000	6	739	1,157
TAIWAN MISSION	8,600,000	5	376	1,115
UNION TOTALS	11,600,000	11	1,115	2,272