SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

THE BLESSED HOPE

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 259, FIRST QUARTER, 1960

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

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

"There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times."—*Steps to Christ,* page 90.

The more you search the Scriptures with humble hearts, the greater will be your interest. . . . Every day you should learn something new from the Scriptures."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 266

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. The Plan of Redemption
2. Old Testament Glimpses of the Coming Redeemer
3. Christ's Witness to the Certainty of His return
4. The Return of Jesus and the Judgment in the Parables
5. The Apostles' Conviction Regarding the Return of Jesus
6. Signs on Earth
7. Signs in the Heavens
8. Other Last-Day Signs
9. Signs in the Spiritual World
10. The Manner of His Coming
11. Preparation for Christ's Coming
12. The Object of His Coming
13. The Finished Plan

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE BLESSED HOPE

Lesson 1, for January 2, 1960

The Plan of Redemption

MEMORY VERSE: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 52-62; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of December 17, 1959.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 10-12.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-3.	☐	Thursday: Read Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐		

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Plan Revealed

1. Laid "from the foundation of the world." 1 Peter 1:20.
2. Put into effect because of man's transgression. Gen. 3:9, 10.
3. To be executed by the Redeemer. Gen. 3:15.

II. The Plan's Ultimate Triumph Foretold

4. Complete restoration prophesied. Micah 4:8; Acts 3:20, 21.
5. Fulfillment based on the declaration of God Himself. Rev. 21:5.
6. Inheritance promised to the righteous. Eph. 3:6.

III. The Plan Vindicates the Character of God

7. Abraham assured of God's justice. Gen. 18:25.
8. God's character will be vindicated. Rev. 15:2, 3; 19:1, 2, first part.
9. God's justice will be acknowledged by all creatures. Rom. 14:11.

IV. The Plan Consummated

10. The return of Jesus. Titus 2:13.
11. Joy of the saved. Isa. 25:9.
12. New heavens and a new earth. Rev. 21:1-4; 22:3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Since God gave the angels freedom of will and choice as later He gave to man, He foresaw the possibility of sin. Therefore the entry of sin into the universe was not an emergency that was unlooked for. The entry of sin into the earth made necessary, according to God's plan, the coming and sacrificial death of Christ in order to vindicate God's character and His law. Sin did not bring failure to God's plan, merely an interruption.

His plan will finally triumph, and sin will be eternally eradicated from the earth and the universe.

The Plan Revealed

1. When was God's plan of redemption first laid? 1 Peter 1:20.

NOTE.—"How kind was God! Divine justice required that sin should meet its penalty, but divine mercy had already found a way to redeem the fallen human race—by the voluntary sacrifice of the Son of God (1 Peter 1:20; Eph. 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rev. 13:8)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:15.

"Inasmuch as the decision that Christ would die for the guilty race was reached before this world was created, and confirmed at the time man fell (see PP 63, 64), He may in that sense be regarded as though slain from the foundation of the world." —*Ibid.,* on Rev. 13:8.

2. What act of Adam and Eve after they had sinned indicated a change in relationship between God and man? Gen. 3:9, 10.

NOTE.—"Adam, in his innocence, had enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but sin brought separation between God and man, and the atonement of Christ alone could span the abyss and make possible the communication of blessing or salvation from heaven to earth. Man was still cut off from direct approach to his Creator, but God would communicate with him through Christ and angels."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 67.

"Adam, who had always welcomed the divine approach, was now in hiding. He could not, however, be hidden from God, who called to Adam, not as if ignorant of his hiding place but to bring him to confession. Adam sought to hide the sin behind its consequences, his disobedience behind his sense of shame, by proposing to God that he had hidden himself through embarrassment at his nakedness. His consciousness of the effects of sin was keener than of the sin itself. Here we witness for the first time the confusion between sin and punishment, which is characteristic of man in his fallen state. The results of sin are sensed and detested more than the sin itself."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:9.

3. What promise to fallen man was implied in God's curse upon the serpent? Gen. 3:15.

NOTE.—"Here the Lord turns from addressing the literal serpent who spoke to Eve, to pronounce judgment on the old serpent the devil. This judgment, expressed in prophetic language, has ever been understood by the Christian church as a prediction of the coming of the Deliverer. . . .

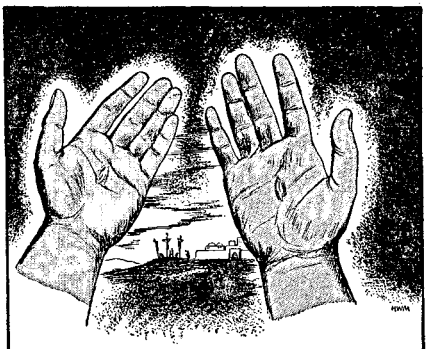
"This pronouncement must have brought great comfort to the two dismayed offenders standing before God, from whose precepts they had departed. Adam, viceroy of God on earth so long as he remained loyal, had, by transferring his loyalty from God to the serpent, ceded his authority to Satan. . . . Nevertheless, before hearing his own sentence pronounced, the healing balm of hope was applied to his shattered soul."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:15.

The Plan's Ultimate Triumph Foretold

4. What promise made to Judah of old will meet its ultimate fulfillment in connection with the second coming of Christ? Micah 4:8; Acts 3:20, 21.

NOTE.—"All that was lost by the first Adam will be restored by the second. The prophet says, 'O Tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion.' And Paul points forward to the 'redemption of the purchased possession.'

"God created the earth to be the abode of holy, happy beings. That purpose will be fulfilled when, renewed by the power of God and freed from sin and sorrow, it shall become the eternal home of the redeemed."—*The Adventist Home,* page 540.



Not metals or ribbons, but the marks of Christ's crucifixion, are the eternal memorial of the plan of redemption.

5. What does God declare concerning the ultimate success of His plan? Rev. 21:5.

6. What promise did God give that indicates the triumph of the grand plan? Eph. 3:6.

The Plan Vindicates the Character of God

7. Of what was Abraham assured in God's dealings with sinful men? Gen. 18:25.

8. What great principle of God's kingdom will also be vindicated? Rev. 15:2, 3; 19:1, 2, first part.

NOTE.—"But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: 'Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.' John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 68, 69.

9. How complete will be the vindication of God's character? Rom. 14:11. Compare Phil. 2:10; Isa. 45:23.

NOTE.—"Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence."—*The Great Controversy,* page 670.

The Plan Consummated

10. What is the "blessed hope" of the Christian? Titus 2:13.

NOTE.—"The hope of Christ's return has been the grand incentive of the Christian faith for nearly 2,000 years, buoying the believer's spirit and steeling his courage amid all the vicissitudes of life. The dark moments of discouragement, disillusionment, or sorrow in this life's experience are gloriously compensated for by the Christian's hope in the second advent."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Titus 2:13.

11. How will Christ be received by those who have been waiting for His coming? Isa. 25:9.

12. When the plan of redemption has at length been consummated, what condition will prevail throughout the entire universe? Rev. 21:1-4; 22:3.

NOTE.—"One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: 'He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power.' Hab. 3:4, margin. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God—there is the Saviour's glory, there 'the hiding of His power.' 'Mighty to save,' through the sacrifice of redemption, He was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power."—*The Great Controversy,* page 674.

Lesson 2, for January 9, 1960

Old Testament Glimpses of the Coming Redeemer

MEMORY VERSE: "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 63-70; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of December 24, 1959.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7, 8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Thursday: Read Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Early Promises of Redemption

1. The coming Deliverer. Gen. 3:15.
2. The prophecy of Enoch. Jude 14.
3. The revelation to Abraham. Gen. 12:3; 22:8-18.
4. The affirmation of Job. Job 19:25, 27, first part.

II. The Psalms and the Major Prophets

5. The psalmist's picture. Ps. 50:3-5.
6. The Redeemer in Isaiah's prophecies. Isa. 59:20.
7. The coming King in Jeremiah. Jer. 23:5, 6.
8. The coming kingdom in Daniel. Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; 7:26, 27; 12:1-4.

III. The Testimony of the Minor Prophets

9. The warning of Joel. Joel 2:1.
10. The coming Ruler in Micah. Micah 5:2.
11. The admonitions of Zephaniah. Zeph. 1:14-18; 2:1-3.
12. The return of the Lord in Haggai. Haggai 2:6, 7; Heb. 12:26, 27.
13. The close of history in Malachi. Mal. 4:1-3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In this lesson we look down the vista of the Old Testament and see how patriarch and psalmist, major and minor prophet, have written of the triumph of good and the coming of the Messiah. Here we have the evidence that God has left no generation without His assurance of the possibility of every man's sharing in the restoration of all things. But this sharing is to come, we are told, only to those who are obedient to His precepts and who keep their faith in the ultimate triumph of God.

Early Promises of Redemption

1. What prophecy of conflict and defeat did the Lord speak to the serpent immediately after man's sin? Gen. 3:15.

NOTE.—"The words . . . addressed to the serpent applied directly to Satan himself, pointing forward to his ultimate defeat and destruction."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 58.

"The Lord Jesus Christ is styled by preeminence 'the seed' (Rev. 12:1-5; cf. Gal. 3:16, 19); it was He who came 'to destroy the works of the devil' (Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:15.

2. What brief but graphic prophecy of the return of Jesus was spoken by Enoch? Jude 14.

NOTE.—Whether Jude quoted from a then-existing noncanonical book known as 1 Enoch (see *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* on this verse) or not, is unimportant. He was led to write these words under inspiration. There veracity is vouched for by this comment on Enoch:

"By the spirit of prophecy He carried him down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. . . .

"In the land where Cain had sought to flee from the divine Presence, the prophet of God made known the wonderful scenes that had passed before his vision. 'Behold,' he declared, 'the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds.' Jude 14, 15."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 85, 86.

3. In what two ways did God reveal to Abraham the coming of a great Redeemer? Gen. 12:3; 22:8-18.

NOTE.—God promised a numerous progeny, and revealed through the typical lamb a coming Redeemer.

"Through type and promise God 'preached before the gospel unto Abraham.' Gal. 3:8. And the patriarch's faith was fixed upon the Redeemer to come. Said Christ to the Jews, 'Your father Abraham rejoiced that he should see My day; and he saw it, and was glad.' John 8:56, R.V., margin. The ram offered in the place of Isaac represented the Son of God, who was to be sacrificed in our stead."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 154.

4. What great affirmation of faith in his resurrection to meet God, was made by Job? Job 19:25, 27, first part.

NOTE.—"*The latter day.* The meaning is that however long Job was to suffer, however protracted his calamities were, he had the utmost confidence that God would eventually vindicate him. The wording of vs. 25 and 26 indicates that the divine vindication would take place when God would 'stand . . . upon the earth' and when Job would 'see God.' This is an unmistakable glimpse of the resurrection."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Job 19:25.

The Psalms and the Major Prophets

5. What vivid picture of the judgment of the world is given by the psalmist? Ps. 50:3-5.

The ancient prophets looked for the glorious day when the Sun of Righteousness, the Messiah, would lighten the earth.

NOTE.—"The King of kings descends upon the cloud, wrapped in flaming fire. The heavens are rolled together as a scroll, the earth trembles before Him, and every mountain and island is moved out of its place."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 641, 642.

6. What did Isaiah write about the return of the Redeemer? Isa. 59:20.

NOTE.—"*The Redeemer shall come.* This prophecy will be fulfilled at the second coming of Christ. The Lord will then return to save His people—those who have turned from their transgressions and have accepted Him as their Saviour."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 59:20.

Isaiah has many references to the Messiah. Isaiah 42:1-4 (see next paragraph) is a reference to the work of Christ on earth, and was so used in Matthew 12:18-21.

"It was further prophesied of the Messiah: 'He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law.' The Son of God was to 'magnify the law, and make it honorable.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 693.

7. What names does Jeremiah apply to Jesus in speaking of His coming to redeem His people? Jer. 23:5, 6.

NOTE.—"*A King shall reign.* Or, 'He shall reign as King,' referring to the 'Branch,' Christ, who will rule with 'judgment and justice' the kingdom of the redeemed (see Isa. 9:6,7; Dan. 7:13, 14; Rev. 11:15)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Jer. 23:5.

The expressions "the Branch of David" and "the Lord our Righteousness" are used of Christ at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. See *The Desire of Ages,* page 578.

8. What are some of the prophecies of Daniel foretelling the return of Jesus? Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; 7:26, 27; 12:1-4.

The Testimony of the Minor Prophets

9. In what impressive language does Joel voice his warning of the coming day of the Lord? Joel 2:1.

NOTE.—Many of the prophetic warnings of imminent temporal calamities had a wider application to the infinitely greater calamity of the final day of reckoning. Joel has many such warnings.

"In view of that great day the word of God, in the most solemn and impressive language, calls upon His people to arouse from their spiritual lethargy and to seek His face with repentance and humiliation. . . .

"To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity, and in His mercy He was about to send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord."—*The Great Controversy,* page 311.

10. How does Micah prophesy of the birth of the coming great Ruler? Micah 5:2.

NOTE.—"For us the great interest of the prophet Micah centers round its clear prophecies of the Saviour who was to come. It

was from this book that 'all the chief priests and scribes of the people,' gathered together by Herod, proclaimed unhesitatingly that it was at Bethlehem of Judah that the Christ, the King, should be born. This prophecy proclaims His eternity. He who was to go forth from Bethlehem as the Ruler, was He whose goings forth were 'from the days of eternity.' Micah 5:3 is closely connected with Isaiah 7:14."—Hodgkin, *Christ in All the Scriptures,* page 211. See also *Prophets and Kings,* page 697.

11. What admonitions of Zephaniah are mingled with warnings of judgment upon an impenitent world? Zeph. 1:14-18; 2:1-3.

NOTE.—"During the reign of Josiah the word of the Lord came to Zephaniah, specifying plainly the results of continued apostasy, and calling the attention of the true church to the glorious prospect beyond. His prophecies of impending judgment upon Judah apply with equal force to the judgments that are to fall upon an impenitent world at the time of the second advent of Christ."—*Prophets and Kings,* pages 389, 390.

12. What does Haggai say of the fate of the nations at the time of the return of our Lord? Haggai 2:6, 7. Compare Heb. 12:26, 27.

NOTE.—This prophecy originally applied to the temple as restored after the Babylonian exile, and to the first advent of Christ. Paul, in Hebrews 12:26, 27, applies it definitely to the second advent. It has been applied to the events of Revelation 16:17, 18.

"In that great coming day, the heaven itself shall depart 'as a scroll when it is rolled together.' Rev. 6:14. And every mountain and island shall be moved out of its place. 'The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.' Isa. 24:20."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 340.

13. How will the two great classes of humanity be dealt with at the close of this earth's history? Mal. 4:1-3.

NOTE.—"*Burn them up.* . . . The wicked do not keep on burning endlessly; the fires of the last day will literally 'burn them up.' . . .

"*Neither root nor branch.* A striking figure indicating the utter annihilation of sin and sinners. . . . Satan, represented as the 'root,' or originator, of evil, and his followers, represented as the branches, are all completely destroyed (see Ps. 37:30).

"*The Sun of Righteousness.* An expressive figure of Christ as the 'Light of the world' (John 8:12; see John 1:4) and the Source of our righteousness (see Jer. 23:6; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9). Christ is ever ready to bring spiritual light to His people in times of need. In this sense it may be said that the 'Sun of Righteousness' arose at the first advent of Christ (see DA 261), and will 'arise' in a special way in the time of great moral darkness just preceding His second advent (see PK 716, 717)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Mal. 4:2.

Lesson 3, for January 16, 1960

Christ's Witness to the Certainty of His Return

MEMORY VERSE: "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 662-664, and chapter 69; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of December 31, 1959.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: Introduction; general survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading from Study Helps. ☐
Monday: Questions 3-6. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 11, 12; read from Study Helps. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. A Great Event

1. Jesus' own assurance. John 14:1-3.
2. The promise of the angels. Acts 1:9-11.

II. A Great Prophecy

3. A triumphant return. Matt. 23:39.
4. Harbingers of the end. Matt. 24:3; Mark 13:1-4.
5. The uncertainty of the hour. Matt. 24:44.
6. The certainty of the event. Matt. 26:64.

III. A Great Responsibility

7. Being ashamed of Jesus. Luke 9:26.
8. Watching for the Lord. Luke 12:35-40.
9. Leaving the world behind. Luke 17:26-30.
10. Expecting reward or penalty. Matt. 16:27.

IV. A Great Home-Coming

11. All shall hear His voice. John 5:28, 29.
12. Christ comes for His own. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

As surely as Jesus is the Son of God, born of a virgin, so surely He is going to return in glory and majesty to this earth. In this lesson our attention is turned to some of the plain, emphatic, and unequivocal promises that Jesus Himself gave to His disciples and others during His life on earth. If we disbelieve in the return of Jesus, it is impossible to believe in Him, for His promise was, "*I will come again.*"

A Great Event

1. What clear, definite promise did Jesus make to the disciples and to all of His followers? John 14:1-3.

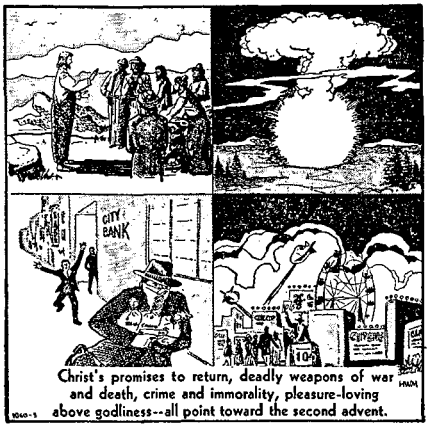
2. Who later repeated the promise of our Saviour to the disciples, and under what circumstances? Acts 1:9-11.

NOTE.—"The promise of Christ's second coming was ever to be kept fresh in the minds of His disciples. The same Jesus whom they had seen ascending into heaven, would come again, to take to Himself those who here below give themselves to His service. The same voice that had said to them, 'Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end,' would bid them welcome to His presence in the heavenly kingdom."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 33.

A Great Prophecy

3. As He wept over Jerusalem, how did Jesus refer to His triumphant return to this earth? Matt. 23:39.

NOTE.—"The triumphal ride of Christ into Jerusalem was the dim foreshadowing of His coming in the clouds of heaven with power and glory, amid the triumph of angels



Christ's promises to return, deadly weapons of war and death, crime and immorality, pleasure-loving above godliness--all point toward the second advent.

and the rejoicing of the saints. Then will be fulfilled the words of Christ to the priests and Pharisees: 'Ye shall not see Me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.' Matt. 23:39. In prophetic vision Zechariah was shown that day of final triumph; and he beheld also the doom of those who at the first advent had rejected Christ: 'They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.' Zech. 12:10. This scene Christ foresaw when He beheld the city and wept over it. In the temporal ruin of Jerusalem He saw the final destruction of that people who were guilty of the blood of the Son of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 580.

4. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? Matt. 24:3; Mark 13:1-4.

NOTE.—"With the overthrow of Jerusalem the disciples associated the events of Christ's personal coming in temporal glory to take the throne of universal empire, to punish the impenitent Jews, and to break from off the nation the Roman yoke. The Lord had told them that He would come the second time. Hence at the mention of judgments upon Jerusalem, their minds reverted to that coming; and as they were gathered about the Saviour upon the Mount of Olives, they asked: 'When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?' Matt. 24:3.

"The future was mercifully veiled from the disciples. Had they at that time fully comprehended the two awful facts—the Redeemer's sufferings and death, and the destruction of their city and temple—they would have been overwhelmed with horror. Christ presented before them an outline of the prominent events to take place before the close of time. His words were not then fully understood; but their meaning was to be unfolded as His people should need the instruction therein given. The prophecy which He uttered was twofold in its meaning; while foreshadowing the destruction of Jerusalem, it prefigured also the terrors of the last great day."—*The Great Controversy,* page 25.

5. What did Jesus say concerning the exact time of His coming? Matt. 24:44.

6. When standing trial for His life, what positive statement did Jesus make about His return in glory? Matt. 26:64.

A Great Responsibility

7. While He was stating the principles of His kingdom, what reference did Jesus make to His triumphant return? Luke 9:26.

8. What did Jesus say should be the constant attitude of all His followers toward His return? Luke 12:35-40.

9. When questioned about the time of the coming of the kingdom, how did Jesus refer to His personal return? Luke 17:26-30.

NOTE.—"When great and wise men had proved to their satisfaction that it was impossible for the world to be destroyed by

water, when the fears of the people were quieted, when all regarded Noah's prophecy as a delusion, and looked upon him as a fanatic—then it was that God's time had come. 'The fountains of the great deep' were 'broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened,' and the scoffers were overwhelmed in the waters of the Flood. With all their boasted philosophy, men found too late that their wisdom was foolishness, that the Lawgiver is greater than the laws of nature, and that Omnipotence is at no loss for means to accomplish His purposes. 'As it was in the days of Noah,' 'even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.' Luke 17:26, 30. 'The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass way with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.' 2 Peter 3:10. When the reasoning of philosophy has banished the fear of God's judgments; when religious teachers are pointing forward to long ages of peace and prosperity, and the world are absorbed in their rounds of business and pleasure, planting and building, feasting and merrymaking, rejecting God's warnings and mocking His messengers—then it is that sudden destruction cometh upon them, and they shall not escape."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 103, 104.

In these days of ever-increasing knowledge, let us beware lest we put our faith in the works of man instead of the word of God.

10. In connection with what impending event will the awards of good or evil be rendered? Matt. 16:27.

A Great Home-Coming

11. How did Jesus speak of this same event in relation to the resurrection? John 5:28, 29.

NOTE.—"Those who in the judgment are 'accounted worthy' will have a part in the resurrection of the just. Jesus said: 'They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, . . . are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.' Luke 20:35, 36. And again He declares that 'they that have done good' shall come forth 'unto the resurrection of life.' John 5:29. The righteous dead will not be raised until after the judgment at which they are accounted worthy of 'the resurrection of life.' Hence they will not be present in person at the tribunal when their records are examined and their cases decided."—*The Great Controversy,* page 482.

12. How does Paul list the sequence of events at the time of the resurrection? 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

NOTE.—"The apostle Paul, speaking by the Spirit of Inspiration, testified: 'The Lord *Himself* shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God.' 1 Thess. 4:16. Says the prophet of Patmos: 'Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.' Rev. 1:7.

"About His coming cluster the glories of that 'restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.' Acts 3:21. Then the long-continued rule of evil shall be broken; 'the kingdoms of this world' will become 'the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.' Rev. 11:15. 'The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.' 'The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.' He shall be 'for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of His people.' Isa. 40:5; 61:11; 28:5."—*The Great Controversy,* page 301.

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS IN BRAILLE

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

The Return of Jesus and the Judgment in the Parables

MEMORY VERSE: "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matt. 25:40.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 70-75, 405-421 (1923 ed., pp. 69-73, 415-431); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of January 7.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4, 5; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-8; read from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9, 10; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 11, 12; finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Tares and the Net

1. The harvest, the end of the world. Matt. 13:38-42.
2. Christ, the Judge. Matt. 13:28-30.
3. End of the world, the time of judgment. Matt. 13:47-49.

II. The Parable of the Talents

4. Accounting for the talents. Matt. 25:14-19.
5. Reward of the faithful stewards. Matt. 25:21.

III. The Parable of the Ten Virgins

6. Will be fulfilled at second coming. Matt. 25:1-13.
7. Privilege of those who are ready. Matt. 25:4, 10.
8. We know not the hour. Matt. 25:13.

IV. The Fig Tree and the Traveling Householder

9. It is near. Matt. 24:32-35.
10. "I say unto all, Watch." Mark 13:34-37.

V. The Sheep and Goats

11. He will come in His glory. Matt. 25:31.
12. The basis of decisions. Matt. 25:42-46.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The triumphant return of Jesus is such an integral part of the gospel that we find it, and the events connected with it, woven into many of the parables Jesus told. In a number of them the return of Jesus is the climactic event which furnishes the point of the narrative. Remove the doctrine of the second coming and you would rob all of the parables referred to in this lesson of their point.

The Tares and the Net

1. What allusion to the second coming do we find in the parable of the tares? Matt. 13:38-42.

2. According to this parable, what work will Christ perform at the time of the judgment? Matt. 13:28-30.

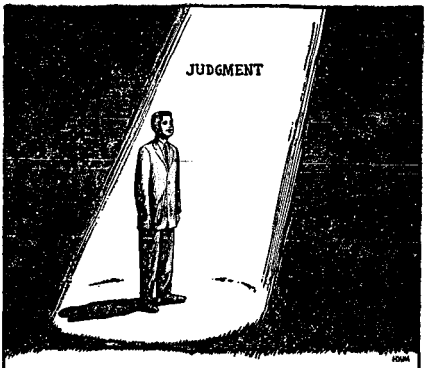
NOTE.—"Christ has plainly taught that those who persist in open sin must be separated from the church, but He has not committed to us the work of judging character and motive. He knows our nature too well to entrust this work to us. Should we try to uproot from the church those whom we suppose to be spurious Christians, we should be sure to make mistakes. Often we regard as hopeless subjects the very ones whom Christ is drawing to Himself. Were we to deal with these souls according to our imperfect judgment; it would perhaps extinguish their last hope. Many who think themselves Christians will at last be found wanting. Many will be in heaven who their neighbors supposed would never enter there. Man judges from appearance, but God judges the heart. The tares and the wheat are to grow together until the harvest; and the harvest is the end of probationary time."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 71, 72.

3. In the parable of the net and fishes, what great truth is set forth? Matt. 13:47-49.

The Parable of the Talents

4. How did Jesus emphasize the truth of the coming time of judgment and our accountability to Him when He comes? Matt. 25:14-19.

NOTE.—"Christ on the Mount of Olives had spoken to His disciples of His second advent to the world. He had specified certain signs that were to show when His coming was near, and had bidden His disciples watch and be ready. Again He repeated the warning, 'Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.' Then He showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. This lesson He taught in the parable of the talents."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 325.



Judging character and human motives must be left to a just and merciful God.

"The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable."—*Ibid.,* pp. 329, 330.

5. What reward will the faithful steward receive? Matt. 25:21.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

6. When and how will the parable of the ten virgins be fulfilled? Matt. 25:1-13.

7. What will be the privilege of those who are ready when Jesus comes? Matt. 25:4, 10.

8. How did Jesus use this parable to emphasize our need for continual preparedness? Matt. 25:13.

NOTE.—"The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' Ps. 119:105. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Thus the Spirit is represented in the prophecy of Zechariah. 'The angel that talked with me came again,' he says, 'and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof; and two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? . . . Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. . . . And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? . . . Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.' Zech. 4:1-14."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 406-408.

The Fig Tree and the Traveling Householder

9. What great lesson is taught by the parable of the fig tree? Matt. 24: 32-35.

NOTE.—"One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another. Though no man knoweth the *day* nor the *hour* of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the Flood was coming."—*The Great Controversy,* page 371.

10. How, in a very brief parable, did Jesus emphasize the necessity of watching and preparing for His return? Mark 13:34-37.

The Sheep and Goats

11. What glory will attend the second coming of Christ? Matt. 25:31.

12. On what basis will decisions be made in the coming judgment? Matt. 25:42-46.

Note.—"The good works performed by those who are to be welcomed to the kingdom were done to Christ in the person of His suffering people. Those who had done these good works did not see that they had done anything for Christ. They had done no more than their duty to suffering humanity. Those on the left hand could not see that they had abused Christ in neglecting the wants of His people. But they had neglected to do for Jesus in the person of His saints, and for this neglect they were to go away into everlasting punishment. And one definite point of their neglect is thus stated: 'I was a stranger, and ye took Me not in.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, pp. 679, 680.

"When we reflect the character of Jesus perfectly we will feel as He does toward those in need, and through us He will be able to solace and succor others. The best evidence of love for God is love that leads us to bear 'one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal. 6:2). . . . The best evidence that a person has become a son of God is that he does the works of God."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 25:40.

Lesson 5, for January 30, 1960

The Apostles' Conviction Regarding the Return of Jesus

MEMORY VERSE: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light." Rom. 13:12.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 17; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of January 14.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: Introduction; general survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-12; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Based Upon Divine Revelation

1. Promised by the angels. Acts 1:11.
2. Testified to by "all His holy prophets." Acts 3:19-21.

II. Forcefully Set Forth by the Apostle Paul

3. The day is at hand. Rom. 13:11, 12.
4. God amply provides for the period of waiting. 1 Cor. 1:7.
5. The Lord's Supper points to Christ's coming. 1 Cor. 11:25, 26.
6. In Christ all shall be made alive. 1 Cor. 15:22, 23.

III. Clearly Confirmed by Other Apostles

7. The church has to wait in patience. James 5:7, 8.
8. Conviction based on eyewitness account. 2 Peter 1:16.
9. Peter pictures the end of all things. 2 Peter 3:10.

IV. Declared by John

10. Abiding in Him means the right preparation. 1 John 2:28.
11. We shall see Him and be like Him. 1 John 3:1, 2.
12. Christ pledges His own word. Rev. 22:20.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Sustaining the apostles in the early days of the church was the sure hope of the return of Him who had commissioned them. Again and again we find them referring to the return of Jesus. While they did not understand the length of time to elapse before He came, they were told of many events that must take place before that blessed event. Their record of what was revealed to them speaks eloquently of their faith in and longing for the return of Him whom they loved and worshiped.

Based Upon Divine Revelation

1. What promise did the angels make to the disciples at the ascension of Jesus? Acts 1:11.

2. Which event was, according to Peter's words, a major theme of the prophets of old? Acts 3:19-21.

NOTE.—"The dominant theme of the NT writers is the return of Christ. . . . The disciples had witnessed Christ's ascension (ch. 1:9, 10), and they realized He must remain in heaven until His second advent. Jesus had told His disciples that it was necessary for Him to leave them (John 14: 1-6), but even they did not understand until they saw Him ascend, and learned that they must look for His return."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Acts 3:20, 21.

Forcefully Set Forth by the Apostle Paul

3. What figure of speech did Paul use in referring to the time just prior to our Lord's return? Rom. 13:11, 12.

4. In view of the imminent return of Christ, what will the church be doing? 1 Cor. 1:7.

5. What sacred ordinance foreshadows Christ's return? 1 Cor. 11:25, 26.

6. When, according to Paul, will the resurrection of the righteous dead occur? 1 Cor. 15:22, 23.

Clearly Confirmed by Other Apostles

7. What attitude does James recommend to the waiting church in view of the nearness of Christ's return? James 5:7, 8.

To every bereaved believer the second advent is the "blessed hope" of glad reunion.

NOTE.—"Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 732.

8. Upon what did Peter base his faith in the surety of the return of Jesus? 2 Peter 1:16.

9. In his great prophecy, what powerful picture did Peter paint of the end of all things? 2 Peter 3:10.

Declared by John

10. What admonition does the apostle John give to the followers of Jesus as they look forward to His coming? 1 John 2:28.

NOTE.—"*Abide in Him.* That is, in Christ. This is direct counsel to take the action recommended in v. 27, in view of the anticipated return of Jesus. . . . Only those who abide in Christ will be prepared to

meet Him at His coming (cf. Matt. 24:13; John 15:6). . . .

"The picture is of one who, having consistently abided in Christ, has no fear of meeting Him at His coming."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 2:28.

11. What is promised to the faithful believer preparing for Christ's return? 1 John 3:1, 2.

NOTE.—"*Like Him.* This points to the fulfillment of God's plan for fallen man—restoration to the divine image. Man was made in the image of God, . . . but sin ruined that likeness. It is God's design to restore that similitude by giving to man victory over sin and over every temptation. . . . The restoration will be completed at the second advent (1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20, 21)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 3:2.

12. With what pledge does Jesus, through John the revelator, emphasize the dominant theme of the New Testament? Rev. 22:20.

NOTE.—"The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour's parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, the 'appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ' was the 'blessed hope.' When the Thessalonian Christians were filled with grief as they buried their loved ones, who had hoped to live to witness the coming of the Lord, Paul, their teacher, pointed them to the resurrection, to take place at the Saviour's advent. Then the dead in Christ should rise, and together with the living be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 'And so,' he said, 'shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.' 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

"On rocky Patmos the beloved disciple hears the promise, 'Surely I come quickly,' and his longing response voices the prayer of the church in all her pilgrimage, 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus.' Rev. 22:20."—*The Great Controversy,* page 302.

We with the disciple John may look forward with confidence to the day when we shall see our blessed Lord face to face.

Lesson 6, for February 6, 1960

Signs on Earth

MEMORY VERSE: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matt. 24:7.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 7; "The Great Controversy," chapter 36; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of January 21.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. A World in Apprehension

1. Earthquake under the sixth seal. Rev. 6:12, first part.
2. Universal fear. Luke 21:25, second part, verse 26.
3. Moral depravity. Matt. 24:37-39.
4. God's warnings. Matt. 24:14.

II. A World of Discord

5. Angry nations. Rev. 11:18; Ps. 2:1.
6. Class antagonism. James 5:1-6.
7. Family discord. 2 Tim. 3:2, last part, verse 3, first part.

III. A World in Spiritual Poverty

8. A faithless world. Luke 18:8.
9. A world of scoffers. 2 Peter 3:3, 4.
10. A world intolerant of truth. 2 Tim. 4:3, 4.

IV. A Church Waiting for Her Lord

11. Aware that His coming is near. Matt. 24:33.
12. Preparing for the day of God. 2 Peter 3:11, 12.
13. Purified by the blessed hope. 1 John 3:3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In the mercy of God, every possible approach has been made to arouse men's minds to the imminence of the return of Jesus. When Jesus answered the disciples' question about the signs of the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world, He gave signs that pertained to both events, as may be seen in Matthew 24:4-6, 8. We should be careful not to apply all the signs to the second advent. There are clear signs given of the end of all things, such as physical calamities, moral depravity, selfishness and fear in men's hearts, universal knowledge of the gospel.

A World in Apprehension

1. What divine intervention in the prophecy of the sixth seal was a warning of the time of the end? Rev. 6:12, first part.

NOTE.—"The events of the sixth seal reveal the disjointing of the physical universe. The prophet Joel had already used the figure of an earthquake to describe the upheaval of nature in the day of the Lord (Joel 2:10; cf. Isa. 13:9-11; Amos 8:9)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Rev. 6:12.

"The great earthquake of [November 1,] 1755, extended over a trace of at least four millions of square miles. . . . It pervaded the greater portions of the continents of Europe, Africa, and America; but its extreme violence was exercised on the southwestern part of the former." "In Africa, this earthquake was felt almost as severely as it had been in Europe. . . . It is probable . . . that all Africa was shaken. . . . At the north, it extended to Norway and Sweden; Germany, Holland, France, Great Britain, and Ireland were all more or less agitated by the same great and terrible commotion of the elements."—Robert Sears, *Wonders of the World,* pages 50, 58.

2. What would multiplied signs of coming judgment produce in men's hearts? Luke 21:25, second part, verse 26.

NOTE.—"Distress" comes from a Greek word used in the New Testament only here and in 2 Corinthians 2:4, meaning *anguish.* The Revised Standard Version has "distress of nations in perplexity." Robertson says that "in perplexity" is the "state of one . . . who has lost his way."—*Word Pictures,* vol. 2, p. 260.

3. What events in human conduct would be further signs of imminent disaster? Matt. 24:37-39.

NOTE.—"The same sins exist in our day which brought the wrath of God upon the world in the days of Noah. Men and women now carry their eating and drinking to gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah and led to general corruption, until their violence and crimes reached to heaven, and God washed the earth of its moral pollution by a flood."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 163.

4. To what extent is the gospel to be preached before the Lord Jesus comes in final judgment? Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"This prophecy will again be fulfilled. The abounding iniquity of that day finds its counterpart in this generation. So with the prediction in regard to the preaching of the gospel. Before the fall of Jerusalem, Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, declared that the gospel was preached to 'every creature which is under heaven.' Col. 1:23. So now, before the coming of the Son of man, the everlasting gospel is to be preached 'to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.' Rev. 14:6, 14."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 633.

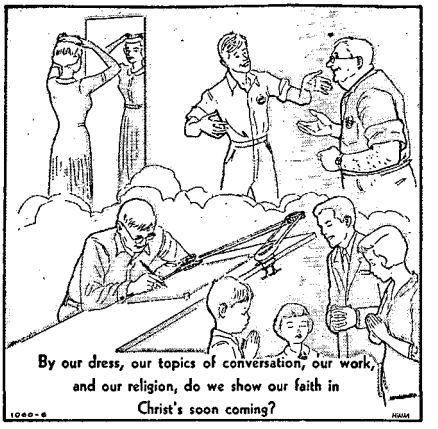
A World of Discord

5. What leads to the outpouring of God's wrath? Rev. 11:18. Compare Ps. 2:1.

NOTE.—"*Nations were angry.* . . . Such will be the condition of the nations prior to the coming of Christ. They will band together to oppose the work and people of Christ. . . .

"*Wrath.* The wrath of God is summed up in the seven last plagues (ch. 15:1). The work of opposition against Christ is brought to a halt by these plagues."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Rev. 11:18.

6. What picture of antagonism between rich and poor in the last days is given by the apostle James? James 5:1-6.



NOTE.—Oppression of the poor and selfishness among the rich have existed in every age. The psalmist fretted enviously at "the prosperity of the wicked." Ps. 73:2, 3. In the disciples' days some rich persons "despised the poor," oppressed them and haled them "before the judgment seats." James 2:6. These conditions will exist until "the coming of the Lord." "Coming" is from the Greek word *parousia,* signifying the personal coming of Christ. He alone can solve the world's mounting problems of inequity, oppression, selfishness, hatred.

7. In Paul's description of the lawlessness of the last days, what is said of family relationships? 2 Tim. 3:2, last part, verse 3, first part.

NOTE.—Personal selfishness, communal and family disloyalty, religious formality, are seen in these verses. The world is not progressing toward universal conversion to Christ. "Evil men" are getting "worse and worse."

Speaking of people represented by the foolish virgins, Ellen G. White says, in *Christ's Object Lessons,* page 411: "They do not know God. . . . The apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ's second coming."

"With the increasing activity of the prince of evil (cf. Rev. 7:1; 12:12), it is to be expected that the agelong course of

evil will reach a climax of intensity in 'the last days.' "—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 3:1.

A World in Spiritual Poverty

8. How did Jesus connect His coming with a lack of faith on the earth? Luke 18:8.

NOTE.—Jesus had been teaching that God would "avenge His own elect" (verses 7, 8), and now connects His second coming with that event. These two events are connected in Matthew 16:27, in Revelation 22:12, and elsewhere.

"This doctrine [that all the world will be converted] . . . does not harmonize with the teachings of Christ and His apostles. Jesus asked the significant question, 'When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?' And, as we have seen, he declares that the state of the world will be as in the days of Noah."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 103.

9. What will scoffers in the last days say about the coming of Christ? 2 Peter 3:3, 4.

NOTE.—This scoffing occurs whenever the second coming is preached. It was the attitude of many in the early days of the advent message. See *The Great Controversy,* page 370. It will be increasingly so as the end approaches.

"He [Peter] is not here making specific statements regarding the time of Christ's coming, but is bent on preparing his flock for 'the last days' whenever those days may appear."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 2 Peter 3:3.

"The attention of the people should be called to the momentous event which is so near at hand. The signs of the times should be kept fresh before their minds. . . . When these things are dwelt upon as they should be, scoffers will be developed who walk after their own lusts."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 9, 10.

10. What did Paul predict regarding intolerance to sound doctrine at some future time? 2 Tim. 4:3, 4.

NOTE.—"The apostle was undoubtedly thinking of the great apostasy that was soon to develop in the church, and which would continue to imperil it until the second advent of Christ."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 4:3.

"The ministers of Christ today are in the same danger. Satan is constantly at work to divert the mind into wrong channels, so that the truth may lose its force upon the heart."—*Gospel Workers,* page 312.

A Church Waiting for Her Lord

11. In what way did Jesus say that the believer may be able to tell when the end is near? Matt. 24:33.

NOTE.—This chapter contains warnings of Jerusalem's destruction, as well as of the end of the world. The Lord would have us differentiate between these signs, as the language of Matthew 24:27-33 indicates. We are to "see all these things," "know that it is near," and be ready for our Lord to come. Matt. 24:42.

"Jesus declares: 'There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations.' Luke 21:25. . . . Those who behold these harbingers of His coming are to 'know that it is near, even at the doors.' Matt. 24:33. 'Watch ye therefore,' are His words of admonition. Mark 13:35. They that heed the warning shall not be left in darkness, that that day should overtake them unawares. But to them that will not watch, 'the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.' 1 Thess. 5:2-5."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 37, 38.

12. What is the relation between Christian conduct and the knowledge that the coming of the day of God is near? 2 Peter 3:11, 12.

NOTE.—"Many . . . professed Christians dress, talk, and act like the world, and the only thing by which they may be known, is their profession. Though they profess to be looking for Christ, their conversation is not in heaven, but on worldly things. 'What manner of persons' ought those to

be 'in all holy conversation and godliness.' " —*Early Writings,* page 108.

13. What will the blessed hope do for a man? 1 John 3:3.

NOTE.—"*Purifieth.* . . . 'To cleanse from defilement,' 'to purify.' The word is applied to both ceremonial and moral cleansing (John 11:55; Acts 21:24, 26; 24:18; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22). Sinful man cannot cleanse himself; he is sold under sin and utterly dependent upon the Saviour for purity (Jer. 17:9; John 3:3; 15:4, 5; Rom. 8:7). Nevertheless, there is some work that man, with divine aid, must do for himself. . . . This work demands diligent watching and prayer (Eph. 6:13-18; Col. 4:2; Rev. 3:3)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 3:3.

Lesson 7, for February 13, 1960

Signs in the Heavens

MEMORY VERSE: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies to Ministers," pages 236-238; "The Great Controversy," pages 304-316 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 297-309); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of January 28.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: Introduction; general survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-6.	☐
Monday: Questions 7-9; read from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Wednesday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Read Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Old Testament Prophecies

1. Heavenly bodies darkened. Joel 3:15.
2. Gloomy sunrise. Isa. 13:10.
3. Wonders in the heavens. Joel 2:30, 31.

II. New Testament Predictions

4. Powers of heaven to be shaken. Luke 21:25, 26.
5. Sun darkened under the sixth seal. Rev. 6:12, last part.
6. Stars disturbed under sixth seal. Rev. 6:13.

III. Prophecy and the Witness of History

7. First sign in the sun. Matt. 24:29, first part.
8. Sign in the moon. Mark 13:24.
9. Sign in the stars. Luke 21:25, first part; Matt. 24:29.

IV. The Church and the Signs in the Heavens

10. "Lift up your heads." Luke 21:28.
11. "Know that it is nigh." Mark 13:29.
12. "Take heed to yourselves." Luke 21:34.
13. "Watch therefore." Matt. 24:42.

THE LESSON

Introduction

God does not act in judgment without giving men due warning. When He chose to use the heavenly bodies as signs of the approaching end, He knew that such signs could not be wholly ignored. Today we have the prophecies of the prophets of both Old and New Testaments, as well as the words of Jesus, reinforced by the fact that some of the celestial signs are now proved by the events of history.

Old Testament Prophecies

1. What did the prophecy of Joel indicate about the nature of certain heavenly signs that will accompany the day of the Lord? Joel 3:15.

NOTE.—Read Joel 3:13-15 and observe that "decision" time in the day of the Lord is referred to. Many warning signs have occurred, and now God is about to arise as judge to decide the eternal destiny of the nations. See verses 11-13 on God's appeal prior to His final decisions. Man makes his own decision for or against God, and on that hangs God's final decision in judgment.

2. What did Isaiah say about unusual behaviour of the heavenly luminaries? Isa. 13:10.

NOTE.—"A supernatural darkness in which the luminaries of heaven withhold their light is often mentioned as one of the phenomena accompanying the great and terrible 'day of the Lord' (Joel 2:10, 11; 3:15, 16; Amos 8:9; see also Matt. 24:29; Mark 13:24, 25; Luke 21:25; Rev. 6:12, 13; GC 636, 637). See EW 41."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 13:10.

3. In what way did Joel speak of wonders in the heavens? Joel 2:30, 31.

NOTE.—"May 19, 1780, stands in history as 'The Dark Day.' Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, recorded by the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment."—*The Great Controversy,* page 308.

New Testament Predictions

4. How did Jesus speak of God's use of the heavenly bodies as omens of the end? Luke 21:25, 26.

NOTE.—"When the Lord said 'heaven,' in giving signs recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, He meant heaven, and when He said 'earth' He meant earth. The powers of heaven are the sun, moon, and stars. They rule in the heavens. The powers of earth are those that rule on the earth. The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God. Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God."—*Early Writings,* page 41.

5. In what words did the revelator speak of the unnatural appearance of the sun and the moon under the sixth seal? Rev. 6:12, last part.

NOTE.—"The sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood." Rev. 6:12, R.S.V.

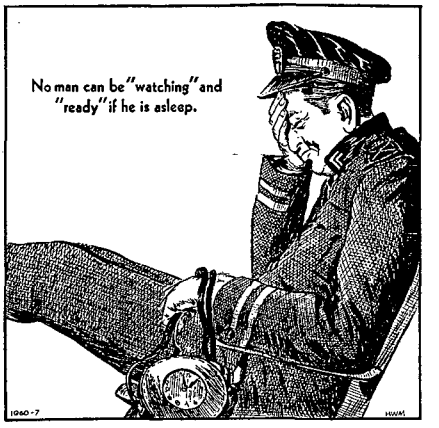
6. What did John say in the same connection, about the movements of the stars? Rev. 6:13.

Prophecy and the Witness of History

7. How did Jesus mention the sun in warnings of the end? Matt. 24:29, first part.

NOTE.—"As He warned His disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin, that they might make their escape; so He has warned the world of the day of final destruction and has given them tokens of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come. Jesus declares: "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 37.

"Twenty-five years later [than the Lisbon earthquake, 1755] appeared the next sign mentioned in the prophecy—the darkening of the sun and moon. . . . The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled." —*Ibid.,* p. 306.



8. What did Jesus prophesy about the moon as a sign of the coming of the Son of man? Mark 13:24.

NOTE.—Following the dark day of May 19, 1780, came the supernatural obscurement of the moon. " 'Nor was the darkness of the night less uncommon and terrifying than that of the day; notwithstanding there was almost a full moon, no object was discernible but by the help of some artificial light, which, when seen from the neighboring houses and other places at a distance, appeared through a kind of Egyptian darkness which seemed almost impervious to the rays' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 308.

9. In what brief words does Luke record Christ's reference to the use of the heavenly bodies as warnings of coming events? How does Matthew amplify Luke's statement? Luke 21:25, first part; Matt. 24:29.

NOTE.—"This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833. That was the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded; 'the whole firmament, over all the United States, being then, for hours, in fiery commotion! No celestial phenomenon has ever occurred in this country, since its first settlement, which was viewed with such intense admiration by one class in the community, or with so much dread and alarm by another.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 333.

The Church and the Signs in the Heavens

10. What advice did Jesus give to men who see the import of these signs in the heavens? Luke 21:28.

NOTE.—"Look up and raise your heads," R.S.V. "The Greek word, literally, *bend up,* or *turn up,* meets us here and in chap. 13:11."—*Ellicott's Commentary.* In Luke 13:11, sickness had kept a woman bent with infirmity for eighteen years, so that she "could in no wise lift up herself." When men see the approach of the end, every earthly preoccupation should be laid aside. They should look up and prepare to meet the Lord. *Looking up* is not one look, but a life of preparedness.

11. What are Christians to know when they see the predicted signs coming to pass? Mark 13:29.

NOTE.—"Must we see things foretold come to pass before we will believe what He has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing us that the great day of the Lord is near at hand, 'even at the doors.' Let us read and understand before it is too late."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 20.

12. In what words did Jesus warn His followers against certain fatal weaknesses which might overtake them during the waiting period preceding His coming? Luke 21:34.

NOTE.—"We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord's coming in glory as near at hand. The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. . . . While we are not to know the hour of our Lord's return, we may know when it is near."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 235.

13. In what one word did Jesus stress the necessity of constant preparedness for His return? Matt. 24:42. Compare Mark 13:35, 36.

NOTE.—"Jesus has left us word: 'Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.' [Mark 13:35-37.] We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, who is to bring the morning, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping. What time is here referred to? Not to the revelation of Christ in the clouds of heaven to find a people asleep. No; but to His return from His ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, when He lays off His priestly attire and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance, and when the mandate goes forth: 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.' When Jesus ceases to plead for man, the cases of all are forever decided."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, pp. 190, 191.

Lesson 8, for February 20, 1960

Other Last-Day Signs

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

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pages 355, 356 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 349, 350); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 170, 371, 372 (1923 ed., pp. 174, 376, 377); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald," of February 4.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Increase of Knowledge and Responsibility

1. The sealed book. Dan. 12:4.
2. The time of the end. Dan. 11:35.
3. The 1260 years. Dan. 7:25.
4. The purpose of increased knowledge. Matt. 24:14.

II. Warnings for Perilous Times

5. The love of self. 2 Tim. 3:2-5.
6. The reason for reproof. James 5:1-3.
7. The right use of possessions. Luke 12:16-21.

III. Disturbed Nations

8. Prophecy of war. Joel 3:9-11.
9. Christ's prophecy of wars and tumults. Matt. 24:6, 7.
10. Failure to discern the signs. Matt. 16:3, 4.

IV. Facing the Future Confidently

11. "Fear not, Abram." Gen 15:1.
12. "Fear not, little flock." Luke 12:32.
13. "Fear God, and give glory to Him." Rev. 14:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

When God foretells future events, He does so for two reasons: (1) that the sinner may be warned and saved; (2) that the church may be reassured and prepared.

Some prophecies have both a near and a distant fulfillment, as when Jesus spoke of conditions leading to Jerusalem's destruction as the background for the portrayal of conditions at the end of the world. This lesson deals with some of these prophecies and points out both the dangers and a way of escape from them.

Increase of Knowledge and Responsibility

1. What special prophecies were to be unfolded in the last days? Dan. 12:4. Compare Rev. 10:8-11.

NOTE.—"It was not given him [Daniel] to understand all that God had revealed of the divine purpose. 'Shut up the words, and seal the book,' he was directed concerning his prophetic writings; these were to be sealed 'even to the time of the end.'" —*Prophets and Kings,* page 547.

"This prophecy has also been interpreted as pointing to the stupendous advances of science and general knowledge in the last century and a half, advances that have made possible a widespread proclamation of the message of these prophecies."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Dan. 12:4.

2. Until what time were Christians to suffer persecution at the hands of the Roman power? Dan. 11:35.

NOTE.—The end of the allotted period for this persecution was to mark the opening of "the time of the end."

3. How long were the saints to be under the power of the little-horn power? Dan. 7:25.

NOTE.—The little horn was to exercise dominance "until a time and times and the dividing of time" (Dan. 7:25), or 1260 years from A.D. 538 (defeat of the Ostrogoths) till 1798. This marked the beginning of "the time of the end." "The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 234.

The prophecies of Daniel regarding the end of all things needed widespread dissemination to be of help to mankind. This demanded an accelerated scientific knowledge such as we have seen in speedy transportation, printing, medical knowledge,

commercial development, electronics. In addition we have seen unprecedented political, religious, educational, and intellectual freedom—all of use in God's great plan to prepare the world for coming judgment.

4. What was God's great purpose in this unprecedented increase of knowledge since the end of the eighteenth century? Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"The whole earth is to be illuminated with the glory of God's truth. The light is to shine to all lands and all peoples."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 24.

"Thirty years after Christ spoke these words Paul affirmed that the gospel had gone to all the world (Col. 1:23; cf. Rom. 1:8; 10:18; Col. 1:5, 6; 8T 26), confirming the literal fulfillment of this prediction in his day (see DA 633). However, Paul's declaration was true in a limited sense only. . . . The complete fulfillment of this prediction of our Lord is yet to be realized (see AA 111)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 24:14.

Warnings for Perilous Times

5. In what nineteen striking expressions does Paul illustrate the perils of the last days in human relations? What are Christians to do under such conditions? 2 Tim. 3:2-5.

NOTE.—"The Bible declares that before the coming of the Lord there will exist a state of religious declension similar to that in the first centuries."—*The Great Controversy,* page 444.

6. What does the apostle say will bring misery upon certain classes in the last times? James 5:1-3.

NOTE.—The selfish rich here exemplify men who have the means and the power to do good, but refuse to do it. Selfishness,

The completion of the marching order, "Go ye into all the world," will be followed by the fulfillment, "I will come again."

fraudulence, callous disregard of others' needs, always call out envy and resentment in return, but increasingly so in the end of time.

"The apostle refers not only to the insecurity that always surrounds an accumulation of riches but also to increasing tensions as the last days of earth's history draw near."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on James 5:1.

7. In what way did Jesus teach that selfish hoarding of possessions leaves us poor before God? Luke 12:16-21.

NOTE.—"The man in the parable had not where to bestow his goods, and the Lord cut short his unprofitable life. So will He deal with many. How difficult, in this corrupt age, to keep from growing worldly and selfish. How easy to become ungrateful to the Giver of all our mercies. Great watchfulness is needed, and much prayer, to keep the soul with all diligence."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 199.

Jesus possessed practically no worldly goods, but how rich He was in unselfish love and service! "The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit that pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss. This is the spirit that Christ's followers will possess, the work that they will do."—*Steps to Christ,* page 77 (1908 ed., p. 81).

Disturbed Nations

8. What conditions will arise in the last days? Joel 3:9-11.

NOTE.—"The gradual withdrawal of God's Spirit in these last days leaves the way open for a corresponding increase in satanic activity designed to lead men on to destroy one another. This process will reach its climax just before the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on Joel 3:9.

In *Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 446, the words of Joel 3:14, "multitudes in the valley of decision," are applied to the spiritual decision that truth brings to people under the three angels' messages. In that spiritual sense, this prophecy is vital to us all today.

9. What conditions that existed preceding Jerusalem's destruction are to exist increasingly before the end? Matt. 24:6, 7. Compare Mark 13:7, 8; Luke 21:9, 10.

NOTE.—In the forty years between this speech during the last week before Christ's crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem, there were fierce persecutions of Jews, especially at Alexandria in A.D. 38. At Seleucia, about the same time, some 50,000 Jews were slaughtered, and many other national tumults are recorded by Josephus. But the Lord's discourse did not leave trouble behind at Jerusalem's fall. "The end is not yet," He said.

"We have by no means to understand *exclusively* the wars, etc., which were to take place in the interval of forty years; but all the calamities of this kind which in continually increasing measure should precede the end of the world, of which the destruction of Jerusalem was only a type."—J. J. Van Oosterzee, *Gospel According to Luke,* quoted by Wilbur M. Smith in *This Atomic Age and the Word of God,* page 251.

"Here all wars are meant down to the end of the world; and certainly there are enough of them to be found."—Lange's *Commentary,* on Matt. 24:6.

10. How did Jesus rebuke the Pharisees and Sadducees for their failure to discern the signs of their times? What was the tragic result? Matt. 16:3, 4. Compare 23:37-39.

NOTE.—"We need keen, sanctified perception. This perception is not to be used in criticizing and condemning one another, but discerning the signs of the times."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 101.

"Jerusalem is a representation of what the church will be if it refuses to walk in the light that God has given. Jerusalem was favored of God as the depositary of sacred trusts. But her people perverted the truth, and despised all entreaties and warnings. They would not respect His counsels. The temple courts were polluted with merchandise and robbery. Selfishness and love of mammon, envy and strife, were cherished. Everyone sought for gain."—*Ibid.,* p. 67.

Facing the Future Confidently

11. What message came to Abraham at a time when he looked toward the future with foreboding? Gen. 15:1.

NOTE.—The Canaanites were jealous of Abraham's growing wealth and power, the Mesopotamian kings were no doubt ready to avenge their defeat, Abraham was still childless, God's promise was still unfulfilled, and the future was uncertain.

"His mind was disturbed by harassing thoughts. He had been a man of peace, so far as possible shunning enmity and strife; and with horror he recalled the scene of carnage he had witnessed. But the nations whose forces he had defeated would doubtless renew the invasion of Canaan, and make him the special object of their vengeance. Becoming thus involved in national quarrels, the peaceful quiet of his life would be broken. Furthermore, he had not entered upon the possession of Canaan, nor could he now hope for an heir, to

whom the promise might be fulfilled."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 136.

12. What did Jesus say to His disciples about the kingdom, at a time when their future seemed uncertain? Luke 12:32.

NOTE.—"As they went out in their Master's name, facing reproach and poverty and persecution, they often strengthened their hearts by repeating His injunction, spoken on this last journey, 'Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 496.

13. What are men exhorted to do as they see the omens of imminent judgment? Rev. 14:7.

NOTE.—"Today the church of God is free to carry forward to completion the divine plan for the salvation of a lost race. . . . To spiritual Israel have been restored the privileges accorded the people of God at the time of their deliverance from Babylon. In every part of the earth, men and women are responding to the Heaven-sent message which John the revelator prophesied would be proclaimed prior to the second coming of Christ."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 714.

Lesson 9, for February 27, 1960

Signs in the Spiritual World

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

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pages 321, 444, 563-581 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 314, 315, 437, 438, 557-574); "Early Writings," pages 139, 227; "Testimonies to Ministers," page 78; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of February 11.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-12; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 13-15; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Widespread Moral Decay

1. A peril for the world. 2 Tim. 3:1.
2. A source of corruption to mankind. 2 Tim. 3:2-4.
3. Outward piety, inward evil. 2 Tim. 3:5, first part.
4. The Christian's duty. 2 Tim. 3:5, last part.

II. Counterfeits of Prophecy

5. False christs. Matt. 24:24.
6. Deceptive proclamations. Matt. 24:26.

7. Counteractive remedies. Matt. 24:26, last clause; Isa. 8:20.

III. Tendency Toward Apostasy

8. Departure from the faith. 1 Tim. 4:1.
9. Falling prey to deception. 2 Thess. 2:3, 4.

IV. The Resurgence of an Evil Power

10. Recapture of former influence. Rev. 13:3.
11. Additional usurpation of power. Rev. 13:14-17.
12. Almost world-wide success. Rev. 13:8.

V. Waning Watchfulness

13. A spiritual danger to the Lord's servants. Matt. 24:48.
14. The cause of a sad fate. Matt. 24:50, 51.
15. A warning to God's people. Matt. 24:44-46.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The most ominous signs of the end of the world are not necessarily visible to all. The subtle and continuous declension in spiritual integrity, even among Christians, is just as real a sign as the darkening of the sun or the falling of the stars. Watch should be kept, by the earnest Christian, of these signs of the coming of the Lord.

Widespread Moral Decay

1. What gloomy forecast with regard to the dangerous spiritual conditions in the time of the end does Paul make? 2 Tim. 3:1.

NOTE.—"Taking the manner in which the prophecies had been fulfilled in the past as a criterion by which to judge of the fulfillment of those which were still future, he [William Miller] became satisfied that the popular view of the spiritual reign of Christ—a temporal millennium before the end of the world—was not sustained by the word of God. This doctrine, pointing to a thousand years of righteousness and peace before the personal coming of the Lord, put far off the terrors of the day of God. But, pleasing though it may be, it is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His apostles, who declared that the wheat and the tares are to grow together until the harvest, the end of the world; that 'evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse;' that 'in the last days perilous times shall come;' and that the kingdom of darkness shall continue until the advent of the Lord and shall be consumed with the spirit of His mouth and be destroyed with the brightness of His coming."—*The Great Controversy,* page 321.

2. What characteristics of men in the last days make those days perilous? 2 Tim. 3:2-4.

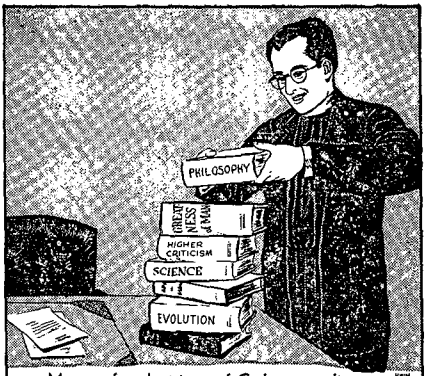
NOTE.—The collapse of civilized practices during the wars and unrest of the past two decades furnish sufficient proof of the accuracy of the prophecy under consideration. Torture, programs of exterminations directed at whole races of people, and international treachery are fulfillments that are known by the whole world.

3. While indulging in ungodly practices, what will many in the last days profess? 2 Tim. 3:5, first part.

NOTE.—"I saw a very large company professing the name of Christ, but God did not recognize them as His. He had no pleasure in them. Satan seemed to assume a religious character, and was very willing that the people should think they were Christians. He was even anxious that they should believe in Jesus, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. Satan and his angels fully believe all this themselves, and tremble. But if this faith does not provoke to good works, and lead those who profess it

to imitate the self-denying life of Christ, Satan is not disturbed; for they merely assume the Christian name, while their hearts are still carnal, and he can use them in his service even better than if they made no profession. Hiding their deformity under the name of Christian, they pass along with their unsanctified natures, and their evil passions unsubdued. This gives occasion for the unbeliever to reproach Christ with their imperfections, and causes those who do possess pure and undefiled religion to be brought into disrepute."—*Early Writings*, pages 227, 228.

4. What should be the Christian's attitude toward those who profess religion but do not practice it? 2 Tim. 3:5, last part.



Many professed ministers of God are crowding out the Bible by man-made theories and false science.

Counterfeits of Prophecy

5. Against what special deceptions are the elect warned? Matt. 24:24.

6. What counterfeit measures did Christ indicate would be attempted? Matt. 24:26.

NOTE.—"Prophesyings which contradict the plain and positive declarations of the word, are to be rejected. Thus our Saviour taught His disciples when He warned them concerning the manner of His second coming. When Jesus ascended to heaven in the sight of His disciples, it was declared most explicitly by the angels that this same Jesus should so come in like manner as they had seen Him go into heaven. Hence Jesus, in predicting the work of the false prophets of the last days, says, 'If they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert, go not forth; Behold, He is in the secret chambers, believe it not.' All true prophesying on that point must recognize His visible coming from heaven."—*Early Writings*, page 139.

7. How are all such manifestations to be regarded by God's people? Matt. 24:25, 26, last clause; Isa. 8:20.

Tendency Toward Apostasy

8. What has the Spirit revealed concerning the apostasies in the last days? 1 Tim. 4:1.

NOTE.—"In the days of Christ the leaders and teachers of Israel were powerless to resist the work of Satan. They were neglecting the only means by which they could have withstood evil spirits. It was by the word of God that Christ overcame the wicked one. The leaders of Israel professed to be the expositors of God's word, but they had studied it only to sustain their traditions, and enforce their man-made observances. By their interpretation they made it express sentiments that God had never given. Their mystical construction made indistinct that which He had made plain. Thus infidelity was sown broadcast. God's word was robbed of its power. . . .

"History is repeating. With the open Bible before them, and professing to reverence its teachings, many of the religious leaders of our time are destroying faith in it as the word of God. They busy themselves with dissecting the word, and set their own opinions above its plainest statements. In their hands God's word loses its regenerating power. This is why infidelity runs riot, and iniquity is rife."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 257, 258.

9. With what prophetic words did Paul speak in another place of this same tragic happening? 2 Thess. 2:3, 4.

NOTE.—"The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should not come, 'except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed. . . .' And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that 'the mystery of iniquity doth already work.' 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7. Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy."—*The Great Controversy,* page 49.

The Resurgence of an Evil Power

10. What startling development does prophecy indicate will bring a restoration of the "mystery of iniquity"? Rev 13:3.

NOTE.—"Since the middle of the nineteenth century, students of prophecy in the United States have presented this testimony to the world. In the events now taking place is seen a rapid advance toward the fulfillment of the prediction. With Protestant teachers there is the same claim of divine authority for Sundaykeeping, and the same lack of Scriptural evidence, as with the papal leaders who fabricated miracles to supply the place of a command from God. The assertion that God's judgments are visited upon men for their violation of the Sunday-sabbath, will be repeated; already it is beginning to be urged. And a movement to enforce Sunday observance is fast gaining ground."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 579, 580.

11. What evil attempt will the second power of Revelation 13 make upon the activities and lives of the saints? Rev. 13:14-17.

12. Who alone will not be deceived? Rev. 13:8.

Waning Watchfulness

13. Against what attitude must Christ's followers constantly be on guard? Matt. 24:48.

NOTE.—"The Lord has a controversy with all men who by their unbelief and doubt have been saying that He delays His coming, and who have been smiting their fellow servants, and eating and drinking with (working from the very same principle as) the drunken; they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. Satan has controlled their reason, and they know not at what they stumble."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 78.

14. When the Lord returns, what will be the fate of the "evil servant"? Matt. 24:50, 51.

15. What is said of those who are found ready and watching for their Lord's return? Matt. 24:44-46.

The teacher's edition of the "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" is a valuable aid to every Sabbath-school teacher, because every other page is blank, providing space for writing out texts, notes, comments, etc. Ask your Sabbath-school secretary to secure one for you along with the order for regular "Quarterlies."

Lesson 10, for March 5, 1960

The Manner of His Coming

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:29.

STUDY HELPS: "Early Writings," pages 285-288; "The Desire of Ages," page 832; "The Great Controversy," pages 315, 625 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 308, 309, 617, 618); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of February 18.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: Introduction; general survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. He Will Come Literally

1. To those who look for Him. Heb. 9:28.
2. "In like manner." Acts 1:11, last part.

II. He Will Come Visibly

3. The disciples watched Him. Acts 1:9.
4. "Every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7.
5. He will be as visible as lightning. Luke 17:24.
6. He will be seen in the clouds of heaven. Matt. 24:30.

III. He Will Come in Demonstration of Power

7. "With great power and glory." Mark 13:26.
8. "In His own glory." Luke 9:26.
9. With His angels. Matt. 25:31.
10. "The Lord Himself." 1 Thess. 4:16, first part.
11. With a shout of command. 1 Thess. 4:16, second part.

IV. He Will Minister to Our Physical Needs

12. As on this earth. John 21:9-13.
13. So in the world to come. Matt. 26:29; Rev. 19:9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Jesus is to return to His followers in a literal, visible, audible manner, in such a manner that every inhabitant of the earth will know it is He. How strange that so many do not now believe when they have before them the evidence found in this lesson! Yet the followers of Christ need to know these promises well, for the adversary of our souls will deceive us if we do not.

He Will Come Literally

1. What is the promise to those who are found looking for the coming of Jesus? Heb. 9:28.

NOTE.—"This word 'appear' should be given special attention. Christ, when He comes the second time, will come in an open, public manner; there will be nothing secret about it; there will be nothing hidden from the eye of man; 'He will appear,' that is, He will be seen by the people dwelling on the earth. . . .

"His coming will be literal, personal, bodily, visible. It will be a real thing, *not the coming of a 'spirit being,' an 'invisible Lord,'* but of the very same Jesus who walked with His disciples on the hills of Galilee."—Carlyle B. Haynes, *The Return of Jesus,* page 114.

2. What did the angels who were present at the ascension of Jesus say of the manner of His second coming? Acts 1:11, last part.

NOTE.—"Christ had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. The disciples had beheld the cloud receive Him. The same Jesus who had walked and talked and prayed with them; who had broken bread with them; who had been with them in their boats on the lake; and who had that very day toiled with them up the ascent of Olivet,—the same Jesus had now gone to share His Father's throne. And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven, would come again even as He had ascended. He will come 'with clouds; and every eye shall see Him.' 'The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise.' 'The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory.' Rev. 1:7; 1 Thess. 4:16; Matt. 25:31. Thus will be fulfilled the Lord's own promise to His disciples: 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye

The guardian angels and the faithful they have protected in life will meet face to face at the second advent.

may be also.' John 14:3. Well might the disciples rejoice in the hope of their Lord's return."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 832.

He Will Come Visibly

3. In what manner did Christ ascend to heaven? Acts 1:9.

4. How does John the revelator portray the second coming of our Lord? Rev. 1:7.

5. How did Jesus Himself describe the manner of His coming? Luke 17:24.

NOTE.—"And, furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His second coming. 'There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the

desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matt. 24:24-27. . . . This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world."—*The Great Controversy*, page 625.

6. What further proof is there that Jesus' return will be witnessed by all the world? Matt. 24:30.

He Will Come in Demonstration of Power

7. What two manifestations did Jesus say would attend His coming? Mark 13:26.

NOTE.—"Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. And the holy angels will attend Him on His way. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing. The unsullied light will shine from His splendor, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him. While the wicked flee, Christ's followers will rejoice in His presence."—*Prophets and Kings*, page 720.

8. In whose glory will He come? Luke 9:26.

9. As Christ descends from heaven to claim His own, who will accompany Him? Matt. 25:31. Compare Matt. 24:31.

NOTE.—"With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.' No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. . . . As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. 'And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.' Rev. 19:16."—*The Great Controversy*, page 641.

"It is appropriate that the angels, who have ministered to the needs of those who have become 'heirs of salvation' (Heb. 1:14), should participate in the events of that glorious morning. Now, for the first time, God's people will have the privilege of seeing face to face these holy beings who have guarded them throughout this earthly pilgrimage."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, on Matt. 24:31.

10. In what emphatic words did the apostle Paul speak of the personal coming of Christ? 1 Thess. 4:16, first part.

NOTE.—"In non-Biblical writings *keleusma* is used of an officer issuing orders to his troops or of a charioteer urging his horses. . . . He has conquered death and the grave (Rev. 1:18). No longer can the enemy, death, hold any of the redeemed in his cold grasp. The righteous dead respond to their Lord's command and rise from their graves."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, on 1 Thess. 4:16.

11. How does Christ demonstrate His authority as Victor? 1 Thess. 4:16, last part.

NOTE.—"*The Lord Himself*. The personal, visible, bodily appearing of the Lord in great majesty is here clearly described. Christ does not send a deputy, nor does He come spiritually. He Himself comes in person. The same Jesus who ascended to heaven now descends from heaven."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, on 1 Thess. 4:16.

He Will Minister to Our Physical Needs

12. After His resurrection, how did Jesus demonstrate that He was the same Jesus who had always ministered to both the spiritual and the physical. John 21:9-13.

13. When will Jesus again bid His faithful followers to dine with Him? Matt. 26:29; Rev. 19:9.

NOTE.—In a recital of her first vision, Ellen G. White gives us this beautiful picture: "Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Allelulia! glory!' and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land, go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life, and drink of the water of the fountain.' "—*Early Writings,* pages 19, 20.

Let us be faithful, that in a little while we may partake of the tree of life.

Lesson 11, for March 12, 1960

Preparation for Christ's Coming

MEMORY VERSE: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pages 37, 428, 508 (1950 subscription ed., pp. 19-21, 422, 423, 502); "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 177, 178, 310, (1923 ed., pp. 180, 181, 317); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of February 25.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-12.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Essential Preparation

1. We must love His appearing. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
2. We must be patient. James 5:8.
3. We must be prayerful. Luke 21:36.
4. We must have Christ's righteousness. Rev. 3:18.
5. We must have the wedding garment. Matt. 22:11-13.

II. The End of Human Probation

6. The final decree. Rev. 22:11, 12.
7. The sorrow of the unrepentant. Rev. 6:15-17.
8. The reason for unpreparedness. 2 Cor. 4:4.

III. Out of Tribulation

9. Purified by tribulation. Rev. 7:13, 14.
10. The commandment-keeping church. Rev. 12:17.
11. The church triumphant. Rev. 19: 7-9.
12. On the sea of glass. Rev. 15:2, 3.

THE LESSON

Introduction

There is a terrible finality in the warnings found in the scriptures used in this lesson. Everyone faces the irrevocable edict of God that will apply to him according to his choice of good or evil. We need often to read the warnings and admonitions given here, that we may be constantly alert to the danger of carelessly drifting away from Christ and His righteousness into eternal loss.

The Essential Preparation

1. What testimony did Paul give of his preparedness to meet Christ? 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

NOTE.—"*A good fight.* Literally, 'the good fight.' The definite article emphasizes that supreme fight 'of faith' . . . in which all Christians are engaged.

"*My course.* That is, the course of life that God has appointed him. Paul had fulfilled God's plan for him; he did not slacken or falter, he met every challenge, even his execution, with Christian buoyancy and resoluteness. . . .

"*The faith.* . . . Personal faith depends upon adherence to God's word. Every Christian will 'guard the faith' by his personal representation of its principles. The sincerity of a Christian's personal faith is measured by the extent to which he reflects these principles. . . .

"*Love.* . . . The word suggests much more than mere impulse; it demands that the whole life, every phase of thought and action, be oriented with respect to the person loved. The joyous prospect of the second advent controls the Christian's use of his time and money, affects his choice of friends, and provides a powerful incentive to eliminate defects in character and to become more like Christ."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

2. Amid the turmoil of these latter days, what Christian grace must the believer exercise? James 5:8.

NOTE.—"The world has become bold in transgression of God's law. Because of His long forbearance, men have trampled upon His authority. They have strengthened one another in oppression and cruelty toward His heritage, saying, 'How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?' Ps. 73:11. But there is a line beyond which they cannot pass. The time is near when they will have reached the prescribed limit. Even now they have almost exceeded the bounds of the long-suffering of God, the limits of His grace, the limits of His mercy. The Lord will interpose to vindicate His own honor, to deliver His people, and to repress the swellings of unrighteousness."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 177, 178.

3. To all those who would be "accounted worthy," what exhortation did Jesus give? Luke 21:36.

4. In His message to the church of Laodicea, how did Christ say preparation should be made? Rev. 3:18.

5. How did Jesus emphasize the necessity of being covered with His robe of righteousness? Matt. 22:11-13.

NOTE.—"In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matt. 22: 11; Rev. 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above.

"When the work of investigation shall be ended, when the cases of those who in all ages have professed to be followers of Christ have been examined and decided, then, and not till then, probation will close, and the door of mercy will be shut. Thus in the one short sentence. 'They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut,' we are carried down through the Saviour's final ministration, to the time when the great work for man's salvation shall be completed."—*The Great Controversy,* page 428.

The End of Human Probation

6. When must the preparation of the Christian to meet Christ be complete? Rev. 22:11, 12.

7. What will be the experience of those who are unprepared to meet Christ? Rev. 6:15-17.

NOTE.—"Let men beware lest they neglect the lesson conveyed to them in the words of Christ. As He warned His disciples of Jerusalem's destruction, giving them a sign of the approaching ruin, that they might make their escape; so He has warned the world of the day of final destruction and has given them tokens of its approach, that all who will may flee from the wrath to come. Jesus declares, 'There shall be

signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations.' Luke 21:25. . . . Those who behold these harbingers of His coming are to 'know that it is near, even at the doors.' Matt. 24:33. 'Watch ye therefore,' are His words of admonition. Mark 13:35. They that heed the warning shall not be left in darkness, that that day should overtake them unawares. But to them that will not watch, 'the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.' 1 Thess. 5:2-5."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 37, 38.

8. Why will so many be unprepared? 2 Cor. 4:4.

NOTE.—"Satan is continually seeking to overcome the people of God by breaking down the barriers which separate them from the world. Ancient Israel were enticed into sin when they ventured into forbidden association with the heathen. In a similar manner are modern Israel led astray. . . . All who are not decided followers of Christ are servants of Satan. In the unregenerate heart there is love of sin and a disposition to cherish and excuse it. In the renewed heart there is hatred of sin and determined resistance against it. When Christians choose the society of the ungodly and unbelieving, they expose themselves to temptation. Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his

deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded."—*The Great Controversy,* page 508.

Out of Tribulation

9. For what must those be prepared who wish to triumph with Christ? Rev. 7:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Great will be the joy and satisfaction of those who, after long and patient waiting, at last see the fruition of their hopes, as the sign of the coming of the Son of man appears in view. With what joy, what unspeakable rapture, will they witness His approach, as they realize that the struggle with sin and all of its evil consequences is forever over. Behind them is earth, with its thorny pathways, its bitterness and toil, its disappointments, and its blessings. Before them is an eternity in the presence of Him whom they love, for whom they have waited, and in whom they have trusted."—*His Glorious Appearing,* page 123.

10. What will characterize the remnant church? Rev. 12:17.

11. What will be the condition of the true church at the coming of Jesus? Rev. 19:7-9.

NOTE.—"By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess. To the church it is given 'that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,' 'not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Rev. 19:8. The fine linen, says the Scripture, 'is the righteousness of saints.' Eph. 5:27. It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. . . .

"Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 310, 311.

12. Where did John the revelator see the triumphant church? What song were they singing? Rev. 15:2, 3.

NOTE.—"Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,—so resplendent is it with the glory of God,— are gathered the company that have 'gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.' With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, 'having the harps of God,' they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, 'the voice of harpers harping with their harps.' And they sing 'a new song' before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 648, 649.

Lesson 12, for March 19, 1960

The Object of His Coming

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Ps. 16:11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 804, 301, 302, 549; "The Great Controversy," chapter 40; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of March 3.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. To Redeem the Earth and His People

1. The first dominion restored. Micah 4:6-8.
2. Christ glorified in His saints. 2 Thess. 1:10.
3. His people raised. 1 Thess. 4:16, last part.
4. The redeemed changed into an incorruptible state. 1 Cor. 15:51-57.

II. To Bestow Upon His Children the New Life

5. They shall be clothed with immortality. 1 Cor. 15:53; Rom. 6:22.
6. They shall eat from the tree of life. Rev. 2:7.
7. They shall know God. 1 Cor. 13:12.
8. They shall inherit the earth. Ps. 37:11; Matt. 5:5.
9. They shall leave behind all suffering. Rev. 21:4.

III. To Lead the Saved Into the Fullness of Joy and Glory

10. Perfect life in the presence of God. Rev. 22:4.
11. Complete salvation for the highest price. John 3:16.
12. Closest communion with the Redeemer. Rev. 7:15.
13. Everlasting tender watchcare by the Lamb. Rev. 7:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The time will finally come to which the saints have looked forward; to which God Himself has looked forward. Now He can give back to His beloved people what was taken from them by the evil one. Now the universe has seen the character of God vindicated in the sacrifice of Christ and in the fidelity of God's people. To that people He now is able to bestow the unimaginable rewards He has in store for them.

To Redeem the Earth and His People

1. In what lofty language does the prophet describe the restoration of the lost dominion? Micah 4:6-8.

NOTE.—"Satan, by means of his success in turning man aside from the path of obedience, became 'the god of this world.' 2 Corinthians 4:4. The dominion that once was Adam's passed to the usurper. But the Son of God proposed to come to this earth to pay the penalty of sin, and thus not only redeem man, but recover the dominion forfeited. It is of this restoration that Micah prophesied when he said, 'O Tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion.' Micah 4:8. The apostle Paul has referred to it as 'the redemption of the purchased possession.' Ephesians 1:14. And the psalmist had in mind the same final restoration of man's original inheritance when he declared, 'The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.' Psalm 37:29."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 682.

2. How will Christ be glorified in that day? 2 Thess. 1:10.

NOTE.—"*Glorified in His saints.* That is, to be glorified in the persons of His saints. The supreme vindication of Christ's ways will take place when the whole family of His saints is gathered together. Then the universe will see the value of His sacrifice and the success of the course He pursued. Thus the Saviour will be glorified (cf. Gal. 1:24; 1 Thess. 2:20; 2 Thess. 1:4). As the artist is glorified in his masterpiece, so Christ is glorified before the heavenly throng by His handiwork—the miracles of His grace. . . . Throughout eternity glory will redound to the Saviour as His saints make known more fully the wisdom of God in His wondrous plan of salvation, which has been 'realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Eph. 3:10, 11, R.S.V.)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on 2 Thess. 1:10.

3. As Christ returns to earth, what marvelous event occurs? 1 Thess. 4:16, last part.

4. What description is given of this blessed occasion? 1 Cor. 15:51-57.

To Bestow Upon His Children the New Life

5. At His second advent what is the first gift Christ bestows upon the redeemed? 1 Cor. 15:53; Rom. 6:22.

6. What privilege will be restored to the redeemed? Rev. 2:7. Compare Gen. 3:22.

7. How fully will we understand the wonderful provisions God has made for us? 1 Cor. 13:12.

The supreme vindication of Christ's love, His life, and His death for man, is seen in the redeemed saints.

NOTE.—"The resurrection of Jesus was a type of the final resurrection of all who sleep in Him. The countenance of the risen Saviour, His manner, His speech, were all familiar to His disciples. As Jesus arose from the dead, so those who sleep in Him are to rise again. We shall know our friends, even as the disciples knew Jesus. They may have been deformed, diseased, or disfigured, in this mortal life, and they rise in perfect health and symmetry; yet in the glorified body their identity will be perfectly preserved. Then shall we know even as also we are known. 1 Cor. 13:12. In the face radiant with the light shining from the face of Jesus, we shall recognize the lineaments of those we love."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 804.

8. What promise to the meek will eventually be fulfilled to His followers? Ps. 37:11; Matt. 5:5.

NOTE.—" 'Blessed are the meek.' The difficulties we have to encounter may be very much lessened by that meekness which hides itself in Christ. If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances, to which we are daily exposed, and they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit. The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. He who under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit robs God of His right to reveal in

him His own perfection of character. Lowliness of heart is the strength that gives victory to the followers of Christ; it is the token of their connection with the courts above.

" 'Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly.' Ps. 138:6. Those who reveal the meek and lowly spirit of Christ are tenderly regarded by God. They may be looked upon with scorn by the world, but they are of great value in His sight. Not only the wise, the great, the beneficent, will gain a passport to the heavenly courts; not only the busy worker, full of zeal and restless activity. No; the poor in spirit, who crave the presence of an abiding Christ, the humble in heart, whose highest ambition is to do God's will,—these will gain an abundant entrance. They will be among that number who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 'Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.' Rev. 7:15."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 301, 302.

9. From what universal ills will all the redeemed be delivered at the return of Jesus? Rev. 21:4.

To Lead the Saved Into the Fullness of Joy and Glory

10. What blessed fellowship will the redeemed enjoy? Rev. 22:4. Compare Ps. 16:11.

NOTE.—" 'To him that overcometh,' Christ said, 'will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.' '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 I will write upon him My new name.' Rev. 3:21, 12. So Paul the apostle wrote, 'I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day.' 2 Tim. 4:6-8. . . .

"The principle on which Christ acted is to actuate the members of the church which is His body."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 549, 550.

11. What purchase price should we ever keep in mind as having secured these blessings for us? John 3:16.

12. What special association will be granted to those who have been greatly persecuted for Christ's sake? Rev. 7:15.

13. How does Christ show His tender regard for these redeemed saints? Rev. 7:16, 17.

Lesson 13, for March 26, 1960

The Finished Plan

MEMORY VERSE: "And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isa. 32:18.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 758-764; "The Great Controversy," chapter 42; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on lesson scriptures; Lesson Help in "Review and Herald" of March 10.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: Introduction; general survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-10.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 11-13; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The End of Iniquity

1. The author of sin defeated. John 19:30; Matt. 27:50, 51.
2. A strange work performed. Rev. 20:9, 10.
3. The oldest prophecy fulfilled. Gen. 3:15.
4. The originator of iniquity obliterated. Heb. 2:14.
5. God's justice confessed by all. Rom. 14:11; Rev. 5:13.

II. The Triumph of God's Love

6. The glorified saints are coregents with Christ. Rev. 20:6.
7. They inherit the earth. Matt. 5:5.
8. They shall suffer no more. Rev. 21:4.
9. They enjoy a new creation. Isa. 11:6-9; 35:1.
10. They perfectly please God. Isa. 53:11; 65:19.

III. Promise and Invitation

11. The promise to commandment keepers. Rev. 22:14.
12. The invitation to all. Rev. 22:17.
13. The blessed hope soon to be realized. Rev. 22:20.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"It is finished," cried the Son of God on the cross. This was a cry of triumph directed to His Father in heaven, as Jesus in His last conscious moment again had the sense of His Father's presence and the assurance of His approval. Satan's defeat was accomplished in that moment. Now the time is imminent when Satan, with all who have refused Christ, will be destroyed. The terrible suffering, the supreme sacrifice of Christ on the cross, would all have been in vain if the plan of redemption had not also included the return of Jesus as King of kings to make an utter end of sin and to take possession of His kingdom. The cross made mandatory the second coming.

Then all the righteous will have only the wounds of Christ to remind them that sin ever existed. With adoration and thanksgiving for the redemption He purchased for them, they will worship Him throughout eternity.

The End of Iniquity

1. With what crowning event was the plan of salvation made sure? John 19:30; Matt. 27:50, 51.

NOTE.—"All is terror and confusion. The priest is about to slay the victim; but the knife drops from his nerveless hand, and the lamb escapes. Type has met antitype in the death of God's Son. The great sacrifice has been made. The way into the holiest is laid open. A new and living way is prepared for all. No longer need sinful, sorrowing humanity await the coming of the high priest. Henceforth the Saviour was to officiate as priest and advocate in the heaven of heavens. It was as if a living voice had spoken to the worshipers: There is now an end to all sacrifices and offerings for sin. The Son of God is come according to His word, 'Lo, I come (in

the volume of the Book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God.' 'By His own blood' He entereth 'in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.' Heb. 10:7; 9:12."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 757.

2. What strange work must God perform before the universe is restored to peace? Rev. 20:9, 10. Compare Isa. 28:21.

NOTE.—"God's judgments will be visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. His long forbearance with the wicked emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is none the less certain and terrible because it is long delayed. 'The Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.' Isa. 28:21. To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act. 'As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.' Ezek. 33:11. The Lord is 'merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.' Yet He will 'by no means clear the guilty.' 'The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.' Ex. 34:6, 7; Nahum 1:3. By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord's reluctance to execute justice. The nation with which He bears long, and which He will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God's account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmixed with mercy."—*The Great Controversy*, page 627.

3. Of what early prophecy is this event the fulfillment? Gen. 3:15.

4. What further sentence is carried out at this time? Heb. 2:14.

NOTE.—"The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: 'Affliction shall not rise up the second time.' Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom."—*The Great Controversy*, page 504.

5. What will the presence of Jesus as King of kings force even the wicked to do? Rom. 14:11; Rev. 5:13.

NOTE.—"Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence.

"'Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest.' Rev. 15:4. 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. "All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.' Ps. 145:10. The history of sin will stand to all eternity

The laboratory of the universe will forever continue to reveal its vast treasures to the searcher after truth.

as a witness that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings 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,* page 670.

The Triumph of God's Love

6. While this earth lies waste and desolate during the millennium, where will the righteous dwell? Rev. 20:6.

NOTE.—"In consequence of Adam's sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. 'There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust;' 'for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.' Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:22. But a distinction is made between the two classes that are brought forth. 'All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.' John 5:28, 29. They who have been 'accounted worthy' of the resurrection of life are 'blessed and holy.' 'On such the second death hath no power.' Rev. 20:6. But those who have not, through repentance and faith, secured pardon, must receive the penalty of transgression—'the wages of sin.' They suffer punishment varying in duration and intensity, 'according to their works,' but finally ending in the second death. Since it is impossible for God, consistently with His justice and mercy, to save the sinner in his sins, He deprives him of the existence which his transgressions have forfeited and of which he has proved himself unworthy. Says an inspired writer: 'Yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.' And another declares: 'They shall be as though they had not been.' Ps. 37:10; Obad. 16. Covered with infamy, they sink into hopeless, eternal oblivion."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 544, 545.

7. For whom will the earth be recreated? Matt. 5:5.

8. What assurance is given to God's faithful followers? Rev. 21:4.

9. How will even the plants and animals testify that sin has ended on the earth? Isa. 11:6-9; 35:1.

NOTE.—"In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called 'a country.' Heb. 11:14-16. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.

" 'My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.' 'Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy

gates Praise.' 'They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: . . . Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.' Isa. 32:18; 60:18; 65:21, 22." —*The Great Controversy,* page 675.

10. As the great controversy is finished, how will God and His Son Jesus Christ view the results of salvation's plan? Isa. 53:11; 65:19.

NOTE.—"I address the people of God who today are holding fast their confidence, who will not depart from the faith once delivered unto the saints, who stand amid the moral darkness of these days of corruption. The word of the Lord to you is: 'I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people.' Can we not here see the paternal love of God expressed to those who hold fast to the faith in righteousness? The closest relationship exists between God and His people. Not only are we objects of His sparing mercy, His pardoning love; we are more than this. The Lord rejoices over His people. He delights in them. He is their surety. He will beautify all who are serving Him with a whole heart with the spirit of holiness. He clothes them with righteousness. He loves those who do His will, who express His image. All who are true and faithful are conformed to the image of His Son. In their mouth is found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* pages 414, 415.

Promise and Invitation

11. Who will have the privilege of entering through the gates and a right to the tree of life? Rev. 22:14.

NOTE.—"He who is the fountain of all knowledge has stated the condition of our fitness to enter the heaven of bliss, in the words, 'Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.' Obedience to God's commandments is the price of heaven."—Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance,* page 224.

12. In view of all that we have studied about the "blessed hope," what gracious invitation is to be extended? Rev. 22:17.

NOTE.—"Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfill this commission. Everyone who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men. 'The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.' Rev. 22:17. The charge to give this invitation includes the entire church. Everyone who has heard the invitation is to echo the message from hill and valley, saying, 'Come.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 110.

13. Just before the final benediction of the Bible, in what words does our Saviour reaffirm the surety and imminence of His second coming? Rev. 22:20.

NOTE.—The coming of our Lord in glory has been the blessed hope of the church in all ages.

" 'The thoughts of the coming of the Lord,' said Baxter, 'are most sweet and joyful to me.'—Richard Baxter, *Works,* vol. 17, p. 555. 'It is the work of faith and the character of His saints to love His appearing and to look for that blessed hope.' 'If death be the last enemy to be destroyed at the resurrection, we may learn how earnestly believers should long and pray for the second coming of Christ, when this full and final conquest shall be made.' —*Ibid.,* vol. 17, p. 500. 'This is the day that all believers should long, and hope, and wait for, as being the accomplishment of all the work of their redemption, and all the desires and endeavors of their souls.' 'Hasten, O Lord, this blessed day!'—*Ibid.,* vol. 17, pp. 182, 183. Such was the hope of the apostolic church, of the 'church in the wilderness,' and of the Reformers."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 303, 304.

As members of the remnant church may we ever keep this hope burning brightly within our hearts.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

March 26, 1960

This quarter the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow is destined for the Northern European Division. Three projects are to share in this offering. Great are the opportunities with the printed page in Finland, but the work is crippled for the lack of a press. A publishing house is urgently needed for this part of the world field where our believers have been so zealous in their work for the Lord. A second project is the providing of an evangelistic training center where workers may be trained to lead out in the work of soul winning in West Africa. The third project is the establishing of an industrial unit for our Ethiopian Training School where students may help earn their way through school. All of these projects present a challenge to us in mission advancement.

LESSONS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1960

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the second quarter of 1960 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The subject of the quarter's lessons is "Lessons for Today From the Times of Ezra and Nehemiah." The title of the first lesson is "The Divine Purpose in the Captivity." The Memory Verse is Romans 15:4. The texts to be studied are:

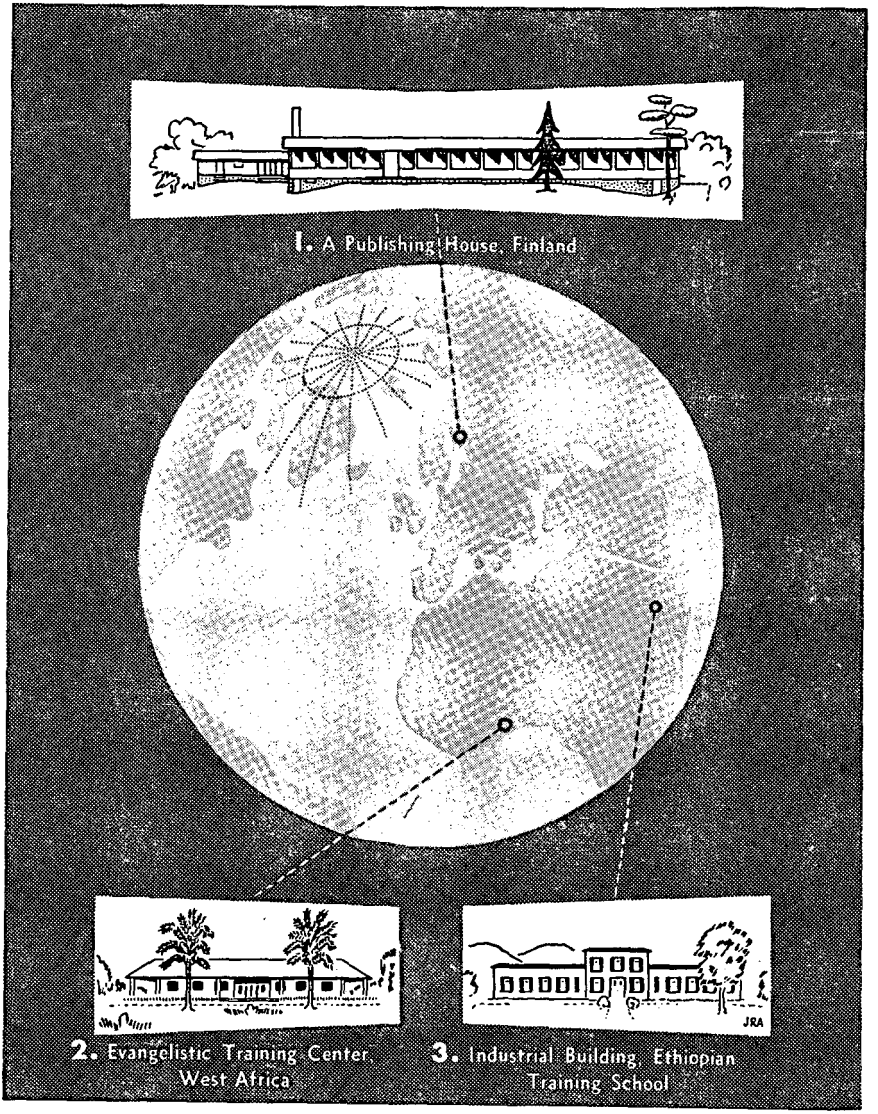
Ques. 1. Rom. 15:4.
Ques. 2. Ex. 19:5, 6.
Ques. 3. 2 Kings 17:7-12, 14-19; Isa. 1:1-4.
Ques. 4. Hosea 11:8; Ezek. 33:11.
Ques. 5. Jer. 29:11-13.
Ques. 6. Jer. 30:11.
Ques. 7. Jer. 31:18, 19.
Ques. 8. Ezek. 22:15.
Ques. 9. Ezek. 33:33; Deut. 18:21, 22.
Ques. 10. Ezek. 36:24-31.
Ques. 11. Jer. 12:14-17.
Ques. 12. Dan. 2:47; 3:28, 29; 6:25-27.
Ques. 13. Ezek. 36:19, 20.
Ques. 14. James 2:7.

NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

	Population	Churches	Ch. Mem.	S.S. Mem.
British U. C.	53,116,816	110	8,724	7,711
Ethiopian U. M.	15,000,000	13	2,700	3,957
Finland U. C.	4,000,000	46	4,956	4,909
Netherlands U. C.	10,500,000	42	2,610	2,698
Polish U. C.	30,000,000	64	3,302	3,851
Swedish U. C.	7,500,000	71	3,827	3,642
West African U. M.	47,300,000	171	20,736	57,679
West Nordic U. C.	7,584,426	140	8,835	7,921
Detached Fields				
Greenland M.	37,368	1	5	5
Iceland C.	160,000	8	372	542
TOTALS	175,198,610	666	56,067	92,915

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

Northern European Division Projects



Three outstanding needs in the Northern European Division will receive the benefits of the Thirteenth Sabbath offering overflow. They are: 1. The publishing house in Finland. 2. The evangelistic training center in West Africa. 3. The erection of a new industrial building at the Ethiopian Training School.