SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

J. BYRON LOGAN

ENCOURAGEMENTS AND WARNINGS FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

SENIOR DIVISION No. 274 FOURTH QUARTER 1963

E. E. Cleveland

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"There should be a living, growing interest in storing the mind with Bible truth. The precious knowledge thus gained will build a barrier about the soul."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 36.

Let us resolve to be more diligent in the study of His word and "set apart a little time each day for the study of the Sabbath school lesson."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 41.

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 Church Militant in the Laodicean Age
2. A Call to Revival
3. Warnings Against Apostasy
4. Fidelity in the Gathering Storm
5. Righteousness Through Christ
6. The Seal of the Living God
7. The Sabbath—Vital Issue Through the Ages
8. Faithfulness Under Persecution
9. The Close of Probation
10. The Time of Trouble
11. Our Lord's Return
12. God's Harvest
13. The Judgment

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, No. 274, October-December, 1963. 20 cents a single copy, 75 cents a year (four issues); no additional charge to countries requiring extra postage. Published in the U.S.A. by Pacific Press Publishing Association (a corporation of S.D.A.), 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California. Second-class mail privileges authorized at Mountain View, California. Form 3579 requested. When a change of address is desired, please be sure to send both old and new addresses.

Copyright, 1963, by Pacific Press Publishing Association

Printed in U.S.A.

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

ENCOURAGEMENTS AND WARNINGS FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

Lesson 1, for October 5, 1963

The Church Militant in the Laodicean Age

MEMORY VERSE: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 32; "Selected Messages," b. 2, pp. 396, 397; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 477-490; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To remind us of the privileges of Christian service that are ours, and to encourage each individual church member to enter more fully into that service.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading study helps; be sure of the memory verse.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The True Church

1. Distinguishing marks of the true church. Rev. 14:12.
2. Urgency of uniting with the visible church. Eph. 2:19-22; 4:4, 5, 13, 15, 16; 1 Peter 2:5.
3. Multitudes of Christians still outside the true church. Rev. 18:4.
4. These are to be gathered into the fold. Matt. 28:19, 20.

II. Perilous, Sinful Days Foretold

5. Apostasy foretold. 2 Tim. 3:1, 5.
6. Spirit of indifference to invade the church. Matt. 25:1-8.
7. No blessing on the unused talent. Matt. 25:25-28.
8. Church members appointed to be witnesses. Acts. 1:8.
9. Negligence incurs guilt. Ezek. 3: 18, 19.

III. Spirit and Power

10. Love, the mainspring of all true service. 1 John 4:11-13.
11. Without love, service is worthless. 1 Cor. 13:1-3.
12. Love, the source of enthusiasm for soul winning. 2 Cor. 5:14.
13. God's call said to lighten the earth. Rev. 18:1.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant."—*Evangelism,* page 707.

"The long night of gloom is trying, but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready."—*Ibid.,* p. 694.

The True Church

1. By what two distinguishing marks may the true church be identified? Rev. 14:12.

NOTE.—"God has placed in our hands a banner upon which is inscribed: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12. This is a distinct, separating message, a message that is to give no uncertain sound. It is to lead the people away from the broken cisterns that contain no water, to the unfailing Fountain of the water of life."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 150.

2. How do New Testament writers stress the importance of union with the visible church on earth? Eph. 2:19-22; 4:4, 5, 13, 15, 16; 1 Peter 2:5.

NOTE.—"The state of corruption and apostasy that in the last days would exist in the religious world, was presented to the prophet John, in the vision of Babylon, 'that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.' Revelation 17:18. Before its destruction the call is to be given from heaven, 'Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.' Revelation 18:4. As in the days of Noah and Lot, there must be a marked separation from sin and sinners. There can be no compromise between God and the world, no turning back to secure earthly treasures. 'Ye cannot serve God and mammon.' "—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 167.

3. Are all of Christ's followers now members of the commandment-keeping church? Rev. 18:4. Compare John 10:16.

NOTE.—"Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming."—*The Great Controversy,* page 464.

4. What is God's plan for gathering in those who are not yet in the fold of safety? Matt. 28:19, 20. Compare Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"The Lord has ordained that the diffusion of light and truth in the earth shall be dependent upon the efforts and offerings of those who are partakers of the heavenly gift. He might have made angels the ambassadors of His truth; He might have made known His will, as He proclaimed the law from Sinai, with His own voice; but in His infinite love and wisdom He called men to become colaborers with Himself, by choosing them to do this work."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 528.

Perilous, Sinful Days Foretold

5. What description does the apostle give of the general religious atmosphere of the last days? 2 Tim. 3:1, 5.

NOTE.—"As we near the close of earth's history, perils and dangers thicken around us. A mere profession of godliness will not avail. There must be a living connection with God, that we may have spiritual eyesight to discern the wickedness which is in a most artful and secret manner creeping into our midst through those who make a profession of our faith."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 139.

"A form of godliness will not save any. All must have a deep and living experience. This alone will save them in the time of trouble."—*Ibid.,* vol. 1, p. 125.

6. What danger threatens those who await the coming of the Lord? Matt. 25:1-8.

NOTE.—"In this age of corruption when our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour, I see the necessity of lifting my voice in warning. 'Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 146.

"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." "The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, . . . but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. . . . They do not know God. . . . This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. . . . When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 406, 411.

7. Why was the man with one talent condemned? Matt. 25:25-28.

NOTE.—"The unfaithful steward did not enrich himself with his master's goods; he merely wasted them. He let idleness take the place of sincere, wholehearted labor."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 297.

8. What service does Christ expect of His church? Acts 1:8.

NOTE.—"Shall we be less earnest than were the apostles? Shall we not by living faith claim the promises that moved them to the depths of their being to call upon the Lord Jesus for the fulfillment of His word: 'Ask, and ye shall receive'? John 16:24. Is not the Spirit of God to come today in answer to earnest, persevering prayer, and fill men with power? . . . We are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, pp. 32, 33.

9. What judgment awaits the watchmen who neglect to warn sinners of their danger? Ezek. 3:18, 19.

NOTE.—"We are now living in the closing scenes of this world's history. Let men tremble with the sense of the responsibility of knowing the truth. The ends of the world are come. . . . The weighty obligation of warning a world of its coming doom is upon us. . . . A world, perishing in sin, is to be enlightened. . . . Now is the time for the last warning to be given." —*Evangelism,* pages 16, 17.

"As a people we greatly need to humble our hearts before God, pleading His forgiveness for our neglect to fulfill the gospel commission. . . . Let us now take up the work appointed us, and proclaim the message that is to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger."—*Ibid.,* p. 17.

Spirit and Power

10. What spirit will actuate Christ's true followers? 1 John 4: 11-13.

NOTE.—"Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. But we can never come into possession of this spirit by *trying* to love others. What is needed is the love of Christ in the heart. When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously. . . . If we love God because He first loved us, we shall love all for whom Christ died. We cannot come in touch

with divinity without coming in touch with humanity. . . . Connected with Christ, we are connected with our fellowmen by the golden links of the chain of love."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 384, 385.

11. How important is love as the motive for service? 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

NOTE.—"No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love for God and for his fellowmen is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. . . . The strongest and noblest characters rest upon the foundation of patience and love, and trusting submission to the will of God.—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 168.

12. From what source did Paul derive his enthusiasm to work for souls? 2 Cor. 5:14.

13. How is God's final call of mercy symbolically represented? Rev. 18:1.

NOTE.—"Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. . . . Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven. . . . The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom. . . . Some chose life and took their stand with those who were looking for their Lord and keeping all His commandments. . . . Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. . . . I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry."—*Early Writings,* pages 277, 278.

Lesson 2, for October 12, 1963

A Call to Revival

MEMORY VERSE: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." Isa. 60:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 20; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 405-421 (chapter, "To Meet the Bridegroom"); "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 71-79; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To remind us of the source of our efficiency and power, and to encourage each individual to meet the conditions for receiving them.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4. ☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; begin reading study helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; read further from study helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 11, 12; read further from study helps. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Call to Awake

1. Time for the indifferent to awake. Rom. 13:11, 12.
2. Laodicean posture described. Rev. 3:15.
3. Dire consequences of this condition. Rev. 3:16.
4. Nearness of Christ's coming impels action. Rev. 1:3; 22:12.

II. Promised Revival

5. Attitude of believers in day of God's power. Ps. 110:3, first part.
6. How revival is accomplished. Joel 2:12, 13.
7. Prerequisites to the bestowal of power. Acts 1:8.
8. Man's part in fulfillment of promise. Luke 11:9-13.
9. Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22, 23.
10. Obedience a condition of answered prayer. 1 John 3:22.

III. World Reaction

11. Truth received in various ways. Matt. 13:19-23.
12. The Christian's positive attitude toward persecution. 2 Cor. 12:10. Luke 6:22, 23; Phil. 3:8.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*Evangelism,* page 699.

Call to Awake

1. With what urgent message did the apostle Paul seek to awaken indifferent church members? Rom. 13: 11, 12.

NOTE.—"We must be much in prayer if we would make progress in the divine life. When the message of truth was first proclaimed, how much we prayed. How often was the voice of intercession heard in the chamber, in the barn, in the orchard, or the grove. Frequently we spent hours in earnest prayer, two or three together claiming the promise; often the sound of weeping was heard and then the voice of thanksgiving and the song of praise. Now the day of God is nearer than when we first believed, and we should be more earnest, more zealous, and fervent than in those early days. Our perils are greater now than then. Souls are more hardened. We need now to be imbued with the spirit of Christ, and we should not rest until we receive it."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 161, 162.

2. How does Christ describe the state of the Laodicean church? Rev. 3:15.

NOTE.—"Never can I give the solemn and vivid impression stamped upon my mind, as I saw the angel with the scales weighing the thoughts and interest of the people of God. Said the angel: 'Can such enter heaven? No, no, never. Tell them the hope they now possess is vain, and unless they speedily repent, and obtain salvation, they must perish.' A form of godliness will not save any. All must have a deep and living experience. This alone will save them in the time of trouble."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 125.

3. What dire consequences will follow this lukewarm condition? Rev. 3:16.

NOTE.—"Were you cold, there would be some hope that you would be converted; but where self-righteousness girds one about, instead of the righteousness of

Christ, the deception is so difficult to be seen, and the self-righteousness so hard to be put away, that the case is the most difficult to reach. An unconverted, godless sinner stands in a more favorable condition than such."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 176.

4. In view of the nearness of Christ's coming, what attitude should characterize each waiting believer? Rev. 1:3; 22:12.

NOTE.—"Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we thinking of, that we cling to our selfish love of ease, while all around us souls are perishing? Have our hearts become utterly callous? Can we not see and understand that we have a work to do in behalf of others? My brethren and sisters, are you among those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not? Is it in vain that God has given you a knowledge of His will? Is it in vain that He has sent you warning after warning of the nearness of the end? Do you believe the declarations of His word concerning what is coming upon the world? Do you believe that God's judgments are hanging over the inhabitants of the earth? How, then, can you sit at ease, careless and indifferent?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, pp. 26, 27.

Promised Revival

5. What words of the psalmist appropriately describe the attitude of God's people in the day of His power? Ps. 110:3, first part.

6. How did Joel say revival would be accomplished? Joel 2:12, 13. Compare Zech. 4:6; Matt. 3:11.

NOTE.—"The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them."—*The Great Controversy,* page 606.

7. What did Jesus say was to precede the apostles' acts of witnessing? Acts 1:8.

NOTE.—"We are not to think that the Spirit came into existence now for the first time. It is quite possible for a power always to exist but for men to experience or take it at some given moment. For instance, men did not invent atomic power. It always existed; but only in our time have men tapped it and experienced it. So God is eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but there came to men a special time when they experienced to the full that power which had always been present.

"The power of the Spirit was going to make them Christ's witnesses. That witness was to operate in an ever-extending series of concentric circles, first in Jerusalem, then throughout Judea; then Samaria, the semi-Jewish state, would be a kind of bridge leading out into the heathen world; and finally this witness was to go out to the ends of the earth."—William Barclay, *The Acts of the Apostles,* page 4.

8. What must we do in order to receive the promise? Luke 11:9-13.

NOTE.—"Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 206.

9. What inner graces accompany the Holy Spirit's presence? Gal. 5: 22, 23.

"The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor."—*Steps to Christ,* page 80.

NOTE.—"As you receive the spirit of Christ—the spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. . . . Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 68, 69.

10. What essential condition to answered prayer does John stress? 1 John 3:22.

NOTE.—"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 668.

World Reaction

11. In what varied ways will the gospel message be received? Matt. 13:19-23.

NOTE.—"The spirit of the world is no more in harmony with the spirit of Christ today than in earlier times, and those who preach the word of God in its purity will be received with no greater favor now than then. The forms of opposition to the truth may change, the enmity may be less open because it is more subtle; but the same antagonism still exists and will be manifested to the end of time."—*The Great Controversy,* page 144.

12. What should be the attitude of the Christian toward persecution? 2 Cor. 12:10; Luke 6:22, 23; Phil. 3:8.

NOTE.—"God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. To every sincere prayer He answers, 'Here am I.' He uplifts the distressed and downtrodden. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. In every temptation and every trial the angel of His presence is near to deliver."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 356.

Lesson 3, for October 19, 1963

Warnings Against Apostasy

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Heb. 2:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 3; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 103-114; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 542-549; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To reaffirm our belief in the ideals of the Christian faith, and to show the divine requirement for reaching them.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Standard of Perfection

1. Spiritual perfection, the goal. Eph. 5:27.
2. A solemn appeal to the people of God. 1 Peter 2:9-12.
3. Tares among the wheat. Matt. 13:26.
4. Eyes to be fixed on Jesus. Heb. 12: 1, 2.

II. Divine Essentials

5. No progress without prayer. Mark. 14:38.
6. Daily Bible study essential. Ps. 119:9, 11; Acts 17:11.

III. Meeting Obstacles

7. Christians subjected to extreme social pressures. Matt. 10:35, 36.
8. All man's needs to be supplied. Phil. 4:19.
9. Attitude toward divisive elements. Rom. 16:17, 18.

IV. Apostasy and Loyalty

10. Some hold form of godliness only. 2 Tim. 3:1, 5.
11. The faithful give heed to doctrines. 1 Tim. 4:1, 2, 6, 7, 11-16.
12. The backslider described. 2 Peter 2:21, 22.
13. The Christian must hold fast. Heb. 10:35-39.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"We are to use every power of our being in His service, and after we have done our utmost, we are still to regard ourselves as unprofitable servants. Divine power will unite with our efforts, and as we cling to God with the hand of faith, Christ will impart to us His wisdom and His righteousness. Thus, by His grace, we shall be enabled to build upon the sure foundation."—*Evangelism,* page 596.

The Standard of Perfection

1. To what high standard must the church attain on earth before her entrance into the kingdom of God? Eph. 5:27.

NOTE.—"The Christian life is constantly an onward march. Jesus sits as a refiner and purifier of His people; and when His image is perfectly reflected in them, they are perfect and holy, and prepared for translation. A great work is required of the Christian. We are exhorted to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Here we see where the great labor rests. There is a constant work for the Christian."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 340.

2. What solemn appeal does Peter make? 1 Peter 2:9-12.

NOTE.—"When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our character, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and

dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. . . . It is *now* that this work is to be accomplished for us. . . . We are now in God's workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry. But as we lay hold upon the truth of God, its influence affects us. It elevates us, and removes from us every imperfection and sin, of whatever nature. Thus we are prepared to see the King in His beauty, and finally to unite with the pure and heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory."—*Counsels on Health,* page 44.

3. What condition will be found in the church as we near the end of time? Matt. 13:26.

NOTE.—"The church of Christ on earth will be imperfect, but God does not destroy His church because of its imperfection. . . . There is to be no spasmodic, zealous, hasty action taken by church members in cutting off those they may think defective in character. Tares will appear among the wheat; but it would do more harm to weed out the tares, unless in God's appointed way, than to leave them alone. While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 46.

4. What enables us to run the Christian race with patience? Heb. 12:1, 2.

Divine Essentials

5. What does the Master say of the need of prayer? Mark 14:38.

NOTE.—"I have been shown that many are in the greatest danger of failing to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. . . . They do not see the importance of self-knowledge and self-control. They do not watch and pray, lest they enter into temptation. If they would watch, they would become acquainted with their weak points, where they are most likely to be assailed by temptation. With watchfulness and prayer their weakest points can be so guarded as to become their strongest points, and they can encounter temptation without being overcome."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 511.

6. How important is daily Bible study to spiritual growth? Ps. 119:9, 11; Acts 17:11.

NOTE.—"Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed. . . . But the teachings of Christ must previously have been stored in the mind in order for the Spirit of God to bring them to our remembrance in the time of peril. 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart,' said David, 'that I might not sin against thee.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 600.

Meeting Obstacles

7. In what words did Christ indicate that the Christian would be subjected to extreme pressure? Matt. 10:35, 36.

NOTE.—"The truth of God has never been popular with the world. The natural heart is ever averse to the truth. I thank God that we must renounce the love of the world, and pride of heart, and everything which tends to idolatry, in order to be followers of the Man of Calvary. Those who obey the truth will never be loved and honored by the world."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 491.

8. What assurance is given that all man's needs will be supplied? Phil. 4:19. Compare Isa. 43:2.

NOTE.—"He who has given his life to God in ministry to His children is linked with Him who has all the resources of the universe at His command. His life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises with the life of God. The Lord will not fail him in the hour of suffering and need. 'My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:19. And in the hour of final need the merciful shall find refuge in the mercy of the compassionate Saviour and shall be received into everlasting habitations."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 24.

9. What should be the Christian's attitude toward those who cause divisions in the church? Rom. 16:17, 18.

Apostasy and Loyalty

10. What attitude should the Christian take toward those who hold merely a form of godliness? 2 Tim. 3:1, 5.

NOTE.—"How often, in our own day, is the love of pleasure disguised by a 'form of godliness'! A religion that permits men, while observing the rites of worship, to devote themselves to selfish or sensual gratification, is as pleasing to the multitudes now as in the days of Israel. And there are still pliant Aarons, who, while holding positions of authority in the church, will yield to the desires of the unconsecrated, and thus encourage them in sin."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 317.

11. As some departed from the faith, what did Paul urge Timothy to do? 1 Tim. 4:1, 2, 6, 7, 11-16.

NOTE.—"A time of trouble is before us, and every honest soul who has not had the light of truth will then take a stand for Christ. Those who believe the truth are to be newly converted every day."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 248.

12. How does Peter describe the backslider? 2 Peter 2:21, 22.

NOTE.—"Those who have once rejoiced in the evidence of sins forgiven, who have tasted a Saviour's love and who then persist in uniting with the foes of Christ, rejecting the perfect righteousness that Jesus offers them and choosing the ways that He has condemned, will be more severely judged than the heathen who have never had the light and have never known God or His law. . . . Their guilt and their wages will be proportionate to the light and privileges which they have had."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, pp. 365, 366.

13. What admonition is particularly appropriate in a time of lukewarmness and apostasy? Heb. 10:35-39.

NOTE.—"Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 136.

LESSON QUARTERLIES FOR THE BLIND

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

Lesson 4, for October 26, 1963

Fidelity in the Gathering Storm

MEMORY VERSE: "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." Isa. 26:4.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapters 17, 34, 35, 36; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To warn against any alliance that would destroy the church, and to remind us of the ultimate triumph of the faithful.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Signs of the Times

1. Christ will come unexpectedly. 1 Thess. 5:2, 4, 5.
2. Disturbances in nature predicted. Luke 21:25.
3. Sins of the last days portrayed. 2 Tim. 3:1-6.
4. The world has made void God's law. Ps. 119:126.

II. God's Standard Altered

5. Attempt to change God's law. Dan. 7:25.
6. Apparent success of the counterfeit. 2 Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 13:3, 4.
7. Persecution to be revived. Rev. 13: 15-17; 1 Peter 4:12.

III. An Unholy Alliance

8. The rise of spiritism predicted. Rev. 16:14; 13:13.
9. Christ described deceptive miracles. Matt. 24:24.
10. Basic error of spiritism. Gen. 3:4.
11. Tradition often nullifies truth. Matt. 15:3.
12. Warnings against deceptive workings. Matt. 24:9-11.
13. Promises to the faithful. Matt. 24:13; Isa. 26:4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Confederacies will increase in number and power as we draw nearer to the end of time. These confederacies will create opposing influences to the truth, forming new parties of professed believers who will act out their own delusive theories. The apostacy will increase."—*Evangelism*, page 363.

Signs of the Times

1. With what is the unexpectedness of Christ's coming compared, and who, of all people, should be alert to its nearness? 1 Thess. 5:2, 4, 5.

NOTE.—"It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 215, 216.

2. What disturbances in nature and among nations are predicted as signs of the approaching end? Luke 21:25.

NOTE.—"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. The prophetic visions of Daniel and John foretell a period of moral darkness and declension; but at the time of the end, the time in which we are now living, the vision was to speak and not lie. When the signs predicted begin to come to pass, the waiting, watching ones are bidden to look up and lift up their heads and rejoice because their redemption draweth nigh. . . .

"Thank God, all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who will endure unto the end."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 9, 10.

3. How are the last days portrayed in the Scriptures? 2 Tim. 3:1-6.

NOTE.—"There is coming rapidly and surely an almost universal guilt upon the inhabitants of the cities, because of the steady increase of determined wickedness. The corruption that prevails is beyond the power of the human pen to describe. Every day brings fresh revelations of strife, bribery, and fraud; every day brings its heart-sickening record of violence and lawlessness, of indifference to human suffering, of brutal, fiendish destruction of human life. Every day testifies to the increase of insanity, murder, and suicide. . . . Men boast of the wonderful progress and enlightenment of the age in which we are now living; but God sees the earth filled with iniquity and violence. . . . The black record of crime committed for the sake of gain is enough to chill the blood and fill the soul with horror."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 275.

4. What will God do when men have made void His law? Ps. 119:126.

NOTE.—"Like David, we may now pray, 'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.' Men have gone on in disobedience to God's law until they have reached a point of insolence that is unparalleled. Men are training in disobedience, and are fast approaching the limit of God's forbearance and love, and God will surely interfere. He will surely vindicate His honor and repress the prevailing iniquity. Will God's commandment-keeping people be carried away with the prevailing iniquity? . . . No. To His church His law becomes more precious, holy, honorable, as men cast upon it scorn and contempt."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 21.

God's Standard Altered

5. According to Daniel the prophet, what was to be done against God, His law, and His people? Dan. 7:25.

NOTE.—"Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellowmen.

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. . . . All will be called to choose between the laws of God and the laws of men."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 763.

6. To what extent will the world be deceived in the last days? Why? 2 Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 13:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Worshiping the beast is in fact worshiping the dragon, for the beast is but the visible agency of the dragon, carrying out the dragon's program. The era of the revived papacy will also be characterized by a period when spiritism is especially active. Back of spiritism is Satan working 'with all deceivableness of unrighteousness' (2 Thess. 2:10)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rev. 13:4.

7. How severe will persecution be? Rev. 13:15-17; 1 Peter 4:12.

NOTE.—"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death."—*The Great Controversy,* page 604.

An Unholy Alliance

8. How does the apostle John describe the workings of spirits of devils? Rev. 16:14; 13:13.

NOTE.—"Many will be ensnared through the belief that spiritualism is a merely human imposture; when brought face to face with manifestations which they cannot but regard as supernatural, they will be deceived, and will be led to accept them as the great power of God. . . . 'He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.' Revelation 13:13, 14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do."—*The Great Controversy,* page 553.

9. How did Christ describe deceptive miracles? Matt. 24:24.

NOTE.—"I saw that the saints must get a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved friends and relatives, who will declare to them that the Sabbath has been changed, also other unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. . . . We must examine well the foundation of our hope, for we shall have to give a reason for it from the Scriptures."—*Early Writings,* pages 87, 88.

10. What satanic falsehood accepted by many professed Christians renders them susceptible to spiritism? Gen. 3:4.

NOTE.—"Satan commenced his deception in Eden. He said to Eve, 'Ye shall not surely die.' This was Satan's first lesson upon the immortality of the soul, and he has carried on this deception from that time to the present, and will carry it on until the captivity of God's children shall be turned. . . . It was a marvel to me that Satan could succeed so well in making men believe that the words of God, 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die,' mean that the soul that sinneth it shall not die, but live eternally in misery."—*Early Writings,* page 218.

11. What effect can adherence to tradition have? Matt. 15:3.

NOTE.—"The substitution of the precepts of men for the commandments of God has not ceased. Even among Christians are found institutions and usages that have no better foundation than the traditions of the fathers. Such institutions, resting upon mere human authority, have supplanted those of divine appointment. Men cling to their traditions, and revere their customs, and cherish hatred against those who seek to show them their error. . . . Let all who accept human authority, the customs of the church, or the traditions

of the fathers, take heed to the warning conveyed in the words of Christ, 'In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 398.

12. Of what deceptive workings did Christ give warning? Matt. 24:9-11.

NOTE.—"The world at large are under the control of Satan, Christ's bitterest foe. The gospel presents to them principles of life which are wholly at variance with their habits and desires, and they rise in rebellion against it. They hate the purity which reveals and condemns their sins, and they persecute and destroy those who would urge upon them its just and holy claims."—*The Great Controversy,* page 47.

> "Shrinking from hardship, complaining under tribulation, makes the servants of God weak and inefficient." —*Gospel Workers,* page 266.

13. What precious promises are made to those who hold fast their faith in the time of final testing? Matt. 24:13; Isa. 26:4.

Lesson 5, for November 2, 1963

Righteousness Through Christ

MEMORY VERSE: "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is the truth." Ps. 119:142.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 307-319; "Testimonies," vol. 8, pp. 247-254; "Steps to Christ," pages 43-48 (chapter, "Consecration"); "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To show the utter futility of human striving for merit with God, our total depedence upon Christ, and heaven's enabling power.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13; continue reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Man and the Divine Ideal

1. God's ideal for man. Matt. 5:48; Phil. 3:14, 15.
2. Man incapable of righteousness. Rom. 7:18, 19.
3. Man's so-called righteousness as filthy rags. Isa. 64:6.
4. His need of divine help. Rom. 7:24.

II. Divine Provision

5. Provision for man's redemption. 1 Peter 2:24.
6. Man makes the decision. Rom. 6:16.

7. Faith claims divine grace. Rom. 5:1, 2.

III. The Divine Operation

8. Past transgressions are forgiven. Isa. 44:22.
9. Strength to meet temptation promised. 1 Cor. 10:13.
10. Obedience the result of inner grace. 1 John 2:2-4.

IV. Encouragement

11. Sanctification is progressive. 1 Cor. 15:31; Phil. 3:13, 14.
12. The repentant sinner is not cast off. 1 John 2:1.
13. He is given assurance of victory. Isa. 49:15, 16; John 10:29.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes, and grieve His Spirit; but when we repent, and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away. There are hindrances to be removed. Wrong feelings have been cherished, and there have been pride, self-sufficiency, impatience, and murmurings. All these separate us from God. Sins must be confessed; there must be a deeper work of grace in the heart."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, pp. 350, 351.

Man and the Divine Ideal

1. Toward what lofty ideal is the Christian to aspire? Matt. 5:48; Phil. 3:14, 15.

NOTE.—"The Lord requires no less of the soul now, than He required of Adam in Paradise before he fell—perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 373.

2. To what extent is man able to satisfy God's requirements? Rom. 7: 18, 19.

NOTE.—"We look to self, as though we had power to save ourselves; but Jesus died for us because we are helpless to do this."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 351.

3. How does God regard all human attempts at righteousness? Isa. 64:6.

NOTE.—"We have not looked away from ourselves, believing that Jesus is a living Saviour. We must not think that our own grace and merits will save us; the grace of Christ is our only hope of salvation. . . . We must believe the naked promise, and not accept feeling for faith."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 351.

4. In what poignant words does Paul express man's need for divine help? Rom. 7:24.

NOTE.—"Man needs a power out of and above himself to restore him to the likeness of God."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 375.

"Without the grace of Christ it is impossible to take one step in obedience to the law of God."—*Ibid.,* p. 372.

Divine Provision

5. By what great act of mercy did God make possible man's redemption? 1 Peter 2:24.

NOTE.—"The Redeemer of the world clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach humanity; for it took the divine and the human to bring into the world the salvation that was needed by fallen man. Divinity needed humanity that humanity might afford a channel of communication between God and man."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 375.

"By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from

the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son.' John 3:16. He gave Him not only to bear our sins and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will fulfill His word."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 25.

6. What act of the human will opens or shuts the door to righteousness? Rom. 6:16.

NOTE.—"God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 366.

7. By what means may humanity lay active claim to divine grace? Rom. 5:1, 2.

NOTE.—"This faith leads its possessor to place all the affections of the soul upon Christ; his understanding is under the control of the Holy Spirit, and his character is molded after the divine likeness. His faith is not a dead faith, but a faith that works by love, and leads him to behold the beauty of Christ, and to become assimilated to the divine character."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, pp. 391, 392.

The Divine Operation

8. To the sinner who trusts fully in Christ's merits, what assurance is given concerning past transgressions? Isa. 44:22.

NOTE.—"The great work that is wrought for the sinner who is spotted and stained by evil is the work of justification. By Him who speaketh truth he is declared righteous. The Lord imputes unto the believer the righteousness of Christ and pronounces him righteous before the universe. He transfers his sins to Jesus, the sinner's representative, substitute, and surety."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 392.

9. What provision is made for meeting temptation? 1 Cor. 10:13.

NOTE.—"But though Christ is everything, . . . we are to strive, wrestle, agonize, watch, pray, lest we shall be overcome by the wily foe. For the power and grace with which we can do this comes from God, and all the while we are to trust in Him, who is able to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 381.

10. What is revealed in the life of the man who has been justified by faith? 1 John 2:2-4.

NOTE.—"The law is to be presented to its trangressors, not as something apart from God, but rather as an exponent of His mind and character. As the sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, so God's law cannot be rightly presented to man apart from the divine Author. . . . It reproves sin, it condemns the sinner, but it shows him his need of Christ, with whom is plenteous mercy and goodness and truth."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 371.

Encouragement

11. What words of the apostle Paul indicate that perfection of character is not suddenly attained? 1 Cor. 15:31; Phil. 3:13, 14.

NOTE.—"The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive."—*The Great Controversy,* page 470.

"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 560.

12. What provision has been made for the repentant sinner? 1 John 2:1.

NOTE.—"There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ and who *really desire* to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God."—*Steps to Christ,* page 64. (Italics ours.)

These encouraging words should inspire each student to seek anew, through repentant faith, the favor of our Lord and Saviour.

13. How secure is one who gives himself wholeheartedly to Christ? Isa. 49:15, 16; John 10:29.

NOTE.—"The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 57, 58.

Lesson 6, for November 9, 1963

The Seal of the Living God

MEMORY VERSE: "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Rev. 7:3.

STUDY HELPS: "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 207-216; vol. 6, pp. 349-356; "The Great Controversy," chapter 25; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To identify the seal of the living God and to cite the conditions for receiving it.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Seal of God

1. God delays the work of destruction. Rev. 7:1-3.
2. God's servants sealed. Rev. 7:4.
3. God's name written on the forehead. Rev. 14:1.
4. The character of the 144,000. Rev. 14:4, 5.

II. The Mark of the Beast

5. The distinguishing mark of apostasy. Rev. 13:11-17.

6. The punishment threatened for receiving the mark of the beast. Rev. 14:9-11.

III. A Distinguishing Sign

7. Commandment keeping characterizes saints. Rev. 14:12.
8. The Sabbath a sign between God and His people. Ezek. 20:12, 20.
9. The identification of the Lawgiver. Ex. 20:8-11.
10. True Sabbath keeping described. Isa. 58:13, 14.

IV. The Results of the Conflict

11. Punishment meted out on the followers of the beast. Rev. 19:19-21.
12. Rewards bestowed on victors over beast. Rev. 15:2-4.
13. Privileges of the faithful. Rev. 22:3-5.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"As the disrespect for God's law becomes more manifest, the line of demarcation between its observers and the world becomes more distinct. Love for the divine precepts increases with one class according as contempt for them increases with another class.

"The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 209.

The Seal of God

1. While John in vision watched four angels holding the four winds of the earth, what special messenger from God appeared, and what was his announcement? Rev. 7:1-3.

2. Upon how many of God's servants was the seal affixed? Rev. 7:4.

NOTE.—"What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 968.

"In a little while everyone who is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?"—*Ibid.,* pp. 969, 970.

3. When John in a later vision saw 144,000 standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, what did he see in their foreheads? Rev. 14:1.

NOTE.—"Unless the name of God is written in your forehead,—written there because God is the center of your thoughts,—you will not be meet for the inheritance in light."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 46.

4. How is the character of the 144,000 described? Rev. 14:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Are we striving with all our power to attain to the stature of men and women in Christ? Are we seeking for His fullness, ever pressing toward the mark set before us—the perfection of His character? When the Lord's people reach this mark, they will be sealed in their foreheads. Filled with the Spirit, they will be complete in Christ, and the recording

angel will declare, 'It is finished.' "—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1118.

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them." "The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven." —*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 214, 216.

> Why should anyone hear the gospel twice before everyone has heard it once?

The Mark of the Beast

5. In John's vision of apostate, persecuting powers, how are the worshipers of the beast and his image distinguished? Rev. 13:11-17.

NOTE.—The Greek of verse 17 may very properly be translated as follows: "No one was allowed to buy or sell unless he bore this beast's mark, either name or number." (*The New English Bible,* © The Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press. Used by permission of the Oxford University Press.)

"If the light of truth has been presented to you, revealing the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and showing that there is no foundation in the word of God for Sunday observance, and yet you still cling to the false sabbath, refusing to keep holy the Sabbath which God calls 'My holy day,' you receive the mark of the beast. When does this take place? When you obey the decree that commands you to cease from labor on Sunday and worship God, while you know that there is not a word in the Bible showing Sunday to be other than a common working day, you consent to receive the mark of the beast, and refuse the seal of God."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 980.

"Sundaykeeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. The time will come when this day will be the test, but that time has not come yet."—*Ibid.*, p. 977.

6. What fearful punishment is threatened against those who receive the mark of the beast? Rev. 14:9-11.

A Distinguishing Sign

7. In this period of conflict, how are the saints characterized? Rev. 14:12. Compare Rev. 12:17.

NOTE.—"Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 146.

8. What command of the Decalogue did God single out as a special sign between Him and His people? Ezek. 20:12, 20.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they are His obedient subjects, that they keep holy His law. The observance of the Sabbath is the means ordained by God of preserving a knowledge of Himself and of distinguishing between His loyal subjects and the transgressors of His law."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 198.

9. How is God who gave the Sabbath identified? Ex. 20:8-11.

NOTE.—"The seal of God's law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator's memorial and the sign of His authority."—*The Great Controversy,* page 452.

10. In God's appeal to ancient Israel through Isaiah, how is true Sabbath keeping described? Isa. 58: 13, 14.

NOTE.—"Those who desire to have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment." —Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 981.

"Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 213, 214.

"The seal of the living God is placed upon those who conscientiously keep the Sabbath of the Lord."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 980.

"To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 350.

"We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life. All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. Every day they will have the companionship of Christ and will exemplify the perfection of His character. Every day their light will shine forth to others in good works."—*Ibid.,* pp. 353, 354.

The Results of the Conflict

11. Where did John finally see those who had received the mark of the beast and his image? Rev. 19: 19-21.

NOTE.—"For six thousand years the great controversy has been in progress; the Son of God and His heavenly messengers have been in conflict with the power of the evil one, to warn, enlighten, and save the children of men. Now all have made their decision; the wicked have fully united with Satan in his warfare against God. The time has come for God to vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. Now the controversy is not alone with Satan, but with men."—*The Great Controversy,* page 656.

12. Where did John finally see those who had gained the victory over the beast and his image, and over his mark? Rev. 15:2-4.

13. What will be the blessed privilege of those who have served God faithfully and have received His name in their foreheads? Rev. 22:3-5.

> There can be no true partnership with God unless He has first place in your life.

Lesson 7, for November 16, 1963

The Sabbath—Vital Issue Through the Ages

MEMORY VERSE: "And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 26; "The Desire of Ages," chapter 29; "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 29; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To emphasize the sanctity of the Sabbath and show its place and importance in the Christian's experience.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10, 11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Sabbath Instituted

1. At close of creation week. Gen. 2:1-3.
2. Embodied in the Decalogue. Ex. 20:1-17.
3. To be a perpetual covenant. Ex. 31:16, 17.
4. To stand forever. Matt. 5:17-19.

II. The Sabbath Identified

5. The seventh day, not simply "one in seven." Ex. 20:10, first part.
6. The Sabbath, the day following Friday. Mark 15:42.
7. The Sabbath, the day preceding Sunday. Mark 16:1, 2.

III. The Significance of the Sabbath

8. The Sabbath is the Lord's day. Ex. 20:10; Isa. 58:13; Mark 2:28.
9. The Sabbath should be hallowed. Ezek. 20:20.
10. New Testament Christians honored the Sabbath. Luke 23:56.
11. The Sabbath makes provision for physical rest. Ex. 20:10, last part.
12. Sabbath rest compared to soul rest. Heb. 4:1, 4-6.
13. Conflict over the Sabbath symbolized. Rev. 13:15-17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The commandment of God that has been almost universally made void, is the testing truth for this time. . . . The time is coming when all those who worship God will be distinguished by this sign. They will be known as the servants of God, by this mark of their allegiance to Heaven." —*Evangelism,* page 212.

The Sabbath Instituted

1. After the heavens and the earth were finished, what important acts did God perform? Genesis 2:1-3.

NOTE.—"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted

for joy, the Sabbath was given to the world, that man might ever remember that in six days God created the world. He rested upon the seventh day, blessing it as the day of His rest, and gave it to the beings He had created, that they might remember Him as the true and living God." —*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 197.

2. In what law was the Sabbath embodied? Exodus 20:1-17.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath was embodied in the law given from Sinai; but it was not then first made known as a day of rest. The people of Israel had a knowledge of it before they came to Sinai. On the way thither the Sabbath was kept. When some profaned it, the Lord reproved them, saying, 'How long refuse ye to keep My commandments and My laws?' Ex. 16:28." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

3. In His instruction to the Israelites, how did God stress the importance and permanence of the Sabbath? Exodus 31:16, 17.

NOTE.—"As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of the relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 349, 350.

4. How long did Jesus say the law was to remain in force? Matthew 5: 17-19.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath was not for Israel merely, but for the world. It had been made known to man in Eden, and, like the other precepts of the Decalogue, it is of imperishable obligation. Of that law of which the fourth commandment forms a part, Christ declares, 'Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law.' So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator's power. And when Eden shall bloom on earth again, God's holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

The Sabbath Identified

5. What statement in the Ten Commandments indicates that the Sabbath is a specific day, and not merely one day in seven? Ex. 20:10, first part.

NOTE.—"By thus setting apart the Sabbath, God gave the world a memorial. He did not set apart one day and any day in seven, but one particular day, the seventh day. And by observing the Sabbath, we show that we recognize God as the living God, the Creator of heaven and earth."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 136.

6. With relation to the preparation day (Friday), what position does the Sabbath hold in the weekly cycle? Mark 15:42.

7. In what language does the same writer indicate that the resurrection day (Sunday) immediately follows the New Testament Sabbath? Mark 16: 1, 2.

The Significance of the Sabbath

8. In what way has Scripture identified the Sabbath as the Lord's day? Ex. 20:10; Isa. 58:13; Mark 2:28.

NOTE.—"The great Jehovah . . . instituted the Sabbath day and made it holy. God blessed and sanctified the seventh

day, because He rested upon it from all His wondrous work of creation. The Sabbath was made for man, and God would have him put by his labor on that day, as He Himself rested after His six days' work of creation."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 247.

9. What should be the attitude of God's children toward that holy day? Ezek. 20:20.

NOTE.—"To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 289.

10. What evidence is there that New Testament Christians recognized this obligation? Luke 23:56.

11. In addition to showing our respect for God, what further benefit do we receive from Sabbath observance? Ex. 20:10, last part.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular labor on the rest day of the Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly pleasure or profit is lawful upon that day; but as God ceased His labor of creating, and rested upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 207.

12. To what does Paul compare Sabbath rest? Heb. 4:1, 4-6.

13. In what symbolic language does the seer of Patmos forecast the persecution of those who refuse to worship the beast? Rev. 13:15-17.

NOTE.—"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that 'all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

"With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 604.

The senior "Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly" is published in the following foreign languages: Czech, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, and Yugoslav. Write to the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, for any of these quarterlies for the strangers within your gates.

Lesson 8, for November 23, 1963

Faithfulness Under Persecution

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:4.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 38; "The Acts of the Apostles," chapter 8; "Messages to Young People," pages 199-207; "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 353-365; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To review the history of religious persecution as an aid to Christian growth and church revival and evangelism.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-12.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Read further from study helps.	☐
Friday: Finish reading study helps; review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Persecution a Blessing

1. Friction foretold between Christian workers and the world. Matt. 10:22.
2. The Christian to be wise but gentle. Matt. 10:16.
3. Trials for Christ's sake to be accepted without complaint. 1 Peter 4:12, 13.
4. Some suffering not for Christ's sake. 1 Peter 4:15.

II. Revival

5. Persecution spread the gospel in apostolic times. Acts 8:4; 11:19-21.
6. God's people to bear witness everywhere. Mark 16:15.
7. Fruit bearing an evidence of discipleship. John 15:5.
8. The indifferent to suffer denial by Christ. Matt. 25:41-43.

III. The Ingathering of Israel

9. The Lord to recover His people the second time. Isa. 11:11.
10. Challenge to Israel comes to God's people today. Isa. 6:8.
11. Strength promised to those who serve God. Isa. 41:10; Ps. 126:6.
12. Even the haughty will finally exalt Him. Isa. 2:10, 11.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord."—*Evangelism,* page 700.

Persecution a Blessing

1. What will be the attitude of the world toward the gospel workers? Matt. 10:22.

NOTE.—"The world is no more in harmony with the principles of Christ today than it was in the days of the apostles. . . . The same spirit which in the Dark Ages consigned men and women to prison, to exile, and to death, . . . is still at work with malignant energy in unregenerate hearts."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 85.

2. What counsel should the Christian follow under perilous circumstances? Matt. 10:16.

3. What attitude should the Christian assume toward trial for Christ's sake? 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

NOTE.—"If you do not feel that it is an honor to be a partaker of the sufferings of Christ; if you feel no burden of soul for those who are ready to perish; if you are unwilling to sacrifice that you may save means for the work that is to be done, there will be no room for you in the kingdom of God. We need to be partakers with Christ of His sufferings and self-denial at every step. We need to have the Spirit of God resting upon us, leading us to constant self-sacrifice."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, pp. 103, 104.

4. For what kind of offenses should the Christian never have to suffer? 1 Peter 4:15.

NOTE.—"It is a privilege to suffer for the name of Christ, and thereby bring honor to His name. But if a Christian commits some evil deed he gives the heathen an opportunity to ridicule the church and blaspheme the name of Christ." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Peter 4:15.

Revival

5. When persecution struck the early church, what positive effect did it have? Acts 8:4; 11:19-21.

NOTE.—"To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers 'went everywhere preaching the word.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 105.

6. How extensive is to be the field of missionary laborers? Mark 16:15.

NOTE.—"With the whole world before them in need of the gospel, professed Christians congregate where they themselves can enjoy gospel privileges. They do not feel the necessity of occupying new territory, carrying the message of salvation into regions beyond. They refuse to fulfill Christ's commission, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 303.

7. What is an evidence of discipleship? John 15:5.

NOTE.—"There is a wide difference between a pretended union and a real connection with Christ by faith. A profession of the truth places men in the church, but this does not prove that they have a vital connection with the living Vine. A rule is given by which the true disciple may be distinguished from those who claim to follow Christ but have not faith in Him. The one class are fruit bearing, the other, fruitless. The one are often subjected to the pruning knife of God that they may bring forth more fruit; the other, as withered branches, are erelong to be severed from the living Vine."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 228, 229.

8. What judgment is pronounced upon those who are indifferent to the needs of others? Matt. 25:41-43.

NOTE.—"Those on the left hand of Christ, those who had neglected Him in the person of the poor and the suffering, were unconscious of their guilt. Satan had blinded them; they had not perceived what they owed to their brethren. They had been self-absorbed, and cared not for others' needs. . . . Those who themselves have not endured the pressure of want too often treat the poor in a contemptuous way, and make them feel that they are looked upon as paupers.

"But Christ beholds it all. . . . All the days of your life I was near you in the person of these afflicted ones, but you did not seek Me. You would not enter into fellowship with Me. I know you not."—*The Desire of Ages*, pages 639, 640.

The Ingathering of Israel

9. What promise of ingathering formerly made to literal Israel can be an inspiration to God's people today? Isa. 11:11.

NOTE.—"I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us. Shall we not heed His voice?"—*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 515.

10. What pointed challenge that came to Isaiah comes to us individually today? Isa. 6:8.

NOTE.—"To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me.' Isaiah 6:8. Upon the minister of the word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic —the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end." —*The Ministry of Healing*, page 148.

11. What assurance is given all who go forth in the name of the Lord? Isa. 41:10; Ps. 126:6.

NOTE.—"Every worker who follows the example of Christ will be prepared to receive and use the power that God has promised to His church for the ripening of earth's harvest. Morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit, with its reviving, sanctifying power. As they go forth to the day's duties, they have the assurance that the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit enables them to be 'laborers together with God.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 56.

12. What will be the experience of persecutors in the last great day? Isa. 2:10, 11.

Lesson 9, for November 30, 1963

The Close of Probation

MEMORY VERSE: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 3; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Repentance;" "The Great Controversy," first 2 pages of chapter 39; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To clarify events preceding the withdrawal of God's mercy from the earth, and to encourage preparation for it.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10, 11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Certainty of Death

1. All men under the sentence of death. Heb. 9:27.
2. Death the natural consequence of sin. Rom. 5:12.
3. After death, no opportunity to know God. Ps. 6:4, 5.
4. Opportunity to redeem life ceases at death. Eccl. 9:10.

II. Day of Salvation

5. Every man has a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3, 4.
6. One source for all enlightenment. John 1:9.
7. Paul's objective, a clear conscience. Acts 24:16.
8. Repeated transgression deadens the conscience. 1 Tim. 4:2.
9. Continued disobedience may grieve the Holy Spirit. Eph. 4:30.

III. The Door of Mercy Shut

10. The gospel commission. Matt. 28:19; Rev. 14:6-12.
11. Hosea urges need to seek the Lord. Hosea 10:12.
12. The faithful will be delivered. Dan. 12:1.
13. The proclamation of probation's close. Rev. 22:11, 12.
14. All must prepare to meet God. Amos 4:12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"We must no longer remain upon the enchanted ground. We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be! Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?"—*Selected Messages*, b. 1, pp. 125, 126.

The Certainty of Death

1. Since the fall of Adam, what unwelcome appointment awaits every member of the human race? Heb. 9:27.

2. How did death enter the world? Rom. 5:12.

NOTE.—"Immortality, promised to man on condition of obedience, had been forfeited by transgression. Adam could not transmit to his posterity that which he did not possess; and there could have been no hope for the fallen race had not God, by the sacrifice of His Son, brought immortality within their reach."—*The Great Controversy*, page 533.

3. After death, what opportunity exists for such things as repentance, confession, conversion, and restitution? Ps. 6:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Upon the fundamental error of natural immortality rests the doctrine of consciousness in death—a doctrine, like eternal torment, opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures, to the dictates of reason, and to our feelings of humanity. . . .

"What say the Scriptures concerning these things? David declares that man is not conscious in death. 'His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.' "—*The Great Controversy,* page 545.

4. In view of the prospect of death to every man, what pertinent advice is given? Eccl. 9:10.

NOTE.—"Do not pass by the little things, and look for a large work. You might do successfully the small work, but fail utterly in attempting a large work and fall into discouragement. Take hold wherever you see that there is work to be done. Whether you are rich or poor, great or humble, God calls you into active service for Him. It will be by doing with your might what your hands find to do that you will develop talent and aptitude for the work. And it is by neglecting your daily opportunities that you become fruitless and withered. This is why there are so many fruitless trees in the garden of the Lord." —*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 129.

The Day of Salvation

5. With what Christian virtue has God endowed every man, woman, and child? Rom. 12:3, 4.

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

"Faith is the gift of God, but the power to exercise it is ours. Faith is the hand by which the soul takes hold upon the divine offers of grace and mercy."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 431.

6. By whom only are all men enlightened? John 1:9.

NOTE.—"We can trace the line of the world's teachers as far back as human records extend; but the Light was before them. As the moon and the stars of our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world's great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world." —*Education,* pages 13, 14.

7. What was the apostle Paul's principal aim in life? Acts 24:16.

NOTE.—"This daily review of our acts, to see whether conscience approves or condemns, is necessary for all who wish to arrive at the perfection of Christian character. Many acts which pass for good works, even deeds of benevolence, will, when closely investigated, be found to be prompted by wrong motives. . . . Every act of our lives, whether excellent and praiseworthy or deserving of censure, is judged by the Searcher of hearts according to the motives which prompted it."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 512.

8. How does repeated transgression affect the conscience? 1 Tim. 4:2.

NOTE.—"Many . . . do not exemplify the truth in their lives. They have special exercises upon sanctification, yet cast the word of God behind them. They pray sanctification, sing sanctification, and shout sanctification. Men with corrupt hearts put on the air of innocence, and profess to be consecrated; but this is no evidence that they are right. Their deeds testify of them. Their consciences are seared, but the day of God's visitation is coming, and every man's work shall be manifest, of what sort it is. And every man shall receive according to his deeds."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 338.

"He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing." —*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 36.

9. What fatal danger lies in continued disregard of the voice of conscience? Eph. 4:30. Compare Gen. 6:3.

NOTE.—"Those who are quieting a guilty conscience with the thought that they can change a course of evil when they choose, that they can trifle with the invitations of mercy, and yet be again and again impressed, take this course at their peril. They think that after casting all their influence on the side of the great rebel, in a moment of utmost extremity, when danger compasses them about, they will change leaders. But this is not so easily done. The experience, the education, the discipline of a life of sinful indulgence, has so thoroughly molded the character that they cannot then receive the image of Jesus. Had no light shone upon their pathway, the case would have been different. Mercy might interpose, and give them an opportunity to accept her overtures; but after light has been long rejected and despised, it will be finally withdrawn."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 269.

The Door of Mercy Shut

10. Before the coming of the Lord what message is the church commissioned to give? Matt. 28:19; Rev. 14:6-12.

NOTE.—"Service to God includes personal ministry. By personal effort we are to cooperate with Him for the saving of the world. Christ's commission, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,' is spoken to every one of His followers. (Mark 16:15.) All who are ordained unto the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen. Their hearts will throb in unison with the heart of Christ. The same longing for souls that He has felt will be manifest in them. Not all can fill the same place in the work, but there is a place and a work for all."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 300, 301.

11. What earnest appeal did Hosea make to Israel? Hosea 10:12.

NOTE.—"But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest 'in the time of the latter rain.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 55.

12. What events follow the standing up of Michael? Dan. 12:1.

NOTE.—"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.

13. What solemn announcement is made shortly before the appearance of the Son of man? Rev. 22:11, 12.

NOTE.—"When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. . . . Then

Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands, and with a loud voice says, 'It is done;' and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: '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.' Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins."—*The Great Controversy*, pages 613, 614.

"These words are especially applicable to the time when each person's future is irrevocably settled. Such a decree comes at the close of the investigative judgment. . . . Men are to be permitted to live the life of their own choosing, so that their true character may become apparent. Each person of each age will be made manifest in respect to the class in which he belongs, at the second coming of Christ."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 22:11.

14. In the light of impending judgments, what did Amos urge his people to do? Amos 4:12. Compare Isa. 55:6, 7.

NOTE.—"It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God."—*The Great Controversy*, page 598.

Lesson 10, for December 7, 1963

The Time of Trouble

MEMORY VERSE: "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him." Ps. 91:15.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," pages 201, 202; "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 449-476; "The Great Controversy," chapter 39; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To point out the purpose of trials, discovering in them God's mercy in dealing with His children.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6, 7; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; read further from study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11, 12; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Object of Trial

1. Spiritual results of tribulation. Rom. 5:3, 4.
2. The Christian's reaction to persecution. Matt. 5:10-12.
3. No temptation too hard to endure. 1 Cor. 10:13.
4. A share in Christ's sufferings, the Christian's privilege. James 1:2-4, 12; 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

5. A crown of righteousness awaits the faithful. 2 Tim. 4:5-8.

II. Persecution in the Early Church

6. Persecution led first-century church to greater evangelism. Acts 8:1.
7. Power attended first disciples' ministry. Acts 8:4-8.

III. The Time of Trouble

8. A period of severest test. Dan. 12:1, second part.
9. The plagues afflict the wicked. Rev. 16:2-4, 8, 10-12, 17.
10. Tribulation purifies the saints. Dan. 12:1, last part.
11. The righteous will be spared. Ps. 91:10.
12. Spiritual growth to be earnestly sought. 2 Peter 3:11-14.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble . . . God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his angels cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them."—*Selected Messages,* b. 2, p. 55.

The Object of Trial

1. What spiritual results come from tribulation? Rom. 5:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Life is disciplinary. While in the world, the Christian will meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. . . .

"There is a high standard to which we are to attain if we would be children of God, noble, pure, holy, and undefiled; and a pruning process is necessary if we would reach this standard. How would this pruning be accomplished if there were no difficulties to meet, no obstacles to surmount, nothing to call out patience and endurance? These trials are not the smallest blessings in our experience. They are designed to nerve us to determination to succeed. We are to use them as God's means to gain decided victories over self instead of allowing them to hinder, oppress, and destroy us."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, pp. 344, 345.

2. What is to be the Christian's reaction to persecution for righteousness' sake? Matt. 5:10-12.

NOTE.—"Christ's followers are accused as troublers of the people. But it is fellowship with God that brings them the world's enmity. They are bearing the reproach of Christ. They are treading the path that has been trodden by the noblest of the earth. Not with sorrow, but with rejoicing, should they meet persecution. Each fiery trial is God's agent for their refining. . . . Each conflict has its place in the great battle for righteousness, and each will add to the joy of their final triumph." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 306.

3. In what language is the Christian reassured that he need not encounter *overwhelming* temptation? 1 Cor. 10:13.

NOTE.—"If we venture on Satan's ground we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us. The prayer, 'Bring us not into temptation,' is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God we have the assurance, He 'will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.' 1 Corinthians 10:13. . . . Live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will

never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions and assaults of Satan."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 118, 119.

4. What reason is given for the Christian's acceptance of trial as a blessing? James 1:2-4, 12; 1 Peter 4: 12, 13.

NOTE.—"Many who sincerely consecrate their lives to God's service are surprised and disappointed to find themselves, as never before, confronted by obstacles and beset by trials and perplexities. They pray for Christlikeness of character, for a fitness for the Lord's work, and they are placed in circumstances that seem to call forth all the evil of their nature. Faults are revealed of which they did not even suspect the existence. . . .

"The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 470, 471.

" 'When men shall revile you, and persecute you,' said Jesus, 'rejoice, and be exceeding glad.' And He pointed His hearers to the prophets who had spoken in the name of the Lord, as 'an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.' James 5:10. Abel, the very first Christian of Adam's children, died a martyr. Enoch walked with God, and the world knew him not. Noah was mocked as a fanatic and an alarmist. 'Others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment.' 'Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection.' Hebrews 11:36, 35."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 33.

5. To what reward did the apostle look forward as he came to the close of his life? 2 Tim. 4:5-8.

NOTE.—"The apostle was looking into the great beyond, not with uncertainty or dread, but with joyous hope and longing expectation. As he stands at the place of martyrdom he sees not the sword of the executioner or the earth so soon to receive his blood; but he looks up through the calm blue heaven of that summer day to the throne of the Eternal. . . .

"Ransomed by the sacrifice of Christ, washed from sin in His blood, and clothed in His righteousness, Paul has the witness in himself that his soul is precious in the sight of his Redeemer. . . . Like a trumpet peal his voice has rung out through all the ages since, nerving with his own courage thousands of witnesses for Christ and awakening in thousands of sorrow-stricken hearts the echo of his own triumphant joy: 'I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 511-513.

Persecution in the Early Church

6. What experience came to the apostolic church? With what result? Acts 8:1.

7. To what urgent task did the church then commit itself, and with what results? Acts 8:4-8.

NOTE.—"The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel. Success had attended the ministry of the word in that place, and there was danger that the disciples would linger there too long, unmindful of the Saviour's commission to go to all the world. . . .

"When they were scattered by persecution they went forth filled with missionary zeal. They realized the responsibility of their mission. They knew that they held in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world; and they were constrained by the love of Christ to break this bread to all who were in need. The Lord wrought through them. Wherever they went, the sick were healed and the poor had the gospel preached unto them."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 105, 106.

The Time of Trouble

8. Near the end of time, what terrible experience awaits the church and the world? Dan. 12:1, second part.

NOTE.—"When He leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law. The wicked have passed the boundary of their probation; the Spirit of God, persistently resisted, has been at last withdrawn. Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one. Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old."—*The Great Controversy,* page 614.

9. Enumerate the afflictions of the wicked at that time. Rev. 16:2-4, 8, 10-12, 17.

NOTE.—"These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy. In that day, multitudes will desire the shelter of God's mercy which they have so long despised."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 628, 629.

10. What will be the experience of the saints during this time? Dan. 12:1, last part. Compare Rev. 20:15.

NOTE.—"*Delivered.* What a consolation that in this great controversy the outcome is not in doubt! Compare chs. 7:18, 22, 27; 10:14."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Dan. 12:1.

11. What further assurance is given the righteous during these awful times? Ps. 91:10.

NOTE.—"The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it. The way to heaven is consecrated by His footprints. Every thorn that wounds our feet has wounded His. Every cross that we are called to bear He has borne before us. The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace. The time of trouble is a fearful ordeal for God's people; but it is the time for every true believer to look up, and by faith he may see the bow of promise encircling him."—*The Great Controversy,* page 633.

12. How earnestly should the Christian pursue his spiritual development? 2 Peter 3:11-14.

NOTE.—"Every soul is elected who will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. He is elected who will put on the armor, and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation. He is elected who will have faith continually, and who will be obedient to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The *provisions* of redemption are free to all; the *results* of redemption will be enjoyed by those who have complied with the conditions." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 208.

"There is no place in the school of Christ where we graduate. We are to work on the plan of addition, and the Lord will work on the plan of multiplication."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 379.

Lesson 11, for December 14, 1963

Our Lord's Return

MEMORY VERSE: "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." 1 John 2:28.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 40; "Early Writings," pages 111-114, 118-121; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To remind us of the purpose and nearness of Christ's soon return to this earth, and to urge preparation to meet Him.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10, 11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ Shall Return

1. The promise to return. John 14: 1-3.
2. For those who eagerly await Him. Heb. 9:28.
3. The coming King identified as Christ. Titus 2:13, 14.
4. Paul describes His coming. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

II. The Purpose of His Coming

5. To restore the lost dominion. Micah 4:6-8.
6. To bestow eternal life on His children. 1 Cor. 15:52, 53; Rom. 6:23.
7. To unite loved ones separated by death. 1 Thess. 4:13-15.
8. To bring rewards. Matt. 16:27.
9. To punish the ungodly. 2 Thess. 1:7, 8.

III. The Nearness of His Coming

10. The promise to come quickly. Rev. 22:13, 12.
11. Upheavals in nature as signs. Luke 21:25-27.
12. Gospel to go to all the world prior to His coming. Matt. 24:14.
13. The Lord to appear with startling suddenness. 1 Thess. 5:3.
14. Christians are to look for and hasten the Lord's return. 2 Peter 3:12; Luke 21:34-36.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The Lord is coming. Lift up your heads and rejoice. . . . This is the good, the joyful news which should electrify every soul, which should be repeated in our homes, and told to those whom we meet on the street. What more joyful news can be communicated!"—*Evangelism,* page 218.

Christ Shall Return

1. Before His ascension, what promise did Jesus make to His disciples? John 14:1-3.

NOTE.—"Long have we waited for our Saviour's return. But nonetheless sure is

the promise. Soon we shall be in our promised home. There Jesus will lead us beside the living stream flowing from the throne of God and will explain to us the dark providences through which on this earth He brought us in order to perfect our characters. There we shall behold with undimmed vision the beauties of Eden restored. Casting at the feet of the Redeemer the crowns that He has placed on our heads, and touching our golden harps, we shall fill all heaven with praise to Him that sitteth on the throne."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 254.

2. To whom will Christ bring salvation when He returns? Heb. 9:28.

NOTE.—"So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him." R.S.V.

"Those who watch for the Lord's coming are not waiting in idle expectancy. The expectation of Christ's coming is to make men fear the Lord, and fear His judgments upon transgression. It is to awaken them to the great sin of rejecting His offers of mercy. Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to cooperate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 634.

3. How does the apostle identify the Coming One? Titus 2:13, 14.

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 Desire of Ages,* page 832.

4. How does Paul describe Christ's coming? 1 Thess. 4:16, 17.

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."—*The Great Controversy,* page 302.

The Purpose of His Coming

5. 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.

6. At His second advent, what is the first gift Christ bestows upon the redeemed? 1 Cor. 15:52, 53; Rom. 6:23.

7. What promise does God give the faithful regarding their loved ones who sleep in Jesus? 1 Thess. 4: 13-15.

8. What is one purpose of the second coming, as indicated by Jesus Himself? Matt. 16:27. Compare Rev. 22:12.

NOTE.—"Christ had just been speaking of Christians losing their lives . . . for His sake. If their 'reward' for the sacrifice were to be received at death, as popular theology has it, it is strange that Christ here specifically declares that this reward is not given until He Himself shall return in glory at the close of the age."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 16:27.

9. What two classes of people does the apostle Paul speak of as receiving punishment when Christ comes? 2 Thess. 1:7, 8.

NOTE.—"*In flaming fire.* This phrase should probably be attached to v. 7, as further describing the coming of Christ. The context and the general teaching of Scripture seem to support this. At the great advent day the Lord will be revealed in His own glory, with the glory of His Father, and of the holy angels (see Luke 9:26). Such glory appears to mortal eyes as fire. Thus Moses described the glory of God (Ex. 3:2), and thus, Ezekiel (Eze. 1:27), Daniel (Dan. 7:9, 10), and John the revelator (Rev. 1:14, 15).

"*Vengeance.* . . . The phrase may be translated, 'inflicting punishment.'

"*Know not God.* Paul conceives those whom the Lord punishes as belonging to two classes, those who know not God and those who obey not the gospel. . . . The first are those who have had opportunity to know God but have spurned the privilege. . . . The second class are those who know the gospel message but have refused to obey it. Their reasons for rejecting the gospel are clearly shown by the Lord Himself to be their love of sin (see John 3:17-20)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Thess. 1:8.

> "The religious experience is to a great degree determined by the character of the books you read in your leisure moments."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 204.

The Nearness of His Coming

10. In the book of Revelation, how does Christ identify Himself, and what solemn announcement does He make? Rev. 22:13, 12.

11. What evidences in the physical creation foreshadow Christ's second coming? Luke 21:25-27.

NOTE.—"The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 408.

12. What work must be completed before the Lord's coming? Matt. 24:14.

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 fellowmen. . . .

"It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of soulsaving depends alone upon the ministry. The humble, consecrated believer upon whom the Master of the vineyard places a burden for souls is to be given encouragement by the men upon whom the Lord has laid larger responsibilities. . . . When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 110, 111.

13. With what startling suddenness will the Lord appear? 1 Thess. 5:3.

NOTE.—"The advent of Christ will surprise the false teachers. They are saying, 'Peace and safety.' Like the priests and teachers before the fall of Jerusalem, they look for the church to enjoy earthly prosperity and glory. The signs of the times they interpret as foreshadowing this. But what saith the word of Inspiration? 'Sudden destruction cometh upon them.' 1 Thess. 5:3. Upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth, upon all who make this world their home, the day of God will come as a snare. It comes to them as a prowling thief."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 635.

14. It is the duty of each individual Christian to preserve his own faith in the nearness of the Lord's return. How may this be done? 2 Peter 3:12; Luke 21:34-36.

NOTE.—The Revised Standard Version of 2 Peter 3:12 reads, "Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God."

"As your soul yearns after God, you will find more and still more of the unsearchable riches of His grace. As you contemplate these riches you will come into possession of them and will reveal the merits of the Saviour's sacrifice, the protection of His righteousness, the fullness of His wisdom, and His power to present you before the Father 'without spot, and blameless.' "—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 567.

"By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord's return." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 633.

Lesson 12, for December 21, 1963

God's Harvest

MEMORY VERSE: "The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." Matt. 13:39.

STUDY HELPS: "Christ's Object Lessons," pages 70-75, 243-251 (chapters, "Tares" and "The Measure of Forgiveness"); "Testimonies," vol. 3, pp. 113-116; "Early Writings," pages 104-107; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To note the existence of tares among the wheat, the Biblical procedure for dealing with them, and the ultimate purification of the church.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9, 10; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11, 12; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Good Seed and Tares

1. Good seed represents God's children. Matt. 13:38, second part.
2. The tares are servants of the evil one. Matt. 13:38, last part.
3. Hypocrisy rebuked. Matt. 23:26, 27.
4. A hypocrite—a blind guide. Matt. 23:15-17; 15:14.
5. A right decision urged. Josh. 24:15.

II. Church Discipline

6. Brothers at fault should be dealt with. Matt. 18:15, 16.
7. Censure must be administered in meek spirit. Gal. 6:1.
8. Unrepentant to be disfellowshiped. Matt. 18:17, 18.

III. The Result of the Harvest

9. A warning against unwise or hasty action. Matt. 13:28-30.
10. Fate of the unrepentant. Matt. 13:41, 42.
11. Reward of the faithful. Matt. 13:43.
12. The redeemed shall see His face. Rev. 22:3, 4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The church may be called upon to dismiss from their fellowship those who will not be corrected. It is a painful duty that has to be done. Sad indeed is such a step, and it should not be taken until every other means of correcting and saving the one in error has failed."—*Evangelism,* page 368.

Good Seed and Tares

1. To what does Christ compare His faithful children? Matt. 13:38, second part.

2. To what are the children of the wicked compared? Matt. 13:38, last part.

NOTE.—"The good seed represents those who are born of the word of God, the truth. The tares represent a class who are the fruit or embodiment of error, of false principles. . . . 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 70-72.

3. With what scathing words did Christ rebuke hypocrisy in professed believers? Matt. 23:26, 27.

NOTE.—"Love to God is the very foundation of religion. To engage in His service

At the Christmas season thoughts turn to loved ones and friends. Give your best Friend, Jesus, your best gift for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering—December 21.

merely from hope of reward or fear of punishment, would avail nothing. Open apostasy would not be more offensive to God than hypocrisy and mere formal worship."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 523.

4. What is the result of a hypocrite's influence? Matt. 23:15-17. Compare Matt. 15:14.

5. What choice was presented by Joshua to ancient Israel? Josh. 24:15.

NOTE.—"God does not compel men to give up their unbelief. Before them are light and darkness, truth and error. It is for them to decide which they will accept. The human mind is endowed with power to discriminate between right and wrong. God designs that men shall not decide from impulse, but from weight of evidence, carefully comparing scripture with scripture." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 458.

Church Discipline

6. What procedure is to be followed in dealing with those who err? Matt. 18:15, 16.

NOTE.—"Our Lord teaches that matters of difficulty between Christians are to be settled within the church. They should not be opened before those who do not fear God. If a Christian is wronged by his brother, let him not appeal to unbelievers in a court of justice. Let him follow out the instruction Christ has given. Instead of trying to avenge himself, let him seek to save his brother. God will guard the interests of those who love and fear Him, and with confidence we may commit our case to Him who judges righteously."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 248, 249.

7. In what spirit should those overtaken in a fault be dealt with? Gal. 6:1.

NOTE.—"Give the erring one no occasion for discouragement. Suffer not a pharisaical hardness to come in and hurt your brother. Let no bitter sneer rise in mind or heart. Let no tinge of scorn be manifest in the voice. If you speak a word of your own, if you take an attitude of indifference, or show suspicion or distrust, it may prove the ruin of a soul. He needs a brother with the Elder Brother's heart of sympathy to touch his heart of humanity. Let him feel the strong clasp of a sympathizing hand, and hear the whisper, Let us pray. God will give a rich experience to you both."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 250.

8. If the offending member persists in his waywardness, what is the clear duty of the church? Matt. 18:17, 18.

NOTE.—"If he will not heed the voice of the church, if he refuses all the efforts made to reclaim him, upon the church rests the responsibility of separating him from fellowship. His name should then be stricken from the books.

"No church officer should advise, no committee should recommend, nor should any church vote, that the name of a wrongdoer shall be removed from the church books, until the instruction given by Christ has been faithfully followed. When this has been done, the church has cleared herself before God."—*Gospel Workers,* pages 500, 501.

The Result of the Harvest

9. How did Christ indicate that the situation of wheat and tares growing together would be solved? Matt. 13: 28-30.

NOTE.—"Christ's servants are grieved as they see true and false believers mingled in the church. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the tares. But Christ says to them, 'Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.' " —*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 71.

10. How will the Master deal with those who remain in the church, but outside the circle of His will? Matt. 13:41, 42.

NOTE.—"The Saviour does not point forward to a time when all the tares become wheat. The wheat and tares grow together until the harvest, the end of the world. Then the tares are bound in bundles to be burned, and the wheat is gathered into the garner of God. 'Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.' Then 'the Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 75.

11. To what glorious privilege will the righteous at last be welcomed? Matt. 13:43.

NOTE.—"We are homeward bound. He who loved us so much as to die for us hath builded for us a city. The new Jerusalem is our place of rest. There will be no sadness in the City of God. No wail of sorrow, no dirge of crushed hopes and buried affections, will evermore be heard. Soon the garments of heaviness will be changed for the wedding garment. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God.

"It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence, all the trials and sufferings of this life will be as nothingness. . . . Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 287.

12. How does John the revelator speak of the great privilege of the redeemed when the curse has been removed? Rev. 22:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Whatever crosses they have been called to bear, whatever losses they have sustained, whatever persecution they have suffered, even to the loss of their temporal life, the children of God are amply recompensed. 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.' "—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 180.

Lesson 13, for December 28, 1963

The Judgment

MEMORY VERSE: "Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet." Isa. 28:17.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapters 28 and 42; "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 7; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

LESSON AIM: To make clear the nature and purpose of the great final judgment.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-6.	☐
Monday: Questions 7, 8; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-12.	☐
Wednesday: Read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Coming Judgment

1. The certainty of the judgment. Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10.
2. Every work to be brought into judgment. Eccl. 12:14.
3. The judgment scene described. Dan. 7:9, 10.
4. The judgment-hour message to precede second coming. Rev. 14: 6, 7.
5. Law of God—the standard of judgment. James 2:10-12.
6. Obedient and faithful ones justified. Rom. 5:1; Matt. 7:21-27.

II. The Judged and Judgment-Bound

7. Noah's generation characterized by careless unconcern. Matt. 24:38, 39.
8. Urgent message to those lingering in sin. 2 Cor. 6:2.

III. God's Strange Act

9. Earth to be purified by fire. Rev. 20:9, 15.
10. Sin and sinners to be totally destroyed. Mal. 4:1.
11. Righteousness to reign forever. 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:27.
12. Diligence and readiness essential to Christians. 2 Peter 3:14, 17, 18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The investigative judgment is now in progress. At the same time, in this crisis hour, a strange lethargy seems to have gripped humanity. The human family rushes in careless unconcern toward the day of final reckoning. Let us warn, watch, and be ready.

The Coming Judgment

1. What does the apostle Paul say about the certainty of the judgment? Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10.

NOTE.—All of us, both weak and strong, are to stand before the great tribunal. "On that great day men will not only put in an appearance at the bar of justice, but will stand revealed as to what manner of persons they are."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 5:10.

2. How inclusive will the work of the judgment be? Eccl. 12:14.

NOTE.—"Every man's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel."—*The Great Controversy,* page 482.

"There is a world to be warned. To us has been entrusted this work."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 43.

"As Christ's ministration was to consist of two great divisions, each occupying a period of time and having a distinctive place in the heavenly sanctuary, so the typical ministration consisted of two divisions, the daily and the yearly service, and to each a department of the tabernacle was devoted."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 357.

3. How does the prophet Daniel describe the judgment scene? Dan. 7:9, 10.

NOTE.—"Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered 'according to his works.' The Ancient of Days is God the Father. . . . It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment. And holy angels as ministers and witnesses, in number 'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,' attend this great tribunal."—*The Great Controversy,* page 479.

4. What proclamation is to precede the return of Christ to our world? Rev. 14:6, 7. Compare Mark 16:15.

NOTE.—"In the prophecy this warning of the judgment, with its connected messages, is followed by the coming of the Son of man in the clouds of heaven. The proclamation of the judgment is an announcement of Christ's second coming as at hand. And this proclamation is called the everlasting gospel. Thus the preaching of Christ's second coming, the announcement of its nearness, is shown to be an essential part of the gospel message."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 227, 228.

5. By what standard are men being measured in the judgment? James 2:10-12.

6. What twofold experience is necessary in order to meet divine approval? Rom. 5:1; Matt. 7:21-27.

The Judged and Judgment-Bound

7. What strange unconcern characterized the time of Noah? With what consequence? Matt. 24:38, 39.

NOTE.—"As the time of their probation was closing, the antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities. Those who possessed influence and power were bent on keeping the minds of the people engrossed with mirth and pleasure, lest any should be impressed by the last solemn warning. . . .

"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."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 103, 104.

"When the professed people of God are uniting with the world, living as they live, and joining with them in forbidden pleasure; when the luxury of the world becomes the luxury of the church; when the marriage bells are chiming, and all are looking forward to many years of worldly prosperity—then, suddenly as the lightning flashes from the heavens, will come the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 338, 339.

8. What urgent message is addressed to sinners while mercy lingers? 2 Cor. 6:2.

NOTE.—"Is not this promise broad and deep and full? Can you ask more? Will

you not allow the Lord right here to erect a standard for you against the enemy? Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. He desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from the soul; but you must not permit him to do this. Exercise faith; fight the good fight of faith; wrestle with these doubts; become acquainted with the promises."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 629.

God's Strange Act

9. How will the earth be purified from sin and sinners? Rev. 20:9, 15.

NOTE.—"This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is 'alienated from the life of God.' Christ says, 'All they that hate Me love death.' Eph. 4:18; Prov. 8:36. God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 764.

10. How complete will this work of destruction be? How many sinners will survive it? Mal. 4:1.

NOTE.—"In the mad strife of their own fierce passions, and by the awful outpouring of God's unmingled wrath, fall the wicked inhabitants of the earth—priests, rulers, and people, rich and poor, high and low. . . . At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. . . .

"The whole earth appears like a desolate wilderness. The ruins of cities and villages destroyed by the earthquake, uprooted trees, ragged rocks thrown out by the sea or torn out of the earth itself, are scattered over its surface, while vast caverns mark the spot where the mountains have been rent from their foundations."—*The Great Controversy*, page 657.

11. What assurance is given that sin will not lift its head again to plague the human family and that righteousness will reign forever? 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:27.

NOTE.—"Satan's work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God's creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. 'The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing.' "—*The Great Controversy*, page 673.

12. What timely counsel is given those who know what God has revealed about the future? 2 Peter 3: 14, 17, 18.

NOTE.—"It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. 'Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.' We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord's appearing. The world is in darkness. 'But ye, brethren,' says Paul, 'are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.' It is ever God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 215, 216.

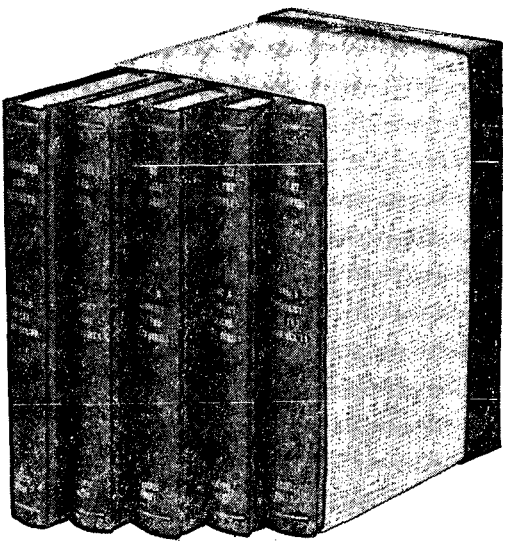
Every Human Being Travels the Long Road

Portrayed by Ellen G. White in THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES set of books. It began in the ancient times of the PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, progressed through the times of the PROPHETS AND KINGS, was gloriously illuminated by THE DESIRE OF AGES, witnessed THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, and will finally end in THE GREAT CONTROVERSY, with a glimpse into the future.

This set of five volumes provides an invaluable guide to a greater, finer, and better life while pointing out the lessons that history gives.

This remarkable set of books greatly enhances:

★ *Study*
★ *Inspiration*
★ *Dedication*



Five-volume set, cloth, $23.50

Five-volume set, deluxe, $28.50

Order from your helpful Book and Bible House.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 21, 1963

Southern African Division

Of all countries in the world today, Africa's are probably undergoing the greatest change. Not only is the map of this continent changing, but many newly independent nations have emerged from the political, economic, social, and educational upheavals which accompany such radical change.

Among the emerging peoples, education and improved living standards are dominant aspirations. With many millions of dollars being made available by overseas governments annually, local governments have been able to increase the salaries and improve the living conditions of their employees. Business concerns have been forced to keep pace with the governments' trends, and mission organizations have had to struggle along behind, doing the best they can with the funds available. In due course our members should be able to do more to support the work in their fields, but at present their earning capacity is still being developed.

That is why we are asking our Sabbath school members around the world to accept the project of improving African workers' housing through the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on December 21.

LESSONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, 1964

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of 1964 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the lessons for the quarter is "Christ in All the Scriptures." The title of the first lesson is "The Attitude of Jesus Toward the Holy Scriptures." The memory verse is Luke 24:27. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Luke 16:31.

Ques. 2. John 5:46, 47.

Ques. 3. Luke 24:27.

Ques. 4. Matt. 4:3, 6, 9.

Ques. 5. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10.

Ques. 6. Deut. 8:3; 6:16, 13, 14.

Ques. 7. John 5:39.

Ques. 8. Matt. 22:45; John 5:46; 8:56.

Ques. 9. Luke 4:16-21.

Ques. 10. Luke 22:37.

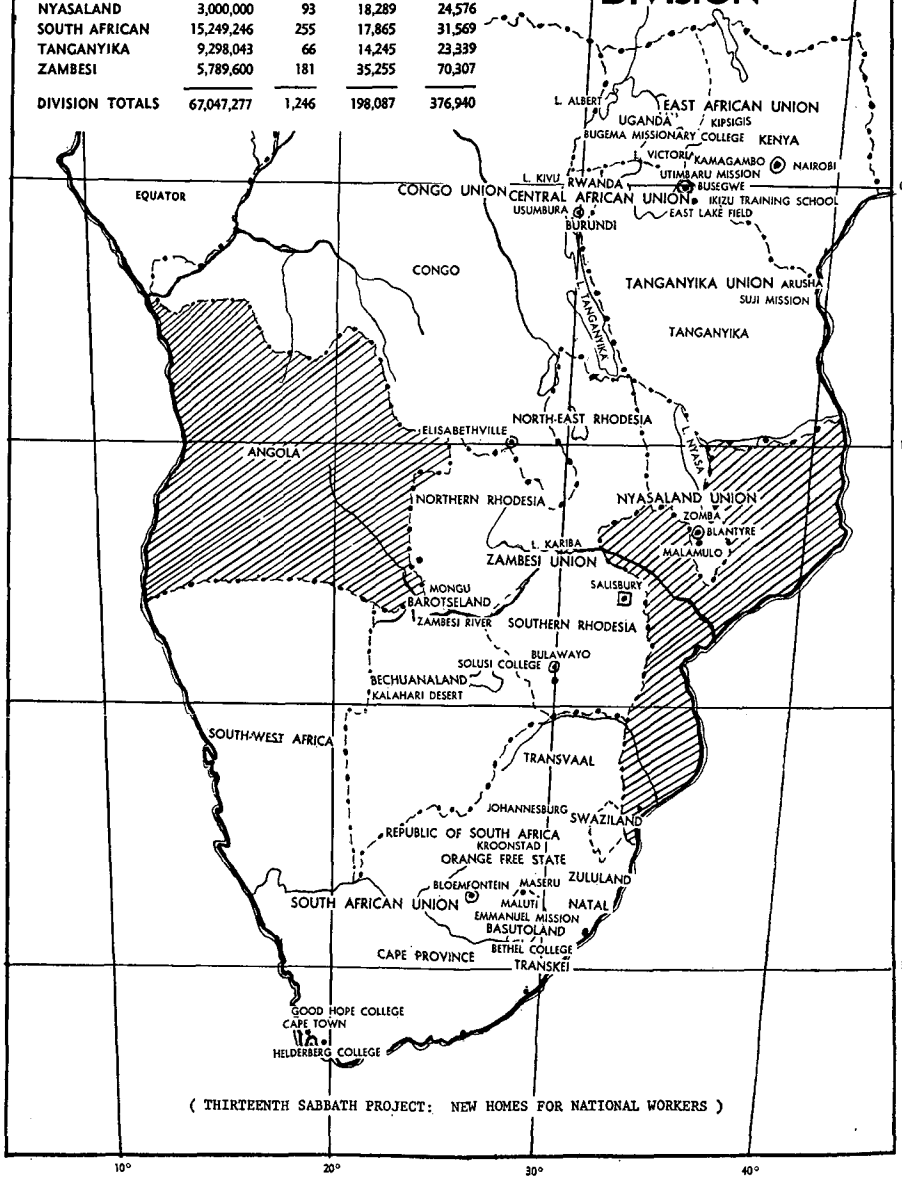
Ques. 11. Matt. 26:31.

Ques. 12. Mark 14:48, 49.

Ques. 13. Luke 24:25, 26.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DIVISION

UNION MISSION	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CH. MEM.	S.S. MEM.
CENTRAL AFRICAN	4,261,933	323	57,475	121,095
CONGO	12,317,326	91	11,477	24,966
EAST AFRICAN	17,131,129	237	43,481	81,088
NYASALAND	3,000,000	93	18,289	24,576
SOUTH AFRICAN	15,249,246	255	17,865	31,569
TANGANYIKA	9,298,043	66	14,245	23,339
ZAMBESI	5,789,600	181	35,255	70,307
DIVISION TOTALS	67,047,277	1,246	198,087	376,940



(THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROJECT: NEW HOMES FOR NATIONAL WORKERS)