SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

OUR WONDERFUL GOD

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 256, SECOND QUARTER, 1959

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. Every seed brings forth fruit after its kind. . . . Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

"Appreciation of the Bible grows with its study."—*Ibid.,* p. 132.

"God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 391.

"The neglect of the word means starvation to the soul."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 44.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

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

Name _____

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. God's Satisfying Friendship
2. God's Transcendent and Mysterious Nature
3. God's Ceaseless Work as Creator and Sustainer
4. God's Perfect Character
5. God's Perfect Character—Continued
6. God's Unsearchable Wisdom
7. God's Universal Government
8. God's Immutable Law
9. God's Sacred Name
10. God's Omnipotence
11. God's Consuming Glory
12. God's Holy Word
13. God's Wonderful Fatherhood

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

OUR WONDERFUL GOD

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

"A knowledge of God is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation. *It is this alone that can make us like God in character.*

"This is the knowledge needed by all who are working for the uplifting of their fellow men. Transformation of character, purity of life, efficiency in service, adherence to correct principles, *all depend upon a right knowledge of God.* This knowledge is the essential preparation both for this life and for the life to come."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 409. (Italics supplied.)

While a knowledge of God has always been needed by followers of truth, it is of special importance to members of the remnant church, for they must meet the final issues connected with loyalty to God and His law.

"Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him *only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes,* and act in accordance with them."—*The Great Controversy,* page 593. (Italics supplied.)

The Sabbath school lessons this quarter are designed to help every member understand more perfectly the great God whom we serve. This knowledge, if reverently received, will do much toward enabling each Christian to remain steadfast to the end.

Lesson 1, for April 4, 1959

God's Satisfying Friendship

MEMORY VERSE: "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." Job 22:21.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 311-321; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 451-457; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of March 19.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11, 12; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Importance of Knowing God

1. Necessary for eternal life. John 17:3.
2. The source of all spiritual blessings. 2 Peter 1:2, 3.
3. Is true wisdom. Prov. 9:10.
4. Is greatest cause for satisfaction. Jer. 9:23, 24.

II. Avenues Through Which Men Become Acquainted With God

5. God revealed through visible things. Rom. 1:19, 20.
6. The heavenly bodies declare Him. Ps. 19:1-3.
7. The Father revealed through Christ. John 14:8, 9; 8:19.
8. Christ revealed in Scriptures. John 5:39.

III. Conditions for Knowing God

9. Be still. Ps. 46:10.
10. Earnest desire. Ps. 42:1; 63:1; 84:2.
11. Praying, having forsaken sin. James 4:8; Ps. 145:18.
12. Search with whole heart. Jer. 29:13.

THE LESSON

Introduction

God created man in His own image, with the capabilities necessary to develop a character like His. He also placed within man a desire to know God and have fellowship with Him. Without God, man is restless, often seeking to satisfy his vague, little-understood craving for God's friendship by reaching out for worldly pleasures or by seeking the companionship of those who mind earthly things.

Throughout the Bible God extends an invitation to man to become acquainted with Him. A partial knowledge of Him can be obtained in several ways, such as through the Inspired Word, through Christ, through nature, and through personal experience. Through these avenues of revelation we may learn to love God and develop a satisfying friendship with Him. Beyond what has been revealed, however, we have been warned not to speculate.

Importance of Knowing God

1. What priceless gift will come to all who truly know God? John 17:3.

NOTE.—"The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. It is the knowledge that works transformation of character. This knowledge, received, will re-create the soul in the image of God. It will impart to the whole being a spiritual power that is divine."—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 425.

2. How many spiritual blessings are available through a knowledge of God? Name two. 2 Peter 1:2, 3.

NOTE.—"Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue, and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the knowledge of God. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation; and it is this alone that can make one like God in character. Through the knowledge of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, are given to the believer 'all things that pertain unto life and godliness.' No good gift is withheld from him who sincerely desires to obtain the righteousness of God."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pages 530, 531.

3. What does Solomon say is the source of true wisdom and understanding? Prov. 9:10.

NOTE.—" 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and *the knowledge of the Holy* is understanding.' Proverbs 9:10.

The great work of life is character building; and a knowledge of God is the foundation of all true education. . . . God has revealed Himself to us in His word and in the works of creation. Through the volume of inspiration and the book of nature, we are to obtain a knowledge of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 596.

4. What does God declare should be man's greatest cause for joy and personal satisfaction? Jer. 9:23, 24.

NOTE.—"There is a great deal of talk concerning higher education, and many suppose that higher education consists wholly in an education in science and literature; but this is not all. The highest education includes the knowledge of the word of God, and is comprehended in the words, 'That they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.' John 17:3.

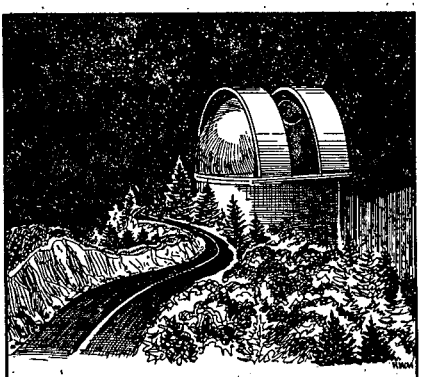
"The highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the best development of character, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. . . . The highest education is that which will teach our children and youth the science of Christianity, which will give them an experimental knowledge of God's ways, and will impart to them the lessons that Christ gave to His disciples, of the paternal character of God."—*Counsels to Teachers,* pages 45, 46.

Avenues Through Which Men Become Acquainted With God

5. Why are men without excuse if they do not know God? Rom. 1:19, 20.

NOTE.—"In the song of the bird, the sighing of the trees, and the music of the sea, we still may hear His voice who talked with Adam in Eden in the cool of the day."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 281, 282.

"Nature testifies that One infinite in power, great in goodness, mercy, and love, created the earth, and filled it with life and gladness. Even in their blighted state, all things reveal the handiwork of the great



A GREAT OBSERVATORY MAGNIFIES THE GLORY OF GOD.

Master Artist. Wherever we turn, we may hear the voice of God, and see evidences of His goodness.

"From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvelous tint and color, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell us of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight, and the flowers in their delicate beauty, point to their Creator. . . . All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens, speak of God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 411, 412.

6. What message do the heavenly bodies proclaim to mankind? Ps. 19: 1-3.

NOTE.—"No finite mind can fully comprehend the existence, the power, the wisdom, or the works of the Infinite One. . . . The mightiest intellects of earth cannot comprehend God. Men may be ever searching, ever learning, and still there is an infinity beyond. Yet the works of creation testify of God's power and greatness."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 116.

7. For what lack of discernment did Christ reprove the people of His day? John 14:8, 9; 8:19.

NOTE.—"All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 286.

8. What is one way by which we may become acquainted with Christ? John 5:39.

NOTE.—"Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures,—and how much more is it true of the New,—'They are they which testify of Me,' the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. John 5: 39. Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ. From the first record of creation—for 'without Him was not anything made that was made'—to the closing promise, 'Behold, I come quickly,' we are reading of His works and listening to His voice. John 1:3; Revelation 22:12. If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 and pocket eds.), page 88.

Conditions for Knowing God

9. What attitude or condition in man is favorable to learning of the Eternal One? Ps. 46:10.

NOTE.—"All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 58.

10. How earnestly must we desire to become acquainted with God if we are to know Him intimately? Ps. 42: 1; 63:1; 84:2.

11. On what conditions will God draw near to His people? James 4:8; Ps. 145:18.

NOTE.—Prayer is one important means by which we can draw nigh to God. "Although there may be a tainted, corrupted atmosphere around us, we need not breathe its miasma, but may live in the pure air of heaven. We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer. Those whose hearts are open to receive the support and blessing of God will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will have constant communion with heaven."—*Steps to Christ,* page 99.

12. What does God promise to those who search for Him with the whole heart? Jer. 29:13.

Questions for Meditation

1. If I feel restless and unhappy, what may be lacking in my life?
2. Is it possible to develop a satisfying friendship with God without spending some time each day in contemplating His goodness and studying His word?
3. If I know God, how successful will I be in enduring the trials that come to all Christians?

PLEASE NOTE: The pagination of the 1956 edition of "Steps to Christ" is the same as the pocket edition. Where quotations are given from this book, this is the pagination used. Where the book is listed as a study help, the pagination in the old 1908 edition is also listed. "Love Unlimited," the 1959 Book of the Year, contains "Steps to Christ" in the first half of the volume, with paging the same as in the 1956 edition.

God's Transcendent and Mysterious Nature

MEMORY VERSE: "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me." Ps. 139:7-10.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 263-294; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of March 26.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8.	☐	Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Trinity

1. There is only one God. Mark 12:29, 32; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Deut. 6:4.
2. God is three Persons. Gen. 1:1, 2, 26.
3. Disciples are baptized in the name of the Trinity. Matt. 28:19.
4. Paul speaks of God, the Lord Jesus, the Holy Ghost. 2 Cor. 13:14.
5. Christ is one with the Father. John 10:30.

II. The Person of God

6. Man was made in God's image. Gen. 1:27.
7. Physical features of God mentioned in Scripture. Gen. 3:9, 10; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 34:15; Isa. 59:1; Rev. 22:4.
8. Christ as seen by Daniel and John. Dan. 7:9; 10:5, 6; Rev. 1:12-17.

III. God's Omnipresence

9. God is on His throne in heaven. Ps. 11:4; Isa. 6:1; Rev. 4:2.
10. He is everywhere present by His Spirit. Ps. 139:7-10.
11. He dwells in human hearts. Isa. 57:15.

IV. God's Nature Illustrated

12. He is likened to fire. Heb. 12:29.
13. Revealed as fire to Moses and children of Israel. Ex. 3:1-6; 13:21, 22.
14. Compared to the wind. John 3:7, 8.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Much has been revealed concerning God, yet His true nature is a mystery to us.

"The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. None are to indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion. . . .

"We are as ignorant of God as little children; but, as little children, we may love and obey Him."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 429.

The Trinity

1. What fundamental concept of God do the Scriptures present? Mark 12:29, 32; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Deut. 6:4.

NOTE.—"In striking contrast to the nations about them, who were polytheists, the Hebrews believed in one true God. This profession of faith has been the watchword of the Hebrew race for more than 3,000 years (see Mark 12:29). The apostle Paul states the same truth as a tenet of Christianity (1 Cor. 8:4-6; Eph. 4:4-6)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 974.

2. What do we learn regarding the Godhead from the record of the creation of the world? Gen. 1:1, 2, 26.

NOTE.—"*The Spirit of God moved.* 'Spirit,' *ruach.* In harmony with Scriptural usage, the Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead."

"*Let Us make man. . . .* The plural 'Us' was regarded by the early church theologians almost unanimously as indicative of the Three Persons of the Godhead. The word 'us' requires the presence of at least two persons counseling together. The statements that *man was to be made* in 'Our' image and *was made* in 'God's' image leads to the conclusion that those counseling must both be Persons of the same Godhead."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, pp. 209, 215.

3. In giving the great commission, how did Jesus emphasize the trinity of the Godhead? Matt. 28:19.

NOTE.—"There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ."—*Evangelism,* page 615.

4. How does Paul make reference to the Trinity? 2 Cor. 13:14.

NOTE.—"The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. . . . The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe on Christ as a personal Saviour."—*Evangelism,* pages 614, 615.

5. What did Jesus say of His relationship to His Father and the unity existing between them? John 10:30.

NOTE.—"The unity that exists between Christ and His disciples does not destroy the personality of either. They are one in purpose, in mind, in character, but not in person. It is thus that God and Christ are one."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 422.

All three members of the Deity shared in laying the plan of salvation. "The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption."—*Counsels on Health,* page 222.

The Person of God

6. What general pattern was used when God created man? Gen. 1:27.

NOTE.—"Man was to bear God's image, both in outward resemblance and in character. Christ alone is 'the express image' of the Father; but man was formed in the likeness of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 45.

Since man was made in God's "image," we may understand that God is a person. Throughout the Scriptures, He is described as having the attributes of the type of personality with which we are familiar.

7. What five physical aspects of God indicate that He is a person? Gen. 3: 9, 10; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 34:15; Isa. 59: 1; Rev. 22:4.

NOTE.—"God is a Spirit; yet He is a personal Being; for so He has revealed Himself."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 413.

"I have often seen the lovely Jesus, that He is a *person.* I asked Him if His Father was a person and had a form like Himself. Said Jesus, 'I am in the express *image* of My Father's *person.*' "—*Early Writings,* page 77.

The following interesting description of a scene in heaven indicates the very real personality of both the Father and the Son: "Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had *clasped Their hands* in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 834. (Italics supplied.)

"The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. . . . The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God."—*Evangelism,* pages 616, 617.

8. How does the description of "the Ancient of Days" given by the prophet Daniel compare with that of Christ given by the apostle John in Revelation? Dan. 7:9; 10:5, 6; Rev. 1:12-17.

God's Omnipresence

9. Where is God's throne located? Ps. 11:4; Isa. 6:1; Rev. 4:2.

NOTE.—"The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. 'The Lord's throne is in heaven' (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand."—*Education,* page 132.

10. How do we know that God can be everywhere present by His Spirit? Ps. 139:7-10.

NOTE.—"The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 417.

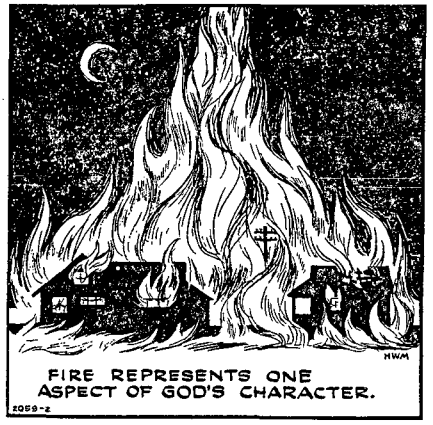
11. With whom has God promised to dwell? Isa. 57:15.

NOTE.—"The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ. The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 300.

God's Nature Illustrated

12. To what familiar but powerful element does Paul liken God? Heb. 12:29.

NOTE.—It should be recognized that it is dangerous to try to compare the Godhead with earthly things. "God cannot be com-



pared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father cannot be described by the things of earth. The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight."—*Evangelism,* page 614.

13. Through what experiences was this aspect of God's nature revealed to Moses and to the children of Israel? Ex. 3:1-6; 13:21, 22.

14. To what force in nature did Jesus liken the workings of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead? John 3:7, 8.

NOTE.—"Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 57.

"The wind is heard among the branches of the trees, rustling the leaves and flowers; yet it is invisible, and no man knows whence it comes or whither it goes. So with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart. It can no more be explained than can the movements of the wind. . . . By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 172.

Questions for Meditation

1. With how much knowledge concerning God's nature should we be content? (Deut. 29:29.)

2. Since God is everywhere present, need we ever feel lonely?

3. What spiritual benefits are missed by those who think of God merely as a force instead of a person?

4. Am I a true worshiper? (John 4:23, 24.)

"As an infinite spirit being, God is not subject to the same limitations as finite material beings, and consequently is not so much concerned with visible places and forms of worship as He is with the spirit in which men worship Him."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 941.

Lesson 3, for April 18, 1959

God's Ceaseless Work as Creator and Sustainer

MEMORY VERSE: "Thus saith God the Lord, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein." "I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images." Isa. 42:5, 8.

STUDY HELPS: "The Ministry of Healing," pages 409-426; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of April 2.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God as the Creator

1. The entire Godhead shared in creation. Ex. 20:11; Job 33:4; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:13, 15, 16; Heb. 1:2.
2. The method of creation. Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3.
3. Creation distinguishes the true God from the false. 1 Chron. 16:26; Isa. 40:18, 25, 26; Rev. 4:11.

II. God as Provider of Temporal Necessities

4. God supplies every need. Acts 17:24, 25, 28.
5. He waters the earth. Job 38:25-28; Ps. 147:7, 8; Amos 5:7, 8.
6. He cares for mankind. Matt. 6:25-34.
7. He fed Elijah miraculously. 1 Kings 17:8, 9, 14-16.

III. God as Provider of Spiritual Necessities

8. He supplied Israel's spiritual needs in the wilderness. 1 Cor. 10:3, 4.
9. He will give all needed blessings to us. Phil. 4:19; Rom. 8:32.
10. The Holy Spirit aids in spiritual ministry to man. John 16:12-14.
11. God uses men to supply spiritual needs of others. Acts 10:1-6, 9-20, 28.
12. God satisfied the needs of the Ethiopian. Acts 8:26-35.
13. God cares for us. 1 Peter 5:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

It is important that we recognize God not only as the One who made us, but also as the Being who is continually engaged in upholding His creation. We must understand that He has not left the earth to run itself, but that He has a personal interest in that which He has made.

"Thousands become infidels because their finite minds cannot comprehend the mysteries of God. They cannot explain the wonderful exhibition of divine power in His providences, therefore they reject the evidences of such power, attributing them to natural agencies which they can comprehend still less. The only key to the mysteries that surround us is to acknowledge in them all the presence and power of God. Men need to recognize God as the Creator of the universe, One who commands and executes all things. They need a broader view of His character, and of the mystery of His agencies."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 606.

God as the Creator

1. Aside from the Genesis record, how do we know that the entire Godhead took part in the work of creation? Ex. 20:11; Job 33:4; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:13, 15, 16; Heb. 1:2.

NOTE.—"The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate,—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.' John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, in purpose,—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and pur-

poses of God. . . . The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 34.

"The Spirit of God has the role of the divine Agent of God in all creative acts, whether of the earth, of nature, of the church, of the new life, or of the new man. . . . This divine Agent has ever been present to assist in the work of creation and redemption."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 209.

2. How did God create the universe? Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3.

NOTE.—"In the creation of the earth, God was not indebted to pre-existing matter. 'He spake, and it was; . . . He commanded, and it stood fast.' Psalm 33:9. All things, material or spiritual, stood up before the Lord Jehovah at His voice and were created for His own purpose. The heavens and all the host of them, the earth and all things therein, came into existence by the breath of His mouth."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 414, 415.

3. What distinguishes the true God from all other gods? 1 Chron. 16:26; Isa. 40:18, 25, 26. Compare Rev. 4:11.

NOTE.—"The duty to worship God is based upon the fact that He is the Creator and that to Him all other beings owe their existence. And wherever, in the Bible, His claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is presented, there is cited the evidence of His creative power. 'All the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.' Psalm 96:5. . . . And the holy beings who worship God in heaven state, as the reason why their homage is due to Him: 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things.' Revelation 4:11."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 436, 437.

God as Provider of Temporal Necessities

4. What did the apostle Paul declare about our dependence upon God for temporal needs and even for life itself? Acts 17:24, 25, 28.

NOTE.—"It is not as the result of a mechanism, which, once set in motion, continues its work, that the pulse beats and breath follows breath. In God we live and move and have our being. The beating heart, the throbbing pulse, every nerve and muscle in the living organism, is kept in order and activity by the power of an ever-present God."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 417.

5. What evidence do we have in nature of God's care for the earth? Job 38:25-28; Ps. 147:7, 8; Amos 5:7, 8.

NOTE.—"Our Father in heaven is the source of life, of wisdom, and of joy. Look at the wonderful and beautiful things of nature. Think of their marvelous adaptation to the needs and happiness, not only of man, but of all living creatures. The sunshine and the rain, that gladden and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and plains, all speak to us of the Creator's love. It is God who supplies the daily needs of all His creatures."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 9.

6. What lesson should man learn from the way God provides for the vegetable and animal creation? Matt. 6:25-34.

NOTE.—"The great Provider for man and beast opens His hand and supplies all His creatures. The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes provision for their needs. They must gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material for their little nests. They must feed their young. They go forth singing to their labor, for 'your heavenly Father feedeth them.' And 'are ye not much better than they?' Are not you, as intelligent, spiritual worshipers, of more value than the birds of the air? Will not the Author of our

being, the Preserver of our life, the One who formed us in His own divine image, provide for our necessities if we but trust in Him?" *Steps to Christ,* page 123.

7. During a period of drought in Israel, in what unusual way did the Lord provide for Elijah? 1 Kings 17: 8, 9, 14-16.

NOTE.—When the situation demands it and when His wisdom determines it best, God will provide for His people through miraculous means.

God as Provider of Spiritual Necessities

8. In addition to supplying their physical necessities, what did God provide for the children of Israel in the wilderness? 1 Cor. 10:3, 4.

9. How completely will God satisfy our physical and spiritual needs? Phil. 4:19; Rom. 8:32.

NOTE.—"It was the Maker of all things who ordained the wonderful adaptation of means to end, of supply to need. It was He who in the material world provided that every desire implanted should be met. It was He who created the human soul, with its capacity for knowing and for loving. And He is not in Himself such as to leave the demands of the soul unsatisfied."—*Education,* page 133.

10. What is the Holy Spirit's part in providing us with spiritual sustenance? John 16:12-14.

NOTE.—"Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people 'to will and to do of His good pleasure.' Phil. 2:13. . . . This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 672.

11. Through what means did God work to satisfy Cornelius's desire for truth? Acts 10:1-6, 9-20, 28.

12. In what way did God answer the Ethiopian's desire for light? Acts 8:26-35.

NOTE.—"We are to be consecrated channels, through which the heavenly life is to flow to others. The Holy Spirit is to animate and pervade the whole church, purifying and cementing hearts."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 20.

13. Why can we safely trust God for every temporal and spiritual need? 1 Peter 5:7.

Questions for Meditation

1. What difference does it make in our life when we think of God as One who is continually engaged in supplying the needs of His creatures rather than as an absentee landlord?

2. What does worry indicate about our knowledge of God?

3. Which is most nearly correct?
   a. God will make provision for all our needs without any effort on our part.
   b. God expects us to do all we can to feed our physical and spiritual natures, and when we do He will see that we do not lack.
   c. God has given us the tools to work with and He expects us to provide for ourselves without His help.

Lesson 4, for April 25, 1959

God's Perfect Character

MEMORY VERSE: "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Ex. 34:6, 7.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," pages 9-15 (1956 and pocket eds.); pages 9-18 (1908 ed.); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of April 9.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: Survey entire lesson.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read further from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God Is Love

1. His nature is love. 1 John 4:8, 16.
2. His love is everlasting. Jer. 31:3.
3. His love is greater than human love. Isa. 49:15, 16.
4. Demonstrated in Christ. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
5. Nothing can separate us from His love. Rom. 8:38, 39.

II. God's Mercy and Forgiveness

6. He is plenteous in mercy. Ps. 86:5; 103:8.
7. His mercy endures forever. 1 Chron. 16:34; Ps. 103:17; 138:8.
8. His mercy revealed through forgiveness. Micah 7:18, 19.
9. Man's part in obtaining mercy. Ex. 20:6; Isa. 55:7.

III. The Long-Suffering of God

10. Mercy and forgiveness of God. Ex. 34:6; Ps. 86:15.
11. Christ's second coming delayed because He is long-suffering. 2 Peter 3:9, 15.

IV. God's Unchangeableness

12. His nature is unchanging. Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.
13. Inspires confidence in Him. Heb. 7:24, 25; 13:8; 4:16.

Introduction

The character of God is one of the themes that we as Christians are urged to study. "The character of God, His love manifested in giving His Son to die for the world, and the beauty of holiness, are exalted themes for contemplation. These will strengthen the intellect, and bring man into close communion with the Infinite One."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 49.

God Is Love

1. With what supreme characteristic is God identified? 1 John 4:8, 16.

NOTE.—" 'God is love.' His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. . . . Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. . . . The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God's unchanging love." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 33.

2. What quality of God's love should give us great courage? Jer. 31:3.

NOTE.—"While the sinner is yet far from the Father's house, wasting his substance in a strange country, the Father's heart is yearning over him; and every longing awakened in the soul to return to God is but the tender pleading of His Spirit, wooing, entreating, drawing the wanderer to his Father's heart of love."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 54.

3. By what illustration does God help us to understand His love for mankind? Isa. 49:15, 16.

NOTE.—"Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 142.

4. In what way has God demonstrated His love for us? John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.

NOTE.—"Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity."

"But this great sacrifice was not made in order to create in the Father's heart a love for man, not to make Him willing to save. No, no! . . . The Father loves us, not because of the great propitiation, but He provided the propitiation because He loves us. Christ was the medium through which He could pour out His infinite love upon a fallen world. 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.' 2 Corinthians 5: 19. God suffered with His Son. In the agony of Gethsemane, the death of Calvary, the heart of Infinite Love paid the price of our redemption."—*Steps to Christ*, pages 14, 13.

5. How did Paul describe the supremacy of God's love as manifested through Christ? Rom. 8:38, 39.

NOTE.—"All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 740.

God's Mercy and Forgiveness

6. In what wonderful characteristic is God said to be "plenteous"? Ps. 86:5; 103:8.

7. Of what duration is God's mercy? 1 Chron. 16:34; Ps. 103:17; 138:8.

8. What is one way in which God's mercy is revealed toward us? Micah 7:18, 19.

A MOTHER MAY FORGET HER CHILD; GOD DOES NOT FORGET US.

9. On what condition will God show mercy toward sinners and forgive their transgressions? Ex. 20:6; Isa. 55:7.

NOTE.—"Let none deceive themselves with the thought that God, in His great love and mercy, will yet save even the rejecters of His grace. The exceeding sinfulness of sin can be estimated only in the light of the cross."—*Steps to Christ,* page 31.

"Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. . . .

"By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed." "The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 762, 764.

The Long-Suffering of God

10. What trait of God's character is closely associated with His mercy and forgiveness? Ex. 34:6; Ps. 86:15.

NOTE.—"The God whom we serve is long-suffering; 'His compassions fail not.' Lam. 3:22. Throughout the period of probationary time, His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. . . . It is Satan's special device to lead man into sin, and then leave him there, helpless and hopeless, fearing to seek for pardon. But God invites, 'Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.' Isa. 27:5. In Christ every provision has been made, every encouragement offered."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 325, 326.

11. In what way is God's long-suffering related to the delay in Christ's second coming? 2 Peter 3:9, 15.

NOTE.—"The forbearance of God has been very great,—so great that when we consider the continuous insult to His holy commandments, we marvel. The Omnipotent One has been exerting a restraining power over His own attributes. But He will certainly arise to punish the wicked, who so boldly defy the just claims of the Decalogue.

"God allows men a period of probation; but there is a point beyond which divine patience is exhausted, and the judgments of God are sure to follow." "The end of God's forbearance with those who persist in disobedience, is approaching rapidly."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 276.

God's Unchangeableness

12. Why can we be confident that the Father is still a God of love—merciful and ready to forgive? Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.

NOTE.—"The rainbow about the throne is an assurance that God is true; that in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We have sinned against Him and are undeserving of His favor; yet He Himself has put into our lips that most wonderful of pleas: 'Do not abhor us, for Thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory: remember, break not Thy covenant with us.' Jeremiah 14:21. He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry when we come to Him confessing our unworthiness and sin. The honor of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word to us."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 23.

13. How does the unchangeable nature of God serve as an anchor to our spiritual hope? Heb. 7:24, 25; 13:8; 4:16.

NOTE.—"By His spotless life, His obedience, His death on the cross of Calvary, Christ interceded for the lost race. And now, not as a mere petitioner does the Captain of our salvation intercede for us, but as a Conqueror claiming His victory. His offering is complete, and as our Intercessor He executes His self-appointed work, holding before God the censer containing His own spotless merits and the prayers, confessions, and thanksgiving of His people. Perfumed with the fragrance of His righteousness, these ascend to God as a sweet savor. The offering is wholly acceptable, and pardon covers all transgression."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 156.

Questions for Meditation

1. Why is it wrong for me as a Christian to be unkind and selfish? What commandment am I breaking when I thus misrepresent God's character?

2. Why is God's mercy of infinite importance to us?

3. What assurance does the knowledge of God's unchangeableness give me in this world of change and transition?

Lesson 5, for May 2, 1959

God's Perfect Character—Continued

MEMORY VERSE: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy." Rev. 15:3, 4.

STUDY HELPS: "Early Writings," pages 69-71; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 737-746; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of April 16.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God Is Holy

1. God's holiness should inspire worship. Ps. 99:5, 9.
2. Isaiah humbled by vision of God. Isa. 6:1-7.
3. Man urged to emulate God's character. Lev. 19:2; Heb. 12:10, 14.
4. Angels sing of God's holiness. Rev. 4:8; 15:4, first part.

II. God Is Just

5. The redeemed acknowledge God's justice. Rev. 15:3.
6. Abraham's confidence in God's justice. Gen. 18:25.
7. God's ways compared with man's. Ezek. 18:29.
8. Moses sings of God's justice. Deut. 32:4.
9. God deals impartially with men. 2 Chron. 19:7; 1 Peter 1:17.
10. Christ declared to be the Just One. Acts 3:14.

III. God Is Faithful

11. God's faithfulness builds confidence in His word. Deut. 7:9; Heb. 10:23.
12. He will faithfully save all who come to Him. 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:24.
13. Faithfulness to be seen in His followers. 1 Cor. 4:2; Rev. 2:10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

No amount of study of the character of God can ever exhaust the subject. "The years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise."—*The Great Controversy,* page 678.

God Is Holy

1. To what feature of God's character did David call attention as a reason why men should worship Him? Ps. 99:5, 9.

NOTE.—"Holiness is the foundation of God's throne; sin is the opposite of holiness; sin crucified the Son of God. If men could see how hateful sin is, they would not tolerate it, nor educate themselves in it. They would reform in life and character."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 145.

2. When Isaiah was given a vision of the holiness of God, what effect did it have on him? What was done to his sins? Isa. 6:1-7.

NOTE.—"As Isaiah beheld this revelation of the glory and majesty of his Lord, he was overwhelmed with a sense of the purity and holiness of God. How sharp the contrast between the matchless perfection of his Creator, and the sinful course of those who, with himself, had long been numbered among the chosen people of Israel and Judah!"—*Prophets and Kings,* page 307.

3. What standard has God set for us to reach? Lev. 19:2; Heb. 12:10, 14.

NOTE.—"Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 51.

4. What is the theme of the anthem of praise offered by heavenly beings? Rev. 4:8; 15:4, first part.

NOTE.—"Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. The crowning glory of Christ's attributes is His holiness. The angels bow before Him in adoration, exclaiming, 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.' Revelation 4:8. He is declared to be glorious in His holiness. Study the character of God. By beholding Christ, by seeking Him in faith and prayer, you may become like Him."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 402.

God Is Just

5. When the redeemed sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, what will they say concerning God's dealings with mankind? Rev. 15:3.

NOTE.—"Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. . . . With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: 'Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.' "—*The Great Controversy,* pages 670, 671.

6. When God revealed to Abraham His plan to destroy Sodom, of what was the patriarch convinced concerning God's justice? Gen. 18:25.

NOTE.—"God alone is the Judge of all men. Addressing Him thus, Abraham gives evidence that he knew the One before whom he stood to be the Supreme Being. Now he appealed, not to God's grace and pardon, but to His absolute judicial equity. This principle had been demonstrated by God in His extension of probation for the Amorites another 400 years. Their iniquity was 'not yet full' (ch. 15:16). When God consented to spare Sodom if only ten righteous men could be found within its gates, He followed the same principle."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 330.

7. How does God compare His ways with those of men? Ezek. 18:29.

8. In what words did Moses proclaim the justice of God? Deut. 32:4.

NOTE.—"In all the dealings of God with His people, there is, mingled with His love and mercy, the most striking evidence of His strict and impartial justice. This is exemplified in the history of the Hebrew people. God had bestowed great blessings upon Israel. . . . And yet what swift and severe retribution was visited upon them for their transgressions!"—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 469.

9. How is the impartiality and fairness of God manifested? 2 Chron. 19: 7; 1 Peter 1:17.

NOTE.—"No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all mankind. All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple courts, that every soul may have free access to God. His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere. It lifts out of Satan's influence those who have been deluded by his deceptions, and places them within reach of the throne of God, the throne encircled by the rainbow of promise. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 369, 370.

10. Besides holiness, what other divine trait of character was manifested in the life of Christ? Acts 3:14.

God Is Faithful

11. What trait of God's character enables us to depend on the promises contained in His word? Deut. 7:9; Heb. 10:23.

12. Why is God's faithfulness important to those who have accepted the gospel invitation? 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:24.

NOTE.—There are many who accept God's offer to become citizens in His kingdom. Not all, however, will "endure unto the end." Some will give up the struggle to perfect the type of character necessary. Looking at their own weakness, they become discouraged and turn back into the world. Those who recognize the faithfulness of God, however, and who put their dependence in His mighty power, will at last be numbered among the overcomers. This can be the experience of all who truly believe that "faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

13. What is expected in the lives of Christ's followers? To what extent? 1 Cor. 4:2; Rev. 2:10.

NOTE.—"The present is a season of solemn privilege and sacred trust to the servants of God. If these trusts are faithfully kept, great will be the reward of the faithful servant when the Master shall say: 'Give an account of thy stewardship.' The earnest toil, the unselfish work, the patient, persevering effort, will be rewarded abundantly; Jesus will say: Henceforth I call you not servants, but friends, guests. The approval of the Master is not given because of the greatness of the work performed, because many things have been gained, but because of the fidelity in even a few things. It is not the great results we attain, but the motives from which we act, that weigh with God. He prizes goodness and faithfulness more than the greatness of the work accomplished."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, pp. 510, 511.

Questions for Meditation

1. If I truly know Christ, why will I not claim to be perfect and holy?
2. True or false? The rich and the poor will be treated alike by God in the judgment.
3. In what way is faithfulness important in the following relations?
   a. My marriage.
   b. My agreements with others.
   c. My religious life.

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Lesson 6, for May 9, 1959

God's Unsearchable Wisdom

MEMORY VERSE: "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding." Isa. 40:28.

STUDY HELPS: "Prophets and Kings," pages 491-502, 551-558; "Fundamentals of Christian Education," pages 181-185, 444-453; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of April 23.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God's Wisdom Compared With Man's

1. God's thoughts infinitely higher. Isa. 55:8, 9.
2. Paul's response to God's wisdom. Rom. 11:33.
3. Man cannot search out God's wisdom. Ps. 147:5; Isa. 40:28.

II. God Knows All Things

4. He sees the future. Isa. 42:8, 9; 46:9, 10.
5. He knows every secret. Ps. 44:21; Dan. 2:47.
6. He knows the personal life of each individual. 1 Chron. 28:9; Ps. 139:1-6, 14-16.
7. He knows the secrets of the atmosphere. Job 37:14-24.
8. He gives guidance to the animal creation. Job 39:26-29.

III. God's Knowledge of His Creatures

9. He knows the needs of all His creatures. Heb. 4:13.
10. He supplies the needs of all His creatures. Ps. 104:21-28; Matt. 6:26.
11. He knows all about our needs. Matt. 10:29-31; Rom. 8:28.

IV. God's Wisdom Available

12. He will impart wisdom to us. James 1:5.
13. He will direct our lives. Prov. 3:5, 6.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The frontiers of knowledge are continually being pressed back. Man is moving from one discovery to another in such fields as medicine, mathematics, astronomy, archaeology, chemistry, and electronics. The secrets of the atom have been unlocked, and the end of invention and research is not yet in sight.

This provides strong evidence to the devout person that there is a Master Intelligence back of the universe. It indicates that there must be a God, who is the source of all wisdom and knowledge, a God whose intellectual might is infinite. This is the picture that the Bible presents concerning the true God. Before this inscrutable manifestation of knowledge and wisdom, the devout man bows in awe.

God's Wisdom Compared With Man's

1. What does God say of His thoughts as compared with man's? Isa. 55:8, 9.

NOTE.—"No finite mind can fully comprehend the existence, the power, the *wisdom,* or the works of the Infinite One. Says the sacred writer: 'Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.' Job 11:7-9. The mightiest intellects of earth cannot comprehend God. Men may be ever searching, ever learning, and still there is an infinity beyond."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 116. (Italics supplied.)

2. As Paul contemplated God's dealings with men, what exclamation did he make concerning God's wisdom? Rom. 11:33.

NOTE.—"If it were possible for created beings to attain to a full understanding of God and His works, then, having reached this point, there would be for them no further discovery of truth, no growth in knowledge, no further development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and man, having reached the limit of knowledge and attainment, would cease to advance. Let us thank God that it is not so. God is infinite; in Him are 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' Colossians 2:3. And to all eternity men may be ever searching, ever learning, and yet never exhaust the treasures of His wisdom, His goodness, and His power."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 109.

3. What is man unable to search out? Ps. 147:5; Isa. 40:28.

NOTE.—"God is the source of all wisdom. He is infinitely wise and just and good. . . .

"If men could see for a moment beyond the range of finite vision, if they could catch a glimpse of the Eternal, every mouth would be stopped in its boasting. Men living in this little atom of a world are finite; God has unnumbered worlds that are obedient to His laws and are conducted with reference to His glory. When men have gone as far in scientific research as their limited powers will permit, there is still an infinity beyond what they can apprehend."—*Counsels to Teachers,* page 66.

God Knows All Things

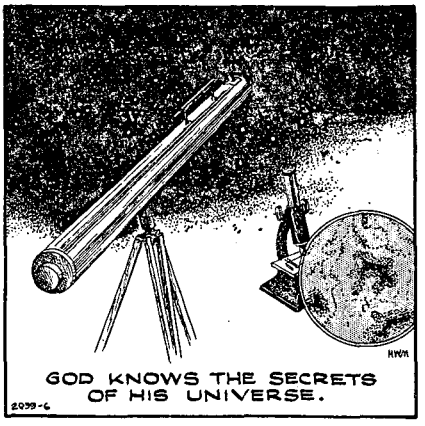
4. What is one of the evidences of God's wisdom? Isa. 42:8, 9; 46:9, 10.

NOTE.—Only God is able to see the future. What will take place during the coming years is as well known to Him as the happenings of yesterday. Then "let us trust Him. Worry is blind and cannot discern the future. But Jesus sees the end from the beginning, and in every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 298.

5. What is said concerning God's knowledge of secrets? Ps. 44:21; Dan. 2:27, 28.

6. How much does God know about each person and his activities? 1 Chron. 28:9; Ps. 139:1-6, 14-16.

NOTE.—"If we were to cherish an habitual impression that God sees and hears all that we do and say, and keeps a faithful record of our words and actions, and that we must meet it all, we would fear to sin. Let the young ever remember that wherever they are, and whatever they do, they are in the presence of God. No part of our conduct escapes observation. We cannot hide our ways from the Most High. Human laws, though sometimes severe, are often transgressed without detection, and hence with impunity. But not so with the law of God. The deepest midnight is no cover for the guilty one. He may think himself alone; but to every deed there is an unseen witness. The very motives of his heart are



open to divine inspection. Every act, every word, every thought, is as distinctly marked as though there were only one person in the whole world, and the attention of heaven were centered upon him."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 217, 218.

7. With what phenomena of nature is God familiar? Job 37:14-24.

8. What is one way in which the wisdom of God is manifested by the creatures of His hand? Job 39:26-29.

NOTE.—In Job, chapters 37 to 39, many examples are given of God's wisdom as revealed in nature, of which those relating to the hawk and the eagle are typical. Every phase of nature is fully understood by God, for it is by His wisdom that He has created all things, including the laws that govern nature.

God's Knowledge of His Creatures

9. How complete is God's knowledge of the universe? Heb. 4:13.

10. What does God provide for His creatures? Ps. 104:21-28; Matt. 6:26.

11. Why should we trust God to care for us? Matt. 10:29-31; Rom. 8:28.

NOTE.—"Though their present needs are supplied, many are unwilling to trust God for the future, and they are in constant anxiety lest poverty shall come upon them, and their children shall be left to suffer. Some are always anticipating evil, or magnifying the difficulties that really exist, so that their eyes are blinded to the many blessings which demand their gratitude. The obstacles they encounter, instead of leading them to seek help from God, the only source of strength, separate them from Him, because they awaken unrest and repining.

"Do we well to be thus unbelieving? Why should we be ungrateful and distrustful? Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 293, 294.

God's Wisdom Available

12. When we need wisdom, to what source are we invited to go? James 1:5.

NOTE.—"The strength of those who love and serve God will be renewed day by day. The understanding of the Infinite is placed at their service, that in carrying out His purposes they may not err. . . . God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need and to give them the wisdom that their varied necessities demand. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 242.

13. On what condition has God promised to direct our lives? Prov. 3:5, 6.

NOTE.—"Entire trust in God is the only logical position for Christians to take. God has all knowledge and all power, and foresees and prepares against all the troubles that come upon man as sudden emergencies. For anyone to rely on his own understand-

ing under such circumstances is foolish indeed. It is also folly to alternate between trust in self and trust in God.

"To place little confidence in one's own understanding does not mean that a man must lay aside intelligence and give up the power of choice. Intelligence is needed to determine from the word of God and from God's guiding providences what is the divine will. A will strengthened and cleansed by God is needed if one is to follow a true course through to the end.

"*He shall direct.* Or, 'it is He who will direct.' The Hebrew emphasizes that God Himself will make straight and plain the path of His servant, when His servant acknowledges Him in every phase of life's many activities."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, pp. 955, 956.

Questions for Meditation

1. Since God could see the future and knew that man would sin, why, do you think, did He create man?
2. What viewpoint must one maintain if education and a continual search for knowledge are to be a blessing instead of a curse?
3. Why is God's leading so much more remarkable in some lives than in others?

Lesson 7, for May 16, 1959

God's Universal Government

MEMORY VERSE: "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all." 1 Chron. 29:11.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 33-43; "Prophets and Kings," pages 514-521; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 749-754; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of April 30.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God Is a King

1. Worship due Him as King. Ps. 29: 2, 10; 47:2.
2. He will reign forever. Ex. 15:18; Ps. 10:16.
3. He dwells in heaven. 1 Kings 8:30, 34; Ps. 123:1; Eccl. 5:2.
4. His throne located in the heavenly temple. Ps. 11:4; 102:19; Rev. 11: 19.
5. Earthly temples cannot contain God. 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24.
6. God also dwells with men. Isa. 57:15.

II. The Kingdom of God

7. His kingdom is founded on righteousness and judgment. Ps. 97:2, margin; Heb. 1:8.
8. It embraces the entire universe. Deut. 10:14; Ps. 103:19.
9. The work of angels in God's government. 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 139:7; Matt. 18:10.

III. Earthly Governments Under God's Control

10. God rules by His own power. Ps. 66:7.
11. Men receive authority from God. Dan. 4:17.
12. He ordains earthly governments. Rom. 13:1-4.
13. Allegiance due to both divine and earthly governments. Matt. 22:21.
14. God's government is supreme. Rev. 17:14; 12:13.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The infinite God is King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Tim. 6:15. But if He is a king, He must have a kingdom. He must also have a government and laws by which He rules His subjects. The Scriptures make this very plain.

Before the foundation of the world, Lucifer endeavored to wrest from God control of the government of the universe. He failed in this attempt. God might have destroyed him at once, but He did not because He desired to "show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority." Through this experience He would demonstrate "that with the existence of God's government is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 43.

God Is a King

1. Why should earth's inhabitants give glory to God? Ps. 29:2, 10; 47:2.

NOTE.—"God is our Father, who loves and cares for us as His children; He is also the great King of the universe."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1956 ed.), page 107.

2. How long will God reign as King? Ex. 15:18; Ps. 10:16.

3. What term do Bible writers use to describe the place where God dwells? 1 Kings 8:30, 34; Ps. 123:1; Eccl. 5:2.

NOTE.—"Heaven is a good place. I long to be there, and behold my lovely Jesus, who gave His life for me, and be changed into His glorious image. Oh, for language to express the glory of the bright world to come! I thirst for the living streams that make glad the city of our God."—*Early Writings,* page 39.

"Language is altogether too feeble to attempt a description of heaven. As the scene rises before me, I am lost in amazement. Carried away with the surpassing splendor and excellent glory, I lay down the pen, and exclaim, 'Oh, what love! what wondrous love!' The most exalted language fails to describe the glory of heaven or the matchless depths of a Saviour's love."—*Ibid.,* p. 289.

4. Where in heaven is God's throne located ? Ps. 11:4; 102:19; Rev. 11:19.

5. What do Solomon and Paul say concerning the ability of temples to contain God? 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17: 24.

NOTE.—"Although God dwells not in temples made with hands, yet He honors with His presence the assemblies of His people. He has promised that when they come together to seek Him, to acknowledge their sins, and to pray for one another, He will meet with them by His Spirit. But those who assemble to worship Him should put away every evil thing. Unless they worship Him in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness, their coming together will be of no avail."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 50.

6. Although God dwells in heaven, where else does He abide? Isa. 57:15.

NOTE.—This text does not in any sense minimize the greatness of God by stating that He is able to dwell in human hearts that are surrendered to His will. Rather, it exalts Him, for it shows Him to be omnipresent by His Spirit. God continues to rule the vast universe from His throne in heaven while at the same time through His Spirit He dwells with the humble believer. No other god can do this.

The Kingdom of God

7. On what principles has God founded His government? Ps. 97:2, margin; Heb. 1:8.

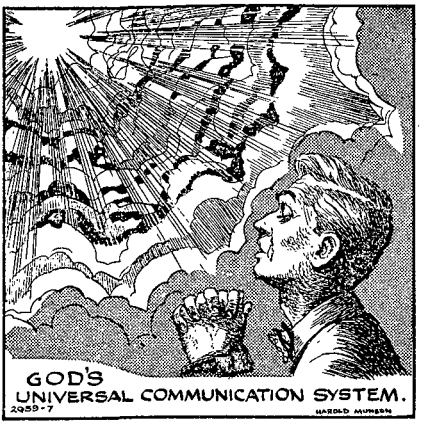
8. Over how much territory does God rule? Deut. 10:14; Ps. 103:19.

NOTE.—"God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 41. It is evident that the government of God includes the entire universe.

9. In what way does God keep in constant communication with all parts of His kingdom? 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 139:7; Matt. 18:10.

NOTE.—"The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men." —*The Ministry of Healing,* page 417.

"The angels of God are ever passing from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth. The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His heavenly messengers,



that every blessing comes from God to us. In taking upon Himself humanity, our Saviour unites His interests with those of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, while through His divinity He grasps the throne of God. And thus Christ is the medium of communication of men with God, and of God with men."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 143.

Earthly Governments Under God's Control

10. By what power does God rule? Ps. 66:7.

NOTE.—"He ruleth by His power forever." Only God is responsible to Himself alone.

11. From whom do earthly rulers receive their kingdoms? Dan 4:17.

NOTE.—"In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies

of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will." —*Education*, page 173.

12. Why are we counseled to submit ourselves to earthly governments? Rom. 13:1-4.

13. What did Jesus say about our allegiance to divine and earthly governments? Matt. 22:21.

14. In Satan's attempt to destroy God's people before Christ's return, against whom is he actually making war? Rev. 17:14; 12:13.

NOTE.—In seeking to destroy God's people, Satan believes that he can thus become the undisputed ruler of this world, with no one to resist his authority. But he fails to recognize that God still controls this earth. Jesus is with His people, and fights for them, overcoming Satan and his hosts. God's government remains supreme.

Questions for Meditation

1. If we were always sharply conscious of the fact that angels are taking to heaven a record of our lives, would we live differently?
2. When there is a conflict between the government of God and my civil government, what principle should guide me in my allegiance?
3. As the great controversy draws to a close, what will determine loyalty to God's government?

Lesson 8, for May 23, 1959

God's Immutable Law

MEMORY VERSE: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:3, 4.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing" 1956 ed., pp. 45-52 (1943 ed., pages 73-83); "The Great Controversy," pages 492-504 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 487-498); "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 363-373; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of May 7.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐	Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Nature of God's Law

1. Based on love. Rom. 13:10.
2. Requires love to God and man. Matt. 22:37-40.
3. Perfect. Ps. 19:7.
4. Holy, just, good, and spiritual. Rom. 7:12, 14.
5. Eternal. Ps. 111:7, 8; Matt. 5:17, 18.
6. Immutable. Ps. 89:34.

II. Purpose of God's Law

7. To reveal His will to man. Ps. 40:8; Rom. 2:18.
8. To point out sin. Rom. 3:20; 7:7.
9. To serve as the standard of judgment. Eccl. 12:13, 14; James 2:12.

III. Man's Relation to God's Law

10. The righteous will obey it. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3.
11. Obeying it brings peace. Ps. 119:165; Jer. 7:23.
12. Warnings against breaking it. Matt. 5:17-19; Rev. 22:18, 19.
13. Can be kept through Christ. Rom. 8:3, 4; Heb. 8:10.
14. The obedient will enter heaven. Matt. 7:21; Rev. 14:12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"There can be no government without law."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 49. Thus, since God is King of the universe, and since He reigns over all, He must have a law by which to rule. That law is spoken of in the Scriptures as the royal law. James 2:8. It is "the foundation of His [God's] government in heaven and on earth."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 24.

"The law of God is as sacred as Himself. It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom. The harmony of creation depends upon the perfect conformity of all beings, of everything, animate and inanimate, to the law of the Creator. God has ordained laws for the government, not only of living beings, but of all the operations of nature. Everything is under fixed laws, which cannot be disregarded. But while everything in nature is governed by natural laws, man alone, of all that inhabits the earth, is amenable to moral law." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 52. This moral law, the Ten Commandments, is the subject of our study this week.

Nature of God's Law

1. What attribute of God's character forms the basis of His law? Rom. 13:10.

NOTE.—"The law given upon Sinai was the enunciation of the principle of love, a revelation to earth of the law of heaven." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1956 ed.), page 46.

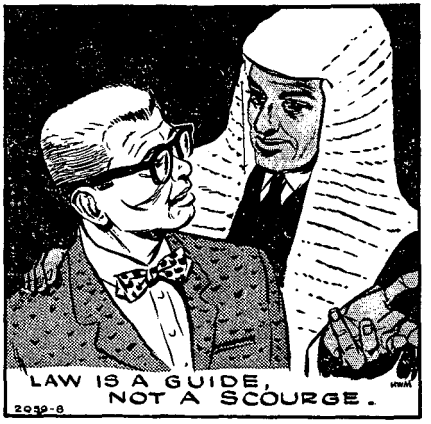
2. According to Jesus, what two commandments summarize the divine law? Matt. 22:37-40.

NOTE.—As a means of helping men see that law-keeping necessitates a demonstration of love, Christ told the story of the good Samaritan. "The Samaritan had obeyed the dictates of a kind and loving heart, and in this had proved himself a doer of the law. Christ bade the lawyer, 'Go, and do thou likewise.' Doing, and not saying merely, is expected of the children of God. 'He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.' 1 John 2:6."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 504.

3. How do we know that God's law cannot be improved? Ps. 19:7.

NOTE.—"Since 'the law of the Lord is perfect,' every variation from it must be evil."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 308. "From the first, the great controversy had been upon the law of God. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, that His law was faulty, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In attacking the law, he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes were defective and subject to change, or perfect and immutable."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 69.

4. What characteristics does Paul ascribe to the law? Rom. 7:12, 14.



5. For how long will the law endure? Ps. 111:7, 8; Matt. 5:17, 18.

NOTE.—Here He teaches, not merely what the claims of God's law had been, and were then, but that these claims should hold as long as the heavens and the earth remain. The law of God is as immutable as His throne. It will maintain its claims upon mankind in all ages."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 365.

6. How may we be certain that God's law will not be changed? Ps. 89:34.

NOTE.—"The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. God is love, and His law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and love to man. . . . Such a law, being an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author."—*The Great Controversy,* page 467.

Purpose of God's Law

7. What essential information does God's law impart to mankind? Ps. 40:8; Rom. 2:18.

NOTE.—God's will is revealed through His law. When we disobey the law, we reject His will for us. It is not the greatness of the act of disobedience that constitutes sin, but the fact of variance from God's expressed will in the least particular; for this shows that there is yet communion between the soul and sin. The heart is divided in its service. There is a virtual denial of God, a rebellion against the laws of His government. . . .

"Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. . . . 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* (1956 ed.), pages 51, 52.

8. Besides being a revelation of God's will for man, what other important purpose does the law serve? Rom. 3:20; 7:7.

NOTE.—"The law reveals to man his sins, but it provides no remedy. While it promises life to the obedient, it declares that death is the portion of the transgressor. The gospel of Christ alone can free him from the condemnation or the defilement of sin. . . . Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God's law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 467, 468.

9. By what standard will our lives be measured in the judgment? Eccl. 12:13, 14; James 2:12.

NOTE.—"The written word, the law of God, will measure the character of every man and condemn all whom this unerring test shall declare wanting."—*The Great Controversy,* page 268.

Man's Relation to God's Law

10. What relation to His law will be sustained by those who claim to love God? John 14:15; 1 John 5:3.

NOTE.—"There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognized in the judgment—those who violate God's law and those who obey it. Christ gives the test by which to prove our loyalty or disloyalty. 'If ye love Me,' He says, 'keep My commandments. . . . He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 283.

11. What blessing will be given on this earth to those who obey God's law? Ps. 119:165; Jer. 7:23.

12. What warning is issued against all who might willfully break the law and encourage others to disobey it? Matt. 5:17-19; Rev. 22:18, 19.

NOTE.—"Such are the warnings which God has given to guard men against changing in any manner that which He has revealed or commanded. These solemn denunciations apply to all who by their influence lead men to regard lightly the law of God. They should cause those to fear and tremble who flippantly declare it a matter of little consequence whether we obey God's law or not. All who exalt their own opinions above divine revelation, all who would change the plain meaning of Scripture to suit their own convenience, or for the sake of conforming to the world, are taking upon themselves a fearful responsibility."—*The Great Controversy,* page 268.

13. What provision has been made to enable men to obey the moral law? Rom. 8:3, 4; Heb. 8:10.

NOTE.—"The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone, is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness, we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth 'the fruits of the Spirit.' Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 372.

14. Who will be chosen as subjects of God's eternal kingdom? Matt. 7: 21; Rev. 14:12.

Questions for Meditation

1. We know that suffering follows the violation of natural law. Is this also true with the moral law?

2. Since the law is spiritual, what will it do for me if I embrace it? If I reject it?

3. Will the righteous be admitted to heaven as a reward for obedience, or will this experience be granted because through faith they have demonstrated their harmony with God's principles by obedience?

Lesson 9, for May 30, 1959

God's Sacred Name

MEMORY VERSE: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name." Rev. 3:12.

STUDY HELPS: "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 1, pp. 170-173; "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 303-314; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of May 14.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Sacred Nature and Greatness of God's Name

1. God's name is holy and reverend. Ps. 99:3; 111:9.
2. It will endure forever. Ps. 135:13.
3. It reveals His character. Ex. 3:13, 14; 34:14; Isa. 1:4; 57:15.
4. Why it should be praised. Ps. 148:5, 13.
5. Worthy of continual praise. Ps. 34: 1; 113:3.

II. Man's Attitude Toward God's Name

6. Warning against careless use. Ex. 20:7.
7. God's name to be hallowed. Matt. 6:9.
8. Blasphemy punished by death. Lev. 24:10-16.
9. Jews shocked at Christ's claim. John 8:58, 59; 10:33.
10. Man to glorify and reverence God's name. 1 Chron. 16:25-29; Ps. 95: 1-6.

III. God's Name and Salvation

11. Salvation in His name. Acts 4:12; Matt. 28:19.
12. Christ's name to be exalted. Eph. 1:17-23; Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 19:16.
13. We are to pray in the name of Jesus. John 16:23, 24.
14. His name to be given to redeemed. Rev. 3:12; 14:1; 22:4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Since names meant so much to the Semite mind, it was important for Moses to reveal to his people the true nature of their God, who was now ready to deliver them from bondage. . . .

"God therefore revealed to Moses, or rather explained to him, the name by which He had made Himself known to Abraham at the making of the covenant (Gen. 15:7). In Hebrew as in English, this name is a form of the verb 'to be,' and implies that its possessor is the eternal, self-existing One. . . . Its all-embracing universality precluded any comparison of the God of the Israelites to the deities of Egypt and other nations. It was designed to provide Moses and his people with strong consolation in their affliction and powerful support for their confidence in the realization of His purpose to deliver them. . . .

"From the Hebrew word translated as 'I am' comes the derived form *Yahweh*. . . . The R.V. of 1885 and A.S.V. of 1901 transliterate *Yahweh* as 'Jehovah.' To the Jews this has ever been the sacred name by which the true God is distinguished from all false gods."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 511.

Sacred Nature and Greatness of God's Name

1. What characteristics does David ascribe to God's name? Ps. 99:3; 111:9.

2. For how long will God's name endure? Ps. 135:13.

NOTE.—Behind the simple statement that God's name will endure forever are other profound truths. His name will endure be-

cause He Himself is from everlasting to everlasting. And His name will not change, for He Himself is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

3. What are some of the names that God uses to represent His character to mankind? Ex. 3:13, 14; 34:14; Isa. 1:4; 57:15.

4. Why should we praise God's name? Ps. 148:5, 13.

5. When is it appropriate to praise God? Ps. 34:1; 113:3. Compare Ps. 150.

NOTE.—God does not expect that we shall repeat His name over and over like a chant. We can praise Him from the heart without giving audible expression to our feelings, and we can bring praise to His name by revealing His character to others.

Man's Attitude Toward God's Name

6. What warning concerning the careless use of God's name is contained in the third commandment of the Decalogue? Ex. 20:7.

NOTE.—"This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. 'Holy and reverend is His name.' Psalm 111: 9. All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character; and His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 306, 307.

7. In the Lord's Prayer, how is the sacredness of God's name expressed? Matt. 6:9.

NOTE.—"To hallow the name of the Lord requires that the words in which we speak of the Supreme Being be uttered with reverence. . . . We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!"—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1956 ed.), page 106.

8. In ancient times, how did God show the serious nature of blasphemy? Lev. 24:10-16.

NOTE.—"Both love and justice require it to be shown that utterances prompted by malice against God are a great sin. The retribution visited upon the first offender would be a warning to others, that God's name is to be held in reverence. But had this man's sin been permitted to pass unpunished, others would have been demoralized; and as the result, many lives must eventually have been sacrificed. . . . The sins of blasphemy and willful Sabbathbreaking received the same punishment, being equally an expression of contempt for the authority of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 408, 409.

9. What was the reaction of the Jews when Christ claimed one of the titles belonging to Deity? John 8:58, 59; 10:33.

NOTE.—"Silence fell upon the vast assembly. The name of God, given to Moses to express the idea of the eternal presence, had been claimed as His own by this Galilean Rabbi. He had announced Himself to be the self-existent One, He who had been promised to Israel, 'whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity.' Micah 5:2, margin."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 469, 470.

10. What attitude should we assume when we come into the presence of God in prayer? Why? 1 Chron. 16:25-29; Ps. 95:1-6.

NOTE.—"I saw that God's holy name should be used with reverence and awe. The words God Almighty are coupled together and used by some in prayer in a careless, thoughtless manner, which is displeasing to Him. Such have no realizing sense of God or the truth, or they would not speak so irreverently of the great and dreadful God, who is soon to judge them in the last day. Said the angel, 'Couple them not together; for fearful is His name.' Those who realize the greatness and majesty of God, will take His name on their lips with holy awe. He dwelleth in light unapproachable; no man can see Him and live. I saw that these things will have to be understood and corrected before the church can prosper."—*Early Writings,* page 122.

God's Name and Salvation

11. How important is the divine name in God's plan for saving men? Acts 4:12; Matt. 28:19.

NOTE.—"Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance to His spiritual kingdom. He has made this a positive condition with which all must comply who wish to be acknowledged as under the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before man can find a home in the church, before passing the threshold of God's spiritual kingdom, he is to receive the impress of the divine name, *'The Lord our Righteousness.'* Jeremiah 23:6."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 91.

12. Because of Christ's unselfish part in the plan of salvation, how will His name be honored? Eph. 1:17-23; Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 19:16.

NOTE.—"Before the universe has been clearly presented the great sacrifice made by the Father and the Son in man's behalf. The hour has come when Christ occupies His rightful position and is glorified above principalities and powers and every name that is named. It was for the joy that was set before Him—that He might bring many sons unto glory—that He endured the cross and despised the shame. And inconceivably great as was the sorrow and the shame, yet greater is the joy and the glory." —*The Great Controversy,* page 671.

13. In whose name is the Christian to present his petition to the Father? John 16:23, 24.

NOTE.—"To pray in the name of Jesus is something more than a mere mention of that name at the beginning and the ending of a prayer. It is to pray in the mind and spirit of Jesus, while we believe His promises, rely upon His grace, and work His works."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), pages 100, 101.

14. What wonderful promise will be fulfilled to the redeemed? Rev. 3: 12; 14:1; 22:4.

NOTE.—"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with

songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 677, 678.

Questions for Meditation

1. Why should we not continually repeat God's name, even in prayer?
2. In view of the sacredness of God's name, why should we guard our speech against the use of such bywords as "my goodness," "my word," "mercy," "gracious," etc.?
3. What is meant by having the Father's name written in our foreheads?

Lesson 10, for June 6, 1959

God's Omnipotence

MEMORY VERSE: "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24, 25.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 4, pp. 287-290; "Education," pages 102-108; "Counsels to Teachers," pages 185-190; "Testimonies to Ministers," pages 174-176: "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of May 21.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God the Source of All Power

1. God the source of power forever. 1 Chron. 29:11, 12; Ps. 62:11; Matt. 6:13.
2. Nothing impossible for God. Job 42:2; Mark 10:27.
3. He upholds nature. Ps. 104:14; Isa. 40:26; Jer. 5:22; 51:15.

II. God's Power in Dealing With Men

4. Destroyed the antediluvians and Sodomites. Gen. 6:5-7; 7:18-23; 19:24-26.
5. Shown in judgments. Isa. 26:9.
6. Shown through the birth of Isaac. Gen. 18:14; 21:1, 2.
7. In bringing Israel out of Egypt. Deut 4:37.
8. By His dealings with the Hebrew children. Dan. 3:17, 28; 6:16, 19-23.
9. Adequate for every emergency. Ps. 107:2-6, 23-31; Jonah 1:17; 2:1, 2, 10.

III. God's Power to Save Men

10. Gospel is power for salvation. Rom. 1:16.
11. Power of the resurrection. Eph. 1:18-20.
12. God's power defeats Satan. Luke 9:42, 43; Col. 1:12, 13.

13. Will give victory to saints. Eph. 3:20; Phil. 1:6; Jude 24, 25.

14. All power behind the church. Matt. 28:18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Nature testifies that One infinite in power . . . created the earth. . . . The everlasting hills tell us of His power. . . .

"The mighty power that works through all nature and sustains all things is not, as some men of science represent, merely an all-pervading principle, an actuating energy. God is a Spirit; yet He is a personal Being; for so He has revealed Himself. . . . The things of nature are an expression of God's character and power; but we are not to regard nature as God. . . .

"It is not by inherent power that year by year the earth yields its bounties and continues its march around the sun. The hand of the Infinite One is perpetually at work guiding this planet. It is God's power continually exercised that keeps the earth in position in its rotation. . . .

"It is by His power that vegetation is caused to flourish, that every leaf appears, every flower blooms, every fruit develops." —*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 411-416.

God the Source of All Power

1. Who is the source of all power, and for how long will this be so? 1 Chron. 29:11, 12; Ps. 62:11; Matt. 6:13.

2. What is the extent of God's power? Job 42:2; Mark 10:27.

3. How does nature demonstrate the continual exercise of God's power? Ps. 104:14; Isa. 40:26; Jer. 5:22; 51:15.

NOTE.—"There is life in the seed, there is power in the soil; but unless an infinite power is exercised day and night, the seed will yield no returns. The showers of rain must be sent to give moisture to the thirsty fields, the sun must impart heat, electricity must be conveyed to the buried seed. The life which the Creator has implanted, He alone can call forth. Every seed grows, every plant develops, by the power of God." —*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941), page 63.

"It is by the mighty power of the Infinite One that the elements of nature in earth and sea and sky are kept within bounds. And these elements He uses for the happiness of His creatures."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 134.

God's Power In Dealing With Men

4. What examples of God's power to destroy have been recorded in the Inspired Word? Gen. 6:5-7; 7:18-23; 19:24-26.

5. For what reason does God sometimes allow natural disasters? Isa. 26:9.

NOTE.—The same God who created our world and maintains it, often demonstrates His power through nature in order that men might think of Him. "As men have beheld burning mountains pouring forth fire and flames, and torrents of melted ore, drying up rivers, overwhelming populous cities, and everywhere spreading ruin and desolation, the stoutest heart has been filled with terror, and infidels and blasphemers have been constrained to acknowledge the infinite power of God. . . . 'The Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers.' Nahum 1:3, 4."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 109.

6. How did God prove to Abraham and Sarah that nothing is impossible with Him? Gen. 18:14; 21:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The veil of anonymity was now thrown completely aside, and the speaker unmistakably identified Himself as the Lord. It is interesting to note that although this divine appearance was perhaps intended more for Sarah's benefit than for Abraham's, since he already knew and believed, the Lord did not address Sarah directly until she had first spoken to Him. Instead of speaking to Sarah, He asked Abraham whether anything could be too difficult for the Lord. It was primarily to correct Sarah's unbelief and to strengthen her faith that God spoke thus. Where human wisdom and strength fail, and where nature, enfeebled, lacks ability to act, there God still has full sway and brings things to pass according to the counsels of His own divine will. In fact, He often permits circumstances to reach an impasse so that human impotence may stand forth in striking contrast to His omnipotence."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 1, p. 328.

7. In the experience of Israel, how did God demonstrate His mighty power? Deut. 4:37.

8. In what ways did God show the Babylonian king that His power is supreme? Dan. 3:17, 28; 6:16, 19-23.

NOTE.—"But 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. . . .

"Forgotten was the great golden image, set up with such pomp. In the presence of the living God, men feared and trembled. . . .

"By the deliverance of His faithful servants, the Lord declared that He takes His stand with the oppressed, and rebukes all earthly powers that rebel against the authority of Heaven. . . .

"As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so in the closing period of earth's history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 508-513.

9. How adequate is God's power for every emergency? Ps. 107:2-6, 23-31. Compare Jonah 1:17; 2:1, 2, 10.

God's Power to Save Men

10. What does Paul declare the gospel to be? Rom. 1:16.

NOTE.—The same great power that God has demonstrated through creation, through His dealings with men, and through upholding the vast universe is turned toward saving men. The gospel "is the *power of God* unto salvation."

11. What example of God's power shows how mightily He will work to save sinners? Eph. 1:18-20.

12. What assurance have we of the triumph of God's power over Satan's? Luke 9:42, 43; Col. 1:12, 13.

13. How fully does God's power enable us to be victorious in the Christian life? Eph. 3:20; Phil. 1:6; Jude 24, 25.

14. How much of God's power and authority is promised to the church for its task of world evangelism? Matt. 28:18.

NOTE.—"He came and spoke to them saying, 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.' The disciples had worshiped Him before He spoke, but His words, falling from lips that had been closed in death, thrilled them with peculiar power. He was now the risen Saviour. Many of them had seen Him exercise His power in healing the sick and controlling satanic agencies. They believed that He possessed power to set up His kingdom at Jerusalem, power to quell all opposition, power over the elements of nature. He had stilled the angry waters; He had walked upon the white-crested billows; He had raised the dead to life. Now He declared that 'all power' was given to Him. His words carried the minds of His hearers above earthly and temporal things to the heavenly and eternal. They were lifted to the highest conception of His dignity and glory. . . . Clothed with boundless authority, He gave His commission to the disciples: 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 819.

Questions for Meditation

1. True or false? Vegetation could grow without the exercise of divine power.
2. Which is more impressive to you—God's power to heal, or His power to destroy?
3. When we fail to obtain the victory over some besetting sin, what is the real reason for failure?

Lesson 11, for June 13, 1959

God's Consuming Glory

MEMORY VERSE: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory." Ps. 24:9, 10.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 255-262; "The Great Controversy," pages 640-652 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 627-643); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of May 28.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐	Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐		

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. Nature and Extent of God's Glory

1. God alone deserving of glory. Isa. 42:8, 12.
2. Nature bears witness to His glory. Ps. 19:1-3; Isa. 6:3.
3. The redeemed give God glory forever. Rev. 5:13.

II. God's Glory Revealed to Men

4. Moses and the burning bush. Ex. 3:2-6.
5. God's glory on Mount Sinai. Ex. 19:16-18; 24:16, 17.

6. Effect on Moses. Ex. 34:29-35.
7. God's glory in the sanctuary. Lev. 16:2.
8. Too great for priests to endure. Ex. 40:34, 35; 1 Kings 8:10, 11; 2 Chron. 5:14; 7:1-3.
9. The visions of Isaiah and John. Isa. 6:1-4; Rev. 15:8.

III. The Glory of Christ, and His Coming

10. Christ the King of glory. Heb. 1:2, 3; Ps. 24:7-10.
11. Combined glory at Christ's coming. Ps. 50:3; Matt. 24:27; Luke 9:26.
12. Glory to destroy wicked. Isa. 2:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
13. Righteous will rejoice to see. Isa. 25:9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

None can fully appreciate the greatness of God unless they understand something of His glory. The Scriptures declare that "our God is a consuming fire." Heb. 12:29; Deut. 4:24. This description is designed to picture the great glory that attends His person. This glory is the outshining of His character. Ex. 33:18-20.

Of her own experience in vision, Ellen G. White has written: "I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, 'If you should once behold the glory of His person, you would cease to exist.' "—*Early Writings,* page 54. How great is our God! Let mortal man bow low before Him in humility and awe.

Nature and Extent of God's Glory

1. Who alone is worthy to receive glory? Isa. 42:8, 12.

NOTE.—Because God's glory is inseparably connected with His character, His power, and His works, it is impossible for any other being to share it. He alone is the supreme manifestation of truth, and "the truth and the glory of God are inseparable." —*The Great Controversy,* page 597.

2. Of what does all nature bear witness? Ps. 19:1-3; Isa. 6:3.

NOTE.—"*Glory.* Wisdom, power, skill, benevolence—the things that constitute God's glory. A glimpse at the open sky with the naked eye is sufficient to impress upon the beholder a sense of the glory of God. How much greater is that revelation when the heavens are scrutinized through modern high-powered telescopes."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, p. 675.

3. In what words will every creature in the universe finally ascribe praise to God for His glory? Rev. 5:13.

NOTE.—"John, in the Revelation, looking forward to the eternal state, hears a universal anthem of praise undisturbed by one note of discord."—*The Great Controversy,* page 545.

God's Glory Revealed to Men

4. How was God's glory revealed to Moses while he was tending his flocks? What was his reaction? Ex. 3:2-6.

NOTE.—"Moses saw a bush in flames, branches, foliage, and trunk, all burning, yet seeming not to be consumed."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 251.

"The place where Moses stood was holy, not because it was an old sanctuary or sacred spot previously unknown as such to him, as some commentators have thought, but because of the presence of God."—

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 510. "The glory of the holy God no sinful man can bear; hence it was only natural for Moses to hide his face."—*Ibid.*

5. When God manifested His glory on Mount Sinai, what effect did it have on both the mountain and the people? Ex. 19:16-18; 24:16, 17.

NOTE.—"From the thick darkness flashed vivid lightnings, while peals of thunder echoed and re-echoed among the surrounding heights. . . . So terrible were the tokens of Jehovah's presence that the hosts of Israel shook with fear, and fell upon their faces before the Lord. Even Moses exclaimed, 'I exceedingly fear and quake.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 304.

" 'And they saw the God of Israel; and there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in His clearness.' They did not behold the Deity, but they saw the glory of His presence."—*Ibid.*, p. 312.

6. What was the effect on Moses of spending forty days with God in the mount? What did he do so that the people could look upon him without fear? Ex. 34:29-35.

NOTE.—"By this brightness, God designed to impress upon Israel the sacred, exalted character of His law, and the glory of the gospel revealed through Christ. . . . It was the heavenly light streaming from Calvary, no less than the glory of the law of God, that shed such a radiance upon the face of Moses. . . .

"The glory reflected in the countenance of Moses illustrates the blessings to be received by God's commandment-keeping people through the mediation of Christ. It testifies that the closer our communion with God, and the clearer our knowledge of His requirements, the more fully shall we be conformed to the divine image, and the more readily do we become partakers of the divine nature."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 330.

7. How great was God's glory in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary? Lev. 16:2.

NOTE.—"In the sanctuary and the temple, that were the earthly symbols of God's dwelling place, one apartment was sacred to His presence. The veil inwrought with cherubim at its entrance was not to be lifted by any hand save one. To lift that veil and intrude unbidden into the sacred mystery of the most holy place was death. For above the mercy seat and the bowed, worshiping angels dwelt the glory of the Holiest, glory upon which no man might look and live. On the one day of the year appointed for ministry in the most holy place, the high priest with trembling entered God's presence, while clouds of incense veiled the glory from his sight."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 284, 285.

8. What conditions sometimes made it impossible for Moses and the priests to enter the tabernacle? Ex. 40:34, 35; 1 Kings 8:10, 11; 2 Chron. 5:14; 7:1-3.

9. When Isaiah and John beheld in vision the glory of God in the heavenly sanctuary, what did they say concerning its effects on the building? Isa. 6:1-4; Rev. 15:8.

The Glory of Christ, and His Coming

10. How does Christ's glory compare with the Father's? By what title was He addressed as He ascended to heaven? Heb. 1:2, 3; Ps. 24:7-10.

11. When Christ returns to earth, how great will be the glory that attends Him? Ps. 50:3; Matt. 24:27; Luke 9:26.

NOTE.—At Christ's resurrection a single angel appeared. Yet this was sufficient to cause a great earthquake and make the usually brave Roman guards become "as dead men." Matt. 28:2-4. Think of the dazzling glory that will characterize Christ's second advent "when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Matthew 25:31 says that all the holy angels will come with Him. No wonder the same verse says that He shall "sit upon the throne of His *glory*"!

12. What effect will the glory of Christ's coming have upon the wicked? Isa. 2:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

NOTE.—"It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven: they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them."—*Steps to Christ* (1956 ed.), page 18.

13. Why will the glory which attends Christ's return not strike fear to the hearts of the righteous? Isa. 25:9.

NOTE.—God's glory is a terror to evildoers, but not to the righteous. Like the pillar of cloud anciently that thwarted Pharoah's plans to destroy Israel but flooded the Israelites' "entire encampment with the radiance of day" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 287), so the glory of God destroys the wicked without harming God's faithful followers.

"To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 421.

Questions for Meditation

1. Which brings greater awe to you—the thought of the dazzling brilliance of God's person or the glory of His character?
2. What effect do you think it would have on our countenance if we should spend more time with God than we do?
3. As you think of all the glory that will attend the coming of Christ, are you fearful or do you rejoice? Why?

Lesson 12, for June 20, 1959

God's Holy Word

MEMORY VERSE: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:23-25.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 103-114, 124-134; "The Desire of Ages," pages 315-320; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 4.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. The Power of God's Spoken Word

1. Universe maintained by the word. Heb. 1:1-3.
2. The worlds created by the word. Ps. 33:6, 9; 148:5.
3. God's word like fire and hammer. Jer. 23:29.
4. Judgments on wicked by the word. 2 Peter 3:5-7.
5. Healing through the word. Ps. 107: 20; Matt. 8:8.

II. Spiritual Blessings Through the Written Word

6. New birth by the word. John 3:3; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.
7. Spiritual growth through the word. 1 Peter 2:2.
8. Sin in the life conquered through the word. Ps. 119:9, 11; John 15:3; Eph. 5:25-27.
9. Abiding in Christ through the word. John 15:4, 7.
10. Holy Spirit accompanies the word. Eph. 6:17.
11. Eternal life through the word. John 6:63; 5:24.

III. Eternal and Unchanging Nature of God's Word

12. God's word will endure forever. Mark 13:31; 1 Peter 1:25.
13. Warning to those who would attempt to change the word. Rev. 22:18, 19.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The term "word of God" is threefold in meaning: It indicates God's spoken word; it describes the written word, the Scriptures; and it refers to the Son of God, both in heaven before the incarnation and after His birth as the Son of man. See John 1: 1-3, 14.

Wherever Jesus, the Word, went, the people were blessed. Living nineteen centuries later, we perhaps sometimes feel that the disciples and others had spiritual opportunities that are not now available to us. But we should remember that "the Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God's word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 393.

"The Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the word. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, the word must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' Matt. 4:4."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 390.

The Power of God's Spoken Word

1. By what power are the worlds held in their orbits? Heb. 1:1-3.

2. How did God create the worlds? Ps. 33:6, 9; 148:5.

NOTE.—"The work of creation cannot be explained by science. What science can explain the mystery of life?

"'Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.' Hebrews 11:3. . . .

"In the creation of the earth, God was not indebted to pre-existing matter. 'He spake, and it was; . . . He commanded, and it stood fast.' Psalm 33:9. All things, material or spiritual, stood up before the Lord Jehovah at His voice and were created for His own purpose. The heavens and all the host of them, the earth and all things therein, came into existence by the breath of His mouth."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 414, 415.

3. Through what illustrations does God indicate the power that His word possesses? Jer. 23:29.

4. Through what means was the earth destroyed by the Flood, and what future event is to take place by the same power? 2 Peter 3:5-7.

5. What examples are given of the healing power of God's word? Ps. 107:20; Matt. 8:8.

NOTE.—"It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken to all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ." —*The Ministry of Healing,* page 122.

Spiritual Blessings Through the Written Word

6. How important is the new birth, and through what agency does God accomplish this work? John 3:3; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

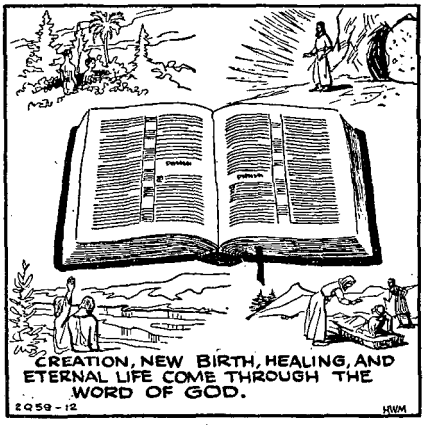
NOTE.—"The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature, and re-creates the soul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

7. Following the new birth, what must take place in the life of a believer? What is the agent for growth? 1 Peter 2:2.

NOTE.—"All who study the word are represented as eating the word, feeding on Christ. . . . Even as the bodily necessities must be supplied daily, so the word of God must be daily studied—eaten, and digested, and practiced. This sustains the nourishment, to keep the soul in health. The neglect of the word means starvation to the soul. The word describes the blessed man as one meditating day and night upon the truths of God's word. We all are to feast upon the word of God. The relation of the word to the believer is a vital matter. Appropriating the word to our spiritual necessities is the eating of the leaves of the tree of life that are for the healing of the nations. Study the word, and practice the word, for it is your life."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* pages 43, 44.

8. What effect will God's word have on sin in the life? Ps. 119:9, 11; John 15:3; Eph. 5:25-27.

NOTE.—"The means by which we can overcome the wicked one is that by which Christ overcame,—the power of the word. God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, His promises are ours: 'Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' 'If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.' John 8:32; 7:17, R.V. Through faith in these promises, every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control of sin."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 258.



9. What close relationship did Christ say He and His followers should bear one to another? How is this to be accomplished? John 15:4, 7.

NOTE.—"It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' Matt. 4:4."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 677.

"The reception of the word, the bread from heaven, is declared to be the reception of Christ Himself. As the word of God is received into the soul, we partake of the flesh and blood of the Son of God. . . . As the blood is formed in the body by the food eaten, so Christ is formed within by the eating of the word of God, which is His flesh and blood. He who feeds upon that word has Christ formed within, the hope of glory."—Ellen G. White, *Review and Herald,* Nov. 23, 1897.

10. What relation does the word of God bear to the Holy Spirit? Eph. 6:17.

NOTE.—"The word of God—the truth—is the channel through which the Lord manifests His Spirit and power."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 520. Since the Holy Spirit is received through the word, it is apparent that the latter rain will fall on those who are being faithful in studying the Bible.

11. What supreme gift comes through the words of Christ? John 6:63; 5:24.

NOTE.—"The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's word. . . . In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 38.

Eternal and Unchanging Nature of God's Word

12. How long will God's word endure? Mark 13:31; 1 Peter 1:25.

NOTE.—"That word which reveals the guilt of sin has a power upon the human heart to make man right and keep him so. The Lord has said that His word is to be studied and obeyed; it is to be brought into the practical life; that word is as inflexible as the character of God—the same yesterday, today, and forever."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* pages 80, 81.

13. What warning is given to those who attempt to alter God's word in any way? Rev. 22:18, 19.

Questions for Meditation

1. What effect may our words have on the health and well-being of others?
2. What is the best way of making sure that the latter rain does not pass us by?
3. When I misinterpret the plain meaning of Scripture in order to allow for my sins, why will I not escape the seven last plagues?

God's Wonderful Fatherhood

MEMORY VERSE: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust." Ps. 103:13, 14.

STUDY HELPS: "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing" 1956 ed., pp. 103-106, (1943 ed., pp. 154-156); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 139-149, 198-211; "Education," pages 151-154, 295-297; "The Ministry of Healing," pages 470-472; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson texts; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of June 11.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-15.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Read further from Study Helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline

Introduction

I. God's Relation to Man

1. We are taught to call God "Father." Matt. 6:9.
2. This makes Christians sons and daughters of God. 1 John 3:1, 2.
3. Title of spiritual Father reserved for God and Christ. Isa. 9:6; Matt. 23:9; 1 Cor. 8:5, 6; Eph. 4:6.

II. The Father's Love for Man

4. Equal to His love for Christ. John 17:23.
5. He freely forgives those who repent. Isa. 55:7; Hosea 14:4; Luke 15:20-24.
6. He disciplines those whom He loves. Heb. 12:6-11; 1 Peter 4:12, 13; Rev. 3:19.

III. The Father's Watchcare Over His Children

7. God cares for us. Matt. 6:8; 1 Peter 5:7.
8. He knows every detail of our lives. Ps. 139:3; Matt. 10:29-31; Heb. 4:13.
9. He will direct us if we are willing. Ps. 48:14; Prov. 3:6.
10. He will help us conquer temptation. 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9.
11. He provides for us. Ps. 34:10; 84:11; Matt. 6:8, 25-30; 7:11; Rom. 8:32.
12. He shares our difficulties. Ps. 68:5; Isa. 43:2; 49:15; 58:11.

IV. God and the Redeemed

13. We are to be perfect, like our Father. Matt. 5:48.
14. Rewards in the kingdom. Matt. 25:34; Rev. 2:7; 3:21.
15. Redeemed to see the Father's face. Rev. 22:4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

No study of God would be complete without gaining an understanding of Him in the role of Father. It is inspiring to learn of His power; it is challenging to discover how infinite is His wisdom; it is uplifting to study His character; but no picture of God carries with it quite the emotional appeal and encouragement that does His

Fatherhood. Because of this, "Christ's most favorite theme was the paternal character and abundant love of God."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 192.

As in past ages, the world still is in great need of understanding God as Father. This concept will bring peace to the heart, comfort in the hour of sorrow, and hope to all who have wandered away from the Father's house.

God's Relation to Man

1. By what affectionate title did Jesus teach His followers to address God? Matt. 6:9.

NOTE.—"In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the dearest associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the infinite God our Father. This name, spoken to Him and of Him, is a sign of our love and trust toward Him, and a pledge of His regard and relationship to us. Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has repeated it again and again. He desires us to become familiar with the appellation."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), pages 141, 142.

2. Since God is our "Father," what relationship do we sustain to Him? 1 John 3:1, 2.

NOTE.—"God regards us as His children. He has redeemed us out of the careless world and has chosen us to become members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the heavenly King. He invites us to trust in Him with a trust deeper and stronger than that of a child in his earthly father. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 142.

3. Why are we asked to reserve the title of Father, as Deity, to God and Christ alone? Isa. 9:6; Matt. 23:9; 1 Cor. 8:5, 6; Eph. 4:6.

NOTE.—"Whatever the heathen might do or think, Christians should know that there is only one God, and He alone has the right to rule over them. There is not one God who rules over a portion of the human family and others who govern other sections of the world's population. One God created all things, and by virtue of this act He has power and authority over everything on the earth."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 720, 721.

The Father's Love for Man

4. How great is God's love for mankind? John 17:23.

NOTE.—"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* (1956 ed.), page 14.

5. What attitude will the Father take toward His children who forsake their evil ways and desire to return home? Isa. 55:7; Hosea 14:4; Luke 15:20-24.

NOTE.—"In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as stern and severe. How different his conception of him

now! So those who are deceived by Satan look upon God as hard and exacting. They regard Him as watching to denounce and condemn, as unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there is a legal excuse for not helping him. His law they regard as a restriction upon men's happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they are glad to escape. But he whose eyes have been opened by the love of Christ will behold God as full of compassion. He does not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son."—*Christ's Object Lessons* (1941 ed.), page 204.

6. What evidence of the Father's love do His earthly children sometimes misunderstand? What is God's purpose in this discipline? Heb. 12:6-11; 1 Peter 4: 12, 13; Rev. 3:19.

NOTE.—"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.

The Father's Watchcare Over His Children

7. Why may we with confidence cast our care upon God? Matt. 6:8; 1 Peter 5:7.

8. How many of the details of our lives are known to our heavenly Father? Ps. 139:3; Matt. 10:29-31; Heb. 4:13.

NOTE.—"The infinite God, said Jesus, makes it your privilege to approach Him by the name of Father. . . . God dwells in every abode; He hears every word that is spoken, listens to every prayer that is offered, tastes the sorrows and disappointments of every soul, regards the treatment that is given to father, mother, sister, friend, and neighbor. He cares for our necessities, and His love and mercy and grace are continually flowing to satisfy our need."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1956 ed.), page 105.

9. What part is the Father willing to play in the life plans of His children? Ps. 48:14; Prov. 3:6.

NOTE.—"But if you call God your Father, you acknowledge yourselves His children, to be guided by His wisdom and to be obedient in all things, knowing that His love is changeless. You will accept His plan for your life."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing* (1956 ed.), page 105.

10. What provision has God made to help His children meet temptation successfully? 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9.

11. How may we be certain that our Father will supply all our physical and spiritual necessities? Ps. 34:10; 84:11; Matt. 6:8, 25-30; 7:11; Rom. 8:32.

12. Why should the true Christian not lose heart even in the midst of discouraging situations? Ps. 68:5; Isa. 43:2; 49:15; 58:11.

God and the Redeemed

13. What standard of character is presented for God's children to reach? Matt. 5:48.

14. What wonderful invitation will Christ extend to the redeemed? What privileges will be granted them? Matt. 25:34; Rev. 2:7; 3:21.

15. What exalted privilege will bring supreme joy to the redeemed? Rev. 22:4.

NOTE.—"To those who receive Him He gives power to become the sons of God, that at last God may receive them as His, to dwell with Him throughout eternity. If during this life they are loyal to God, they will at last 'see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.' Revelation 22: 4. And what is the happiness of heaven but to see God? What greater joy could come to the sinner saved by the grace of Christ than to look upon the face of God and know Him as Father?"—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 421.

Questions for Meditation

1. Will my children be attracted to their heavenly Father as a result of knowing me, or will they be repelled?
2. If God is truly my Father, I should possess His wonderful traits of character. Do I?
3. When I pass through the discipline of trial, do I feel that God still loves me? Am I tempted to feel resentful?

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

June 27, 1959

This quarter the overflow of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering goes to the Middle East Division, where most of the stories recorded in the Bible took place.

Again we are privileged to help train workers for this needy field by helping to provide funds to build a central training school for Iraq.

The other project this quarter is the strengthening of our medical and welfare work in the Republic of Sudan in Central Africa.

The fields to benefit from the overflow for the next four quarters are:

Third quarter—Far Eastern Division

Fourth quarter—Southern Asia Division

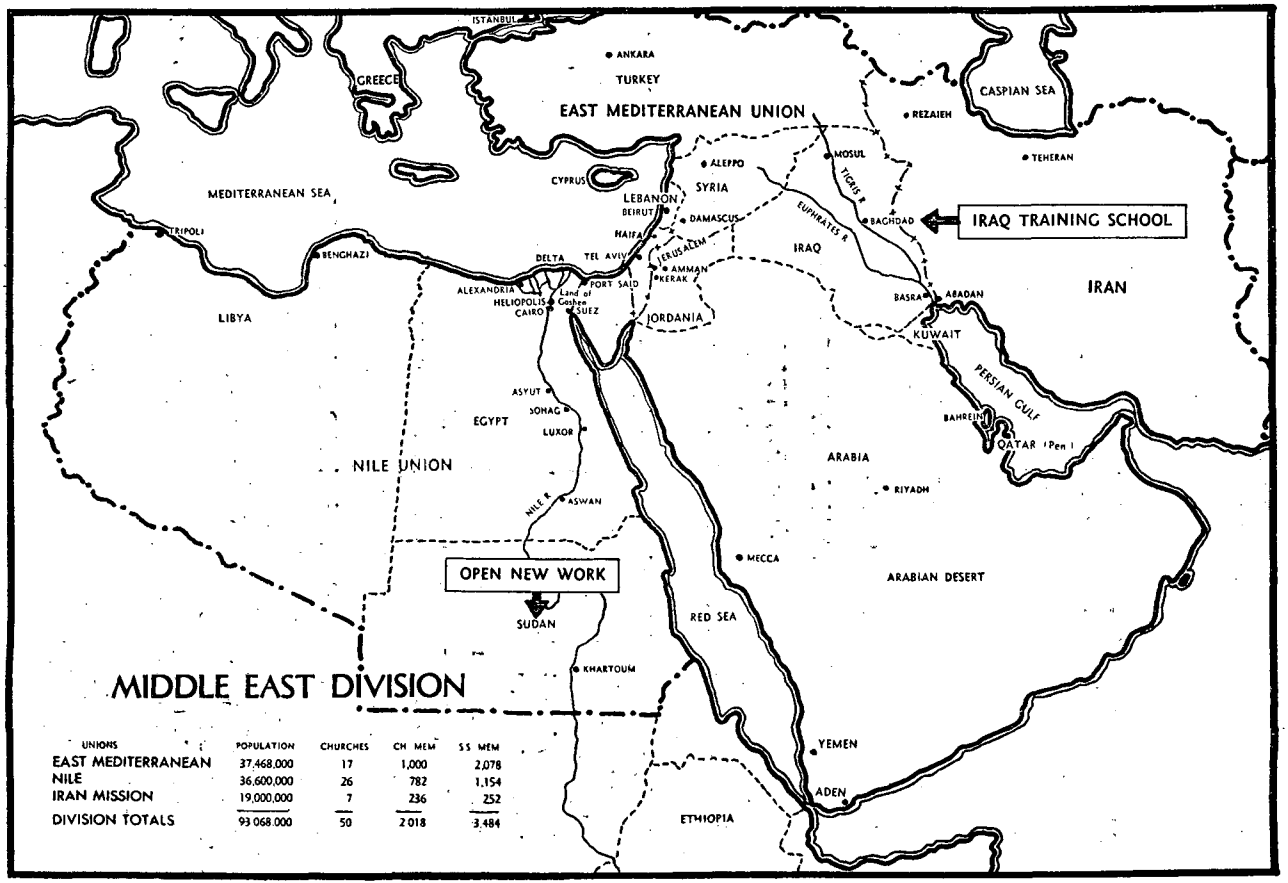
First quarter, 1960—Northern European Division

Second quarter—Southern European Division

LESSONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1959

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the third quarter of 1959 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "Great Themes of the New Testament." The title of the first lesson is "The Eternal Fatherhood of God." The Memory Verse is 1 John 3:1. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Matt. 6:9.
Ques. 2. Matt. 10:29-31; 18:4.
Ques. 3. John 4:8-10.
Ques. 4. Matt. 11:27; John 14:6-9.
Ques. 5. Rom. 5:5; Gal. 4:6.
Ques. 6. Rom. 8:32.
Ques. 7. I John 3:1, 2.
Ques. 8. John 1:12, 13; Rom. 8:14, 16.
Ques. 9. 2 Cor. 5:14.
Ques. 10. Heb. 12:5-12.
Ques. 11. Col. 1:12-14.
Ques. 12. John 4:23; Heb. 4:16.
Ques. 13. John 10:29; Rom. 8:35-39.



UNIONS	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH MEM	SS MEM
EAST MEDITERRANEAN	37,468,000	17	1,000	2,078
NILE	36,600,000	26	782	1,154
IRAN MISSION	19,000,000	7	236	252
DIVISION TOTALS	93,068,000	50	2,018	3,484