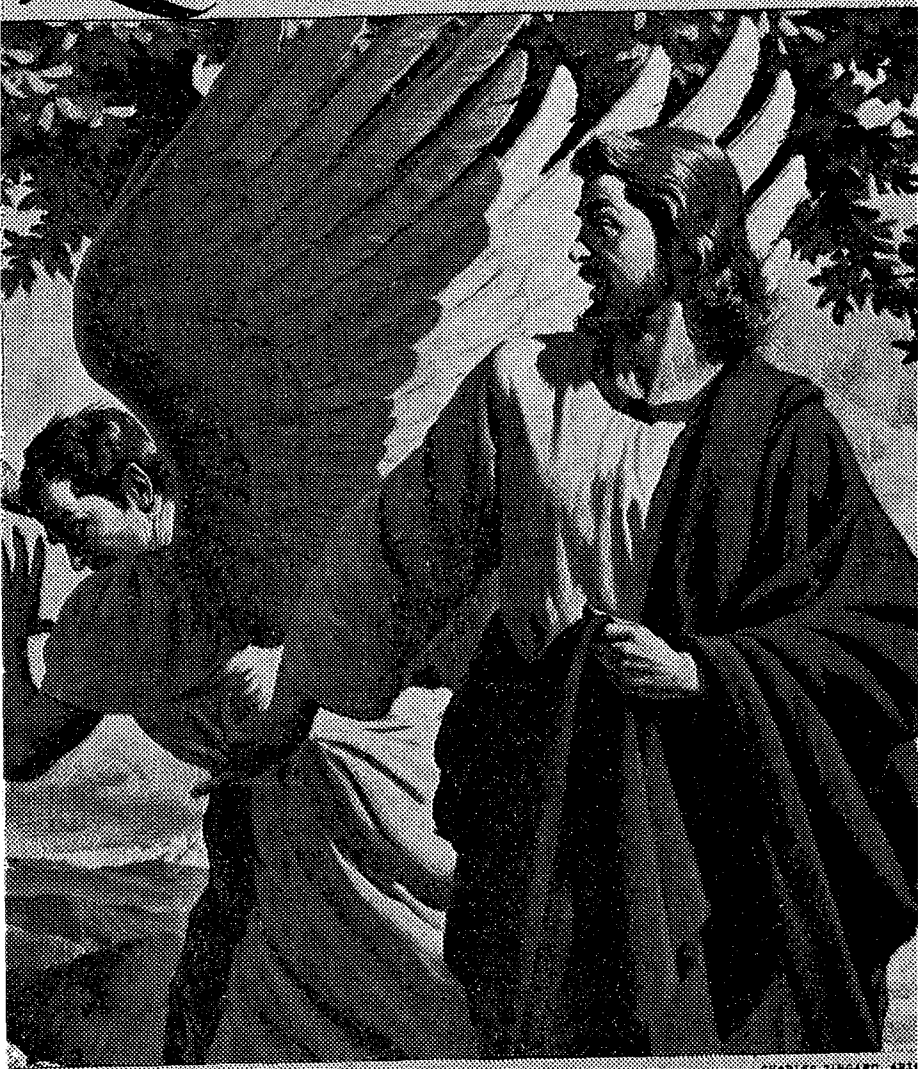
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY



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CHARLES VINGARD, ART

FACING LAST-DAY DECEPTIONS

SENIOR DIVISION, No. 281, THIRD QUARTER, 1965

W. A. Fagal

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

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

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

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. Promises to the Obedient
2. False Arguments for Disobedience
3. Assault on the Character of God
4. Man's Condition in Death
5. Spiritism a Snare
6. The Last Great Deception
7. Attacks on God's Law
8. Attempts to Destroy the Sabbath
9. The Sabbath—Great Test of Loyalty
10. Meeting Attacks on the Bible
11. Stewardship and the Final Crisis
12. Assaults Against the Ordinances
13. Satan's Last Stand

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

FACING LAST-DAY DECEPTIONS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This quarter's lessons will engage the student in a realistic discussion of the general subject of last-day deceptions. Our purpose will be to expose Satan's attempts through the centuries to delude God's people into believing that obedience to God is not important. Satan's attacks upon the church have not diminished in these climactic days when every wind of doctrine is blowing. The enemy is still trying to persuade the members of the church that some of its doctrines are unimportant and that disobedience to God's commands will be excused under certain circumstances. It is possible that the salvation of human souls will depend upon a proper grasp and apprehension of these lessons.

The first lessons consider the question of the importance of obedience and false arguments on behalf of disobedience. Later lessons deal with the enemy's attempts to warp men's minds and lead them to ignore or reject vital truths essential to our redemption.

"Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His Word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority."—*Counsels to Writers and Editors,* page 52.

Lesson 1, for July 3, 1965

Promises to the Obedient

MEMORY VERSE: "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Isaiah 1:19.

STUDY HELPS: "Steps to Christ," chapters, "Faith and Acceptance" and "The Test of Discipleship;" "S.D.A. Bible Commentary."

AIM: To discover the relationship between God's promises and the life of obedience.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading study helps. ☐
Monday: Questions 3-6. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read further from study helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13. ☐
Thursday: Question 14; finish reading study helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ an Example of Obedience

1. Kept Father's commandments. John 15:10.
2. Obedient unto death. Phil. 2:8.

II. Abraham an Example of Obedience

3. Left home and country. Gen. 12:1, 4.
4. Willing to obey God at any cost. Gen. 22:2, 3, 9-13.
5. Received the promise of the seed. Gen. 22:16-18.
6. Faith made obedience possible. Heb. 11:8, 17-19.

III. Relation Between Faith and Obedience

7. Faith and obedience go together. James 2:21-24.
8. Beware of an unbelieving heart. Heb. 3:12, 13.
9. Faith that works by love. Gal. 5:6.

IV. Obedience Necessary

10. Grace makes us obedient. Rom. 1:5.
11. Obedience purifies the soul. 1 Peter 1:22, 23.
12. Priests and Gentiles become obedient. Acts 6:7; Rom. 15:18.
13. Destruction for the disobedient. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
14. Faithful and obedient inherit the land. Isa. 1:19; Heb. 6:10-12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Satan's delusions through the centuries have been aimed at making belief and obedience seem unimportant and unnecessary. The aim of this lesson is to show that faith and obedience have always been associated together in the plan of God. This will be illustrated first in the life of Christ, and then in the life of Abraham. The lesson will then show that faith and obedience go together in the gospel dispensation.

Christ an Example of Obedience

1. What did Christ say of His obedience to the Father's commandments? John 15:10.

NOTE.—"Satan represents God's law of love as a law of selfishness. He declares that it is impossible for us to obey its precepts. The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, leading men to look upon God as the author of sin, and suffering, and death. Jesus was to unveil this deception. As one of us He was to give an example of obedience. For this He took upon Himself our nature, and passed through our experiences. 'In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren.' Heb. 2:17. If we had to bear anything which Jesus did not endure, then upon this point Satan would represent the power of God as insufficient for us. Therefore Jesus was 'in all points tempted like as we are.' Heb. 4:15. He endured every trial to which we are subject. And He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to us. As man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength given Him from God. . . . His life testifies that it is possible for us also to obey the law of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 24.

2. How full and complete was Christ's obedience? Phil. 2:8. Compare Heb. 5:8.

NOTE.—"Satan's rage was great as he saw that all the abuse inflicted upon the Saviour had not forced the least murmur from His lips. Although He had taken upon Him the nature of man, He was sustained by a godlike fortitude, and departed in no particular from the will of His Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 735.

Abraham an Example of Obedience

3. How did Abraham obey a difficult command from God? Gen. 12:1, 4.

NOTE.—"The Lord's call required Abram to make a complete break with the past. He not only had to leave the land of the two rivers, Mesopotamia, in which Ur as well as Haran was situated, but also had to give up family ties and even his father's house, never to return to those of his own blood and race. It was a severe test. Haran and Ur shared the same civilization and standards of living. All this would change immediately when he should leave the land of the two rivers and cross over to Syria and Palestine. Instead of fertile grazing lands he would find a heavily wooded and mountainous country. Instead of living among related and highly civilized Semitic tribes he would be sojourning among racially different Hamitic tribes of a materially lower cultural level.

"It certainly must not have been easy for Abram to sever all ties with his beloved homeland, a land in which he had spent all of his life and which was hallowed by many tender associations. A youth may leave his native land with little regret, but to a man 75 years of age such a decision is not easy."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 12:1.

4. What severe test later came to this man of God, and what did it prove? Gen. 22:2, 3, 9-13.

NOTE.—"At the appointed place they [Abraham and Isaac] built the altar and laid the wood upon it. Then, with trembling voice, Abraham unfolded to his son the divine message. It was with terror and amazement that Isaac learned his fate, but he offered no resistance. He could have escaped his doom, had he chosen to do so; the grief-stricken old man, exhausted with the struggle of those three terrible days, could not have opposed the will of the vigorous youth. But Isaac had been trained from childhood to ready, trusting obedience, and as the purpose of God was opened before him, he yielded a willing submission." —*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 152.

5. In expressing approval of Abraham's dedication and obedience, what precious promise did God make? Gen. 22:16-18.

6. What did Abraham possess that made such obedience possible? Heb. 11:8, 17-19.

NOTE.—"There are many who fail to understand the relation of faith and works. They say, 'Only believe in Christ, and you are safe. You have nothing to do with keeping the law.' But genuine faith will be manifest in obedience."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 153, 154.

Relation Between Faith and Obedience

7. What did James say about Abraham's faith? James 2:21-24.

NOTE.—"There is many a man in the humble walks of life today whom the Lord might designate as He did Abraham: 'The friend of God.' Such men approve that which God approves, and condemn that which He condemns. In their presence even the sinner feels a sense of awe, a restraint; for God is with them, and they are living epistles, known and read of all men. There is a softened tenderness, a dignity, a divine propriety, in their deportment, which gives them power over the hearts of their fellowmen."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 615.

8. What warning and exhortation was given to the Hebrew believers? Heb. 3:12, 13.

9. What is the only kind of faith worthy of the name? Gal. 5:6. Compare Rom. 16:26.

NOTE.—"Some think they have a good degree of faith, when if they have any, it is dead, for it is not sustained by works. 'Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.' Few have that genuine faith which

works by love and purifies the soul. But all who are accounted worthy of everlasting life must obtain a moral fitness for the same."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, pp. 704, 705.

Obedience Necessary

10. For what purpose have we been given grace through Christ? Rom. 1:5. Compare 2 Cor. 10:5.

NOTE.—The purpose of divine grace is not to make it possible for us to break God's law with impunity, as some teach, but to enable us to obey it.

11. What spiritual experience accompanies wholehearted obedience to the truth? 1 Peter 1:22, 23.

NOTE.—"Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: 'They are joined to their idols, let them alone,' and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 187.

12. In New Testament times, what examples are given of the obedience that followed conversion? Acts 6:7; Rom. 15:18.

13. What is said of the final end of the disobedient? 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

14. What is the final reward of those in whose lives faith is combined with obedience? Isa. 1:19; Heb. 6: 10-12.

NOTE.—Faith and patience, willingness and obedience ultimately inherit the promises.

"Here are the promises, plain and definite, rich and full; but they are all upon conditions. If you comply with the conditions, can you not trust the Lord to fulfill His word? Let these blessed promises, set in the framework of faith, be placed in memory's halls. Not one of them will fail. All that God hath spoken He will do. 'He is faithful that promised.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 630.

Lesson 2, for July 10, 1965

False Arguments for Disobedience

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapters 3, 4; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To examine Satan's arguments for disobedience as they contrast with the unerring counsel of the True Witness.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5, 6; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7, 8; read further from study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-12.	☐
Thursday: Questions 13, 14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. "God Does Not Really Mean What He Says"

1. "Thou shalt surely die." Gen. 2:16, 17.
2. Ye shall not surely die. Gen. 3:4, 5.
3. Result of deception. Gen. 3:6, 7.
4. Consequences of disobedience. Gen. 3:14-19; Rom. 5:12.

II. "A Substitute Is Just as Good"

5. Cain and Abel. Gen. 4:3-5.
6. Consequence of Cain's disobedience. Gen. 4:8.

III. "Disobedience Will Actually Aid God"

7. Instruction regarding holy things. Num. 4:15.
8. Uzzah's disregard of instruction. 2 Sam. 6:6, 7.

IV. "Disobedience Is All Right if It Brings Greater Honor to God"

9. God's command regarding Amalekites. 1 Sam. 15:2, 3.
10. Saul's disobedience and excuse. 1 Sam. 15:9, 15.
11. Importance of unquestioning obedience. 1 Sam. 15:22.

V. "Obedience Is Not Always Possible"

12. Israelites thought it impossible to subdue Canaan. Num. 13:32, 33; 14:2-4, 28-31.

VI. "Obey Men for Fear of Personal Harm"

13. Saul's excuse. 1 Sam. 15:24.
14. The Christian's guiding principle: Acts 5:29; Rev. 2:10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One basic delusion Satan has urged upon men for centuries is that obedience to God in all things is not really desirable or necessary. He has used many arguments to make his point sound conclusive, and many of these are being repeated by men today. Every conscientious Christian who recognizes their origin is in a position to reject them intelligently. The section headings of this lesson give some of the arguments that have been used in favor of disobedience.

"God Does Not Really Mean What He Says"

1. What rights did God give to our first parents in Eden, and what did He withhold from them? What would be the result of disobedience? Gen. 2: 16, 17.

NOTE.—"Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience. They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. At the very beginning of man's existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the

foundation of Satan's fall. The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our first parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 48, 49.

2. What was Satan's first argument in favor of disobedience? Gen. 3:4, 5.

NOTE.—"If Satan's first question was intended to arouse doubt, as indeed it was, the statement with which he followed it up had the deceptive appearance of an authoritative declaration. But therein truth was most cleverly mixed with falsehood. This assertion contradicted God's explicit command in the most emphatic manner of which Hebrew is capable, and which may be rendered, 'Ye will positively not die.' Satan challenged the truthfulness of God's word by an unconcealed lie, for which reason Christ was right in calling him the father of lies (John 8:44)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:4.

3. What did Eve do as the result of being deceived, and with what result? Gen. 3:6, 7.

NOTE.—"Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 55.

4. What were the fearful consequences of disobedience? Gen. 3:14-19; Rom. 5:12.

"A Substitute Is Just as Good"

5. How did God acknowledge Abel's offering and show disapproval for Cain's substitute? Gen. 4:3-5. Compare Heb. 11:4.

NOTE.—"These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to prove whether they would believe and obey the word of God. They were acquainted with the provision made for the salvation of man, and understood the system of offerings which God had ordained. They knew that in these offerings they were to express faith in the Saviour whom the offerings typified, and at the same time to acknowledge their total dependence on Him for pardon; and they knew that by thus conforming to the divine plan for their redemption, they were giving proof of their obedience to the will of God. Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their faith in the blood of Christ as the promised atonement by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 71.

6. What was the unhappy consequence of Cain's willful disobedience? Gen. 4:8.

NOTE.—"Cain hated and killed his brother, not for any wrong that Abel had done, but 'because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.' 1 John 3:12. So in all ages the wicked have hated those who were better than themselves. Abel's life of obedience and unswerving faith was to Cain a perpetual reproof. 'Everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.' John 3:20. The brighter the heavenly light that is reflected from the character of God's faithful servants, the more clearly the sins of the ungodly are revealed, and the more determined will be their efforts to destroy those who disturb their peace."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 74.

"Disobedience Will Actually Aid God"

7. What instruction had God given about moving the ark of the covenant? Num. 4:15.

"Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 27.

NOTE.—"Through Moses the Lord had given special instruction concerning the transportation of the ark. None but the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were to touch it, or even to look upon it uncovered. The divine direction was, 'The sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.' Numbers 4:15."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 705.

8. Despite this warning, what did Uzzah presume to do, and with what result? 2 Sam. 6:6, 7.

NOTE.—"Upon Uzzah rested the greater guilt of presumption. Transgression of God's law had lessened his sense of its sacredness, and with unconfessed sins upon him he had, in face of the divine prohibition, presumed to touch the symbol of God's presence. God can accept no partial obedience, no lax way of treating His commandments. By the judgment upon Uzzah He designed to impress upon all Israel the importance of giving strict heed to His requirements. Thus the death of that one man, by leading the people to repentance, might prevent the necessity of inflicting judgments upon thousands."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 706.

"Disobedience Is All Right if It Brings Greater Honor to God"

9. What command did God give King Saul regarding the Amalekites? 1 Sam. 15:2, 3.

NOTE.—"The Amalekites had been the first to make war upon Israel in the wilderness; and for this sin, together with their defiance of God and their debasing idolatry, the Lord, through Moses, had pronounced sentence upon them. By divine direction the history of their cruelty toward Israel had been recorded, with the command, 'Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.' Deuteronomy 25:19. For four hundred years the execution of this sentence had been deferred; but the Amalekites had not turned from their sins. The Lord knew that this wicked people would, if it were possible, blot out His people and His worship from the earth. Now the time had come for the sentence, so long delayed, to be executed."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 627, 628.

10. How did Saul and the people disobey this command, and with what explanation? 1 Sam. 15:9, 15.

NOTE.—"Ambitious to heighten the honor of his triumphal return by the presence of a royal captive, Saul ventured to imitate the customs of the nations around him and spared Agag, the fierce and warlike king of the Amalekites. The people reserved for themselves the finest of the flocks, herds, and beasts of burden, excusing their sin on the ground that the cattle were reserved to be offered as sacrifices to the Lord. It was their purpose, however, to use these merely as a substitute, to save their own cattle."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 629.

11. In the divinely inspired rebuke which followed, what great principle did Samuel enunciate? 1 Sam. 15:22.

NOTE.—"When, in direct violation of God's command, Saul proposed to present a sacrifice of that which God had devoted to destruction, open contempt was shown for the divine authority. The service would have been an insult to Heaven. Yet with the sin of Saul and its result before us, how many are pursuing a similar course. While they refuse to believe and obey some requirement of the Lord, they persevere in offering up to God their formal services of religion. There is no response of the Spirit of God to such service. No matter how

zealous men may be in their observance of religious ceremonies, the Lord cannot accept them if they persist in willful violation of one of His commands."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 634.

"Obedience Is Not Always Possible"

12. What was the result of the evil report given by the ten spies? Num. 13:32, 33; 14:2-4, 28-31. Compare Heb. 3:18, 19.

NOTE.—"The decree that Israel was not to enter Canaan for forty years was a bitter disappointment to Moses and Aaron, Caleb and Joshua; yet without a murmur they accepted the divine decision. But those who had been complaining of God's dealings with them, and declaring that they would return to Egypt, wept and mourned greatly when the blessings which they had despised were taken from them. They had complained at nothing, and now God gave them cause to weep. Had they mourned for their sin when it was faithfully laid before them, this sentence would not have been pronounced; but they mourned for the judgment; their sorrow was not repentance, and could not secure a reversing of their sentence."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 392.

"Obey Men for Fear of Personal Harm"

13. What excuse did Saul give for his disobedience? 1 Sam. 15:24.

14. To what extent does God expect His people to be faithful? Acts 5:29; Rev. 2:10.

NOTE.—"It is better to die than to sin; better to want than to defraud; better to hunger than to lie."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 495.

"Choose poverty, reproach, separation from friends, or any suffering rather than to defile the soul with sin. Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law should be the motto of every Christian."—*Ibid.,* vol. 5, p. 147.

Lesson 3, for July 17, 1965

Assault on the Character of God

MEMORY VERSE: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Ezek. 33:11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 33; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To examine Satan's attacks on God's character in which he attributes to God the cruelties of his own nature, and to study how to meet those attacks.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3; begin reading study helps. ☐
Monday: Questions 4-7. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; read further from study helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13. ☐
Thursday: Finish study helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. God's Character

1. Attributes of God. 1 John 4:8; Ex. 34:5-7.
2. Good to all. Ps. 145:9; Matt. 5:44, 45.
3. Attitude toward wicked. Ezek. 33:11.

II. Fate of the Wicked

4. The unrepentant will perish. Luke 13:3.
5. The final end of sinners. Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:4; Rev. 21:8.
6. Complete destruction to sinners. Mal. 4:1.
7. Wicked not now in hell. 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7; Matt. 25:31-34, 41, 46.
8. Second death after the millennium. Rev. 20:5, 9, 14.
9. Reduced to ashes. Mal. 4:3; 2 Peter 2:6.

III. Satan's "Opposite Error"

10. Belief that God of love cannot destroy anyone.
11. God will not save the unrepentant. Ex. 34:7; Isa. 3:10, 11.
12. God's "strange" act. Isa. 28:21.

IV. God's Plan for the Obedient

13. God's promise to those who obey. Rev. 22:14.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels."—*The Great Controversy,* page 536.

God's Character

1. What are some of the attributes ascribed to God? 1 John 4:8; Ex. 34:5-7.

NOTE.—"After the Fall, Satan bade his angels make a special effort to inculcate the belief in man's natural immortality; and having induced the people to receive this error, they were to lead them on to conclude that the sinner would live in eternal misery. Now the prince of darkness, working through his agents, represents God as a revengeful tyrant, declaring that He plunges into hell all those who do not please Him, and causes them ever to feel His wrath; and that while they suffer unutterable anguish and writhe in the eternal flames, their Creator looks down upon them with satisfaction."—*The Great Controversy,* page 534.

2. How great is God's goodness, and how does He demonstrate it? Ps. 145:9; Matt. 5:44, 45.

NOTE.—"Satan is seeking to overcome men today, as he overcame our first parents, by shaking their confidence in their Creator and leading them to doubt the wisdom of His government and the justice of His laws. Satan and his emissaries represent God as even worse than themselves, in order to justify their own malignity and rebellion. The great deceiver endeavors to shift his own horrible cruelty of character upon our heavenly Father, that he may cause himself to appear as one greatly wronged by his expulsion from heaven because he would not submit to so unjust a governor. He presents before the world the liberty which they may enjoy under his mild sway, in contrast with the bondage imposed by the stern decrees of Jehovah. Thus he succeeds in luring souls away from their allegiance to God."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 534, 535.

3. What is God's attitude toward the ultimate punishment of the wicked? Ezek. 33:11.

NOTE.—"How repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live. Yet this doctrine has been widely taught and is still embodied in many of the creeds of Christendom. . . .

"Where, in the pages of God's Word, is such teaching to be found? Will the redeemed in heaven be lost to all emotions of pity and compassion, and even to feelings of common humanity? Are these to be exchanged for the indifference of the stoic or the cruelty of the savage? No, no; such is not the teaching of the Book of God. Those who present [such] views . . . may be learned and even honest men, but they are deluded by the sophistry of Satan. He leads them to misconstrue strong expressions of Scripture, giving to the language the coloring of bitterness and malignity which pertains to himself, but not to our Creator. 'As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?' Ezekiel 33:11."—*The Great Controversy,* page 535.

The Fate of the Wicked

4. What will be the fate of those who do not repent? Luke 13:3.

5. What will be the final result of sin? Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:4; Rev. 21:8.

NOTE.—"The theory of eternal torment is one of the false doctrines that constitute the wine of the abomination of Babylon, of which she makes all nations drink. Revelation 14:8; 17:2. That ministers of Christ should have accepted this heresy and proclaimed it from the sacred desk is indeed a mystery. They received it from Rome, as they received the false sabbath. True, it has been taught by great and good men; but the light on this subject had not come to them as it has come to us. They were responsible only for the light which shone in their time; we are accountable for that which shines in our day. If we turn from the testimony of God's Word, and accept false doctrines because our fathers taught them, we fall under the condemnation pronounced upon Babylon; we are drinking of the wine of her abomination."—*The Great Controversy,* page 536.

6. What do the Scriptures teach about how completely the wicked will be destroyed? Mal. 4:1.

NOTE.—"Satan, the root of every sin, and all evil workers, who are his branches, shall be utterly cut off. An end will be made of sin, with all the woe and ruin that have resulted from it. Says the psalmist, 'Thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name forever and ever. O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end.' Psalm 9:5, 6."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 341.

7. When will the wicked suffer the fires of hell? 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7; Matt. 25:31-34, 41, 46.

NOTE.—"And how utterly revolting is the belief that as soon as the breath leaves the body the soul of the impenitent is consigned to the flames of hell! To what depths of anguish must those be plunged who see their friends passing to the grave unprepared, to enter upon an eternity of woe and sin! Many have been driven to insanity by this harrowing thought."—*The Great Controversy,* page 545.

8. Describe the circumstances of the destruction of the wicked. Rev. 20: 5, 9, 14.

NOTE.—"In mercy to the world, God blotted out its wicked inhabitants in Noah's time. In mercy He destroyed the corrupt

dwellers in Sodom. Through the deceptive power of Satan the workers of iniquity obtain sympathy and admiration, and are thus constantly leading others to rebellion. It was so in Cain's and in Noah's day, and in the time of Abraham and Lot; it is so in our time. It is in mercy to the universe that God will finally destroy the rejecters of His grace."—*The Great Controversy,* page 543.

9. To what will the fires of the last days reduce the wicked? Mal. 4:3; 2 Peter 2:6.

Satan's "Opposite Error"

10. To what belief has Satan led many who are repelled by the popular teachings of eternal torment?

ANSWER.—"A large class to whom the doctrine of eternal torment is revolting are driven to the opposite error. They see that the Scriptures represent God as a being of love and compassion, and they cannot believe that He will consign His creatures to the fires of an eternally burning hell. But holding that the soul is naturally immortal, they see no alternative but to conclude that all mankind will finally be saved."—*The Great Controversy,* page 537.

11. How can we meet the argument that God will not actually punish the unrepenant? Ex. 34:7; Isa. 3:10, 11.

NOTE.—"Many regard the threatenings of the Bible as designed merely to frighten men into obedience, and not to be literally fulfilled. Thus the sinner can live in selfish pleasure, disregarding the requirements of God, and yet expect to be finally received into His favor. Such a doctrine, presuming upon God's mercy, but ignoring His justice, pleases the carnal heart and emboldens the wicked in their iniquity."—*The Great Controversy,* page 537.

12. What did Isaiah say of God's act of destroying sin and sinners? Isa. 28:21.

NOTE.—"God has given in His Word decisive evidence that He will punish the transgressors of His law. Those who flatter themselves that He is too merciful to execute justice upon the sinner, have only to look to the cross of Calvary. The death of the spotless Son of God testifies that 'the wages of sin is death,' that every violation of God's law must receive its just retribution. Christ the sinless became sin for man. He bore the guilt of transgression, and the hiding of His Father's face, until His heart was broken and His life crushed out. All this sacrifice was made that sinners might be redeemed. In no other way could man be freed from the penalty of sin. And every soul that refuses to become a partaker of the atonement provided at such a cost must bear in his own person the guilt and punishment of transgression."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 539, 540.

God's Plan for the Obedient

13. What promise does God make to all who obey Him? Rev. 22:14.

NOTE.—"Those who accept the teachings of God's Word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet, 'eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.' 1 Corinthians 2:9. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it."—*The Great Controversy,* page 675.

"Give what you can now, and as you cooperate with Christ, your hand will open to impart still more. And God will refill your hand, that the treasure of truth may be taken to many souls. He will give to you that you may give to others."—*Our High Calling,* page 199.

Man's Condition in Death

MEMORY VERSE: "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5:12.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 67; "Selected Messages," b. 1, pp. 297, 298; b. 2, pp. 34, 250, 254, 256, 261; "Testimonies," vol. 4, p. 336; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To examine one of the major delusions of Satan in the light of the teachings of Scripture.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-9.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 10, 11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Creation of Man

1. Steps in formation of man. Gen. 2:7.
2. Men and animals have the same "breath of life." Gen. 7:21, 22; Eccl. 3:19.
3. The "spirit" returns to God. Eccl. 12:7.

II. The Devil's First Lie

4. "Ye shall not surely die." Gen. 3:3, 4.
5. "Ye shall be as gods." Gen. 3:5.

III. Man a Mortal Being

6. Man's status when created. Heb. 2:6, 7; Luke 20:35, 36.
7. Excluded from the tree of life. Gen. 3:22-24.
8. Man is now mortal. 1 Tim. 6:15, 16.
9. Eternal life now is conditional. 1 John 5:12.

IV. The State of Man in Death

10. The dead are asleep. 1 Thess. 4:13.
11. No part in earthly things. Ps. 146: 4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10.

V. The Resurrection Hope

12. Christ's promise. John 5:28, 29; 11:25.
13. No hope for the dead except for the plan of a resurrection. 1 Cor. 15: 16-19.
14. The resurrection takes place at the second advent. 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The devil's first delusion centered around whether or not a man who sinned would really die. Satan directly contradicted God on this matter and made his own claims. He assured Eve that instead of sleeping the sleep of death she would know far more than she had ever known before and would live forever, like God Himself. In varying forms this delusion, "Ye shall not surely die," spoken by the great deceiver, has been the basis of every heathen religion and apostate form of Christianity.

The Creation of Man

1. What steps did God follow in the creation of man? Gen. 2:7. Compare Job 33:4.

NOTE.—"When God had made man in His image, the human form was perfect in all its arrangements, but it was without life. Then a personal, self-existing God breathed into that form the breath of life, and man became a living, breathing, intelligent being. All parts of the human organism were put in action. The heart, the arteries, the veins, the tongue, the hands, the feet, the senses, the perceptions of the mind—all began their work, and all were placed under law. Man became a living soul."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 264.

2. How do we know that this "breath of life" did not constitute man's mind or intelligence? Gen. 7: 21, 22; Eccl. 3:19.

NOTE.—"From the Source of all life the life-giving principle entered the lifeless body of Adam. The agency by which the spark of life was transferred to his body is said to be the 'breath' of God. . . . Imparted to man, the 'breath' is equivalent to his life; it is life itself (Isa. 2:22). At death there is 'no breath [*neshamah,* life] left in him' (1 Kings 17:17). This 'breath of life' in man differs in no way from the 'breath of life' in animals, for all receive their life from God (Gen. 7:21, 22; Eccl. 3:19). It cannot therefore be the mind or intelligence."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 2:7.

3. What reversal of the process of creation takes place at death? Eccl. 12:7. Compare Job 27:3.

NOTE.—The Hebrew noun rendered into English as "spirit" in Eccl. 12:7 is *rûach,* a term employed 377 times in the Old Testament, but never to denote an intelligent human entity capable of existence apart from the physical human body. That which returns to God when a man dies, whether he be good or bad, is simply the life principle that God imparts to both man and beast.

The Devil's First Lie

4. Speaking through the serpent to Eve, how did Satan directly contradict God? Gen. 3:3, 4. Compare chapter 2:17.

NOTE.—"By partaking of this tree, he [the serpent] declared, they would attain to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge. He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. And he insinuated that the Lord jealously desired to withhold it from them, lest they should be exalted to equality with Himself. It was because of its wonderful properties, imparting wisdom and power, that He had prohibited them from tasting or even touching it. The tempter intimated that the divine warning was not to be actually fulfilled; it was designed merely to intimidate them. . . .

"Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. He tempts men to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 54.

5. What did Satan assure Eve would be the result of disobedience to God's command? Gen. 3:5.

NOTE.—"The same word translated in the KJV 'gods,' *'elohim,* is rendered 'God' in vs. 1, 3, and 5. The translators of the KJV here followed the LXX [Septuagint] and the Vulgate. The correct rendering is, 'Ye shall be as God.' This reveals most sharply the blasphemous nature of Satan's words (see Isa. 14:12-14) and the full gravity of his deception."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gen. 3:5.

Man a Mortal Being

6. What was man's status in the original order of creation? How is this to be changed after the resurrection? Heb. 2:6, 7; Luke 20:35, 36.

NOTE.—Man is now a little lower than the angels, but after the resurrection will be equal to the angels. He will never be equal to God, as Satan claimed.

"There are men today who express their belief that there will be marriages and births in the new earth; but those who believe the Scriptures cannot accept such doctrines. The doctrine that children will be born in the new earth is not a part of the 'sure word of prophecy.' 2 Peter 1:19. The words of Christ are too plain to be misunderstood. They should forever settle the question of marriages and births in the new earth. Neither those who shall be raised from the dead, nor those who shall be translated without seeing death, will marry or be given in marriage. They will be as the angels of God, members of the royal family.

"I would say to those who hold views contrary to this plain declaration of Christ, Upon such matters silence is eloquence. It is presumption to indulge in suppositions and theories regarding matters that God has not made known to us in His Word. We need not enter into speculation regarding our future state."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, pp. 172, 173.

7. To prevent man from becoming an immortal sinner, what precaution did God take? Gen. 3:22-24.

NOTE.—"It was Satan's plan that Adam and Eve should by disobedience incur God's displeasure; and then, if they failed to obtain forgiveness, he hoped that they would eat of the tree of life, and thus perpetuate an existence of sin and misery. But after man's fall, holy angels were immediately commissioned to guard the tree of life. Around these angels flashed beams of light having the appearance of a glittering sword. None of the family of Adam were permitted to pass that barrier to partake of the life-giving fruit; hence there is not an immortal sinner."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 60.

8. Who only has immortality now? What, then, is man's present condition? 1 Tim. 6:15, 16. Compare 1 Tim. 1:17.

NOTE.—"The Word of God nowhere teaches that the soul of man is immortal. Immortality is an attribute of God only."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 344.

9. In what sense does the Christian now have eternal life? 1 John 5:12. Compare Rom. 2:7.

NOTE.—" 'In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.' John 1:4. It is not physical life that is here specified, but immortality, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. 'I lay it down of Myself' (John 10:18), He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ. He cannot earn it; it is given him as a free gift if he will believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. 'This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.' John 17:3. This is the open fountain of life for the world."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, pp. 296, 297.

The State of Man in Death

10. How are the dead in Christ described? 1 Thess. 4:13. Compare Job 14:12.

NOTE.—"Christ represents death as a sleep to His believing children. Their life is hid with Christ in God, and until the

last trump shall sound those who die will sleep in Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 527.

11. What do the dead have to do with the affairs of earthly life? Ps. 146:4; Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10. Compare Job 14:21.

The Resurrection Hope

12. What wonderful promise did the Saviour give concerning a future life? John 5:28, 29; 11:25.

13. What would be the fate of the dead were it not for the resurrection? 1 Cor. 15:16-19.

14. When will the resurrection of the righteous dead take place? 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

NOTE.—"The voice that cried from the cross, 'It is finished,' was heard among the dead. It pierced the walls of sepulchers, and summoned the sleepers to arise. Thus will it be when the voice of Christ shall be heard from heaven. That voice will penetrate the graves and unbar the tombs, and the dead in Christ shall arise. At the Saviour's resurrection a few graves were opened, but at His second coming all the precious dead shall hear His voice, and shall come forth to glorious, immortal life. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the world to come."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 787.

Lesson 5, for July 31, 1965

Spiritism a Snare

MEMORY VERSE: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 34; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To discover the intelligence behind all spiritistic manifestations, and how to escape his snares.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Spiritism in Ancient Israel

1. God's warning against wizards. Lev. 19:31.
2. God's attitude toward sorcerers. Jer. 27:9, 10.
3. Moses' counsel regarding necromancers. Deut. 18:9-12.
4. The law in Israel against spirit mediums. Ex. 22:18; Lev. 20:27.

II. The Power Behind Spiritism

5. Spirits of devils working miracles. Rev. 16:14; 2 Cor. 11:14, 15.
6. Satan wars against last-day Christians. Rev. 12:12.
7. Satan's angels support him. Mark 5:9.

III. Last-Day Delusions

8. A warning for God's people today. 1 Tim. 4:1.
9. The end of those deceived by "witchcraft." Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8.
10. Modern signs and wonders. Rev. 13:13, 14; 2 Thess. 2:9, 10.

IV. Testing the Spirits

11. "Try the spirits." 1 John 4:1.
12. The standard. Isa. 8:20.
13. Signs and wonders not a decisive test. Deut. 13:1-4.
14. Our attitude toward consulting with familiar spirits. Isa. 8:19, 20.

THE LESSON

Introduction

If the dead actually live on in a state of godlike wisdom and power, as Satan would have us believe, then the next logical step would be to believe that they can communicate with us.

Spiritists claim that the conversation between Eve and the serpent in the Garden of Eden was the first spirit séance. The serpent was indeed the medium, but the voice and the intelligence were those of Satan.

Spiritism in Ancient Israel

1. What warning did God give ancient Israel against trying to communicate with the dead? Lev. 19:31.

NOTE.—A "wizard" was a man reputed to have special knowledge concerning the unseen world gained by supposedly consulting the dead. A "familiar spirit" was the demon attendant of a particular spirit medium.

"Nearly all forms of ancient sorcery and witchcraft were founded upon a belief in communion with the dead. Those who practiced the arts of necromancy claimed to have intercourse with departed spirits, and to obtain through them a knowledge of future events. . . .

"This same belief in communion with the dead formed the cornerstone of heathen idolatry. The gods of the heathen were believed to be the deified spirits of departed heroes. Thus the religion of the heathen was a worship of the dead."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 684.

2. What was God's attitude toward the sorcerers and why? Jer. 27:9, 10.

NOTE.—A "sorcerer" was one who used witchcraft or employed powers gained from the assistance and control of evil spirits.

3. What was Moses' counsel to Israel before their entrance into Canaan? Deut. 18:9-12.

NOTE.—A "necromancer" was one who purported to communicate with the dead and who performed magic through their supposed powers.

4. What was the law in Israel concerning spirit mediums? Ex. 22:18; Lev. 20:27.

NOTE.—"The work of dealing with familiar spirits was pronounced an abomination to the Lord, and was solemnly forbidden under penalty of death. Leviticus 19:31; 20:27. The very name of witchcraft is now held in contempt. The claim that men can hold intercourse with evil spirits is regarded as a fable of the Dark Ages. But spiritualism, which numbers its converts by hun-

dreds of thousands, yea, by millions, which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches, and has found favor in legislative bodies, and even in the courts of kings—this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old."—*The Great Controversy,* page 556.

The Power Behind Spiritism

5. What power is behind the spiritistic deceptions of the last days? Rev. 16:14; 2 Cor. 11:14, 15.

NOTE.—"Satan has taken advantage of these popular fables to hide himself. He comes to poor, deceived mortals through modern spiritualism, which places no bounds to the carnally minded, and, if carried out, separates families, creates jealousy and hatred, and gives liberty to the most degrading propensities. The world knows but little as yet of the corrupting influence of spiritualism."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 343.

6. How is Satan said to war against God's people? Rev. 12:12.

NOTE.—"God alone can limit the power of Satan. He [Satan] is going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it. He is not off his watch for a single moment, through fear of losing an opportunity to destroy souls. It is important that God's people understand this, that they may escape his snares. Satan is preparing his deceptions, that in his last campaign against the people of God they may not understand that it is he."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 341.

7. How did the demons that possessed the men of Gadara describe themselves? Mark 5:9.

NOTE.—"The fact that men have been possessed with demons, is clearly stated in the New Testament. . . .

"A striking example of their number, power, and malignity, and also of the power and mercy of Christ, is given in the Scripture account of the healing of the demoniacs at Gadara. Those wretched maniacs, spurning all restraint, writhing, foaming, raging, were filling the air with their cries, doing violence to themselves, and endangering all who should approach them. Their bleeding and disfigured bodies and distracted minds presented a spectacle well pleasing to the prince of darkness. One of the demons controlling the sufferers declared: 'My name is Legion: for we are many.' Mark 5:9. In the Roman army a legion consisted of from three to five thousand men. Satan's hosts also are marshaled in companies, and the single company to which these demons belonged numbered no less than a legion."—*The Great Controversy,* page 514.

Last-Day Delusions

8. What timely warning is given against spiritistic delusions? 1 Tim. 4:1. Compare Matt. 24:24.

NOTE.—"Just before us is 'the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.' Revelation 3:10. All whose faith is not firmly established upon the Word of God will be deceived and overcome. Satan 'works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness' to gain control of the children of men, and his deceptions will continually increase. But he can gain his object only as men voluntarily yield to his temptations. Those who are earnestly seeking a knowledge of the truth and are striving to purify their souls through obedience, thus doing what they can to prepare for the conflict, will find, in the God of truth, a sure defense."—*The Great Controversy,* page 560.

9. What will be the end of those deceived by witchcraft? Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8.

10. In his last great deceptions, to what signs and wonders will Satan resort? Rev. 13:13, 14; 2 Thess. 2:9, 10.

NOTE.—"Some will be tempted to receive these wonders [of Satan] as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith in God's Word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan's power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 302.

Testing the Spirits

11. Rather than believe every supernatural manifestation to be from God, what are we admonished to do? 1 John 4:1.

NOTE.—"*Spirit.* The apostle bids his hearers to be critical rather than credulous, and not to accept every spiritual activity as coming from God. From this it would appear that they had come under the ministry of men who claimed divine authority for teachings that were really false. The apostle, as a good pastor, warns his flock against specious deception."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 John 4:1.

12. By what standard may we test the origin of every spirit? Isa. 8:20.

NOTE.—"The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested."—*The Great Controversy,* page 593.

13. What attitude should we take toward those who use signs, wonders, and miracles in an endeavor to influence us away from God and His law? Deut. 13:1-4.

NOTE.—"God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living Word: 'It is written.' This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 16.

14. If a Christian is invited to consult with a spiritistic medium, what should he do? Isa. 8: 19, 20.

NOTE.—"There are few who have any just conception of the deceptive power of spiritualism and the danger of coming under its influence. Many tamper with it merely to gratify their curiosity. They have no real faith in it and would be filled with horror at the thought of yielding themselves to the spirits' control. But they venture upon the forbidden ground, and the mighty destroyer exercises his power upon them against their will. Let them once be induced to submit their minds to his direction, and he holds them captive. It is impossible, in their own strength, to break away from the bewitching, alluring spell. Nothing but the power of God, granted in answer to the earnest prayer of faith, can deliver these ensnared souls."—*The Great Controversy,* page 558.

> "The more we bring to God's treasure-house, the more we shall have to bring; for He will open ways before us, increasing our substance."—*Our High Calling,* page 197.

The Last Great Deception

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen." Rev. 1:7.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," pages 622-634; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To present Scripture teaching on how to distinguish between the true and the false.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading study helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Satan's Last Fury

1. As time grows short Satan works harder. Rev. 12:12.
2. Each must stand alone. Ezek. 14:20.

II. The Counterfeit "Second Advent"

3. A warning against impostors. Matt. 24:23-25.
4. Satan as an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14.
5. "Go not forth." Matt. 24:26.
6. The world's reaction to miracles. Acts 8:9, 10.

III. How to Recognize the Genuine

7. Christ's description of His second coming. Matt. 24:27.
8. "Every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30.
9. Resurrection of Christ's persecutors. Dan. 12:2; Matt. 26:64.
10. Reaction of ungodly to the real Christ. Rev. 6:15-17.
11. Resurrection accompanies true second advent. 1 Thess. 4:16.
12. The remnant will recognize the true Christ. Isa. 25:9.

IV. Assurance and Counsel to the Remnant

13. Protection against the great delusion. Rev. 3:10, 11.
14. Be prepared! 1 Thess. 5:1-6.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Scriptures foretell that just before the end of time the devil will make a determined effort to deceive everyone, including even the remnant, by counterfeiting the second advent of our Lord. So completely overwhelming and convincing will be the signs and wonders he then performs that "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." To prepare us against Satan's masterpiece of deception Jesus left on record a pointed warning. See Matt. 24: 23-25.

Satan's Last Fury

1. What is said of Satan's activity as the end approaches? Rev. 12:12.

NOTE.—"Satan believes and trembles. He works. He knows his time is short, and he has come down in great power to do his evil works according to his faith."—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 161.

2. In view of the approaching crisis, what warning does God give His people? Ezek. 14:20.

The Counterfeit "Second Advent"

3. With what words did Christ warn against last-day impostors? Matt. 24:23-25.

NOTE.—"Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures."—*The Great Controversy,* page 624.

4. How does Satan, in person, attempt to deceive the world? 2 Cor. 11:14.

NOTE.—"Satan came as an angel of light in the wilderness of temptation to deceive Christ; and he does not come to man in a hideous form, as he is sometimes represented, but as an angel of light. He will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. What shall we do?—Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe, who is man's worst enemy, yet who claims to be God; and that when Christ shall make His appearance, it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels and thousands of thousands; and that when He shall come, we shall know His voice."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 1105, 1106.

5. How are God's people to react to the report that Christ has returned? Matt. 24:26.

6. How does the world usually react to the miracle-working power of Satan? Acts 8:9, 10.

NOTE.—"When God's presence was finally withdrawn from the Jewish nation, priest and people knew it not. Though under the control of Satan, and swayed by the most horrible and malignant passions, they still regarded themselves as the chosen of God. The ministration in the temple continued; sacrifices were offered upon its polluted altars, and daily the divine blessing was invoked upon a people guilty of the blood of God's dear Son and seeking to slay His ministers and apostles. So when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 615.

How to Recognize the Genuine

7. What unmistakable description of the second advent did Christ give? Matt. 24:27.

8. How many will see the Lord when He appears? Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30.

NOTE.—"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man. In solemn silence they gaze upon it as it draws nearer the earth, becoming lighter and more glorious, until it is a great white cloud, its base a glory like consuming fire, and above it the rainbow of the covenant. Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. . . . No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 640, 641.

9. What special resurrection of certain righteous and certain wicked is mentioned as occurring before the coming of the Lord? Dan. 12:2; Matt. 26:46. Compare Rev. 1:7.

NOTE.—"Graves are opened, and 'many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' Daniel 12:2. All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. 'They also which pierced Him' (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people, are raised to behold Him in His glory and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient."—*The Great Controversy,* page 637.

10. How will the wicked react to the real Christ when He appears? Rev. 6:15-17.

NOTE.—"The derisive jests have ceased. Lying lips are hushed into silence. The clash of arms, the tumult of battle, 'with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood' (Isaiah 9:5), is stilled. Nought now is heard but the voice of prayer and the sound of weeping and lamentation. The cry bursts forth from lips so lately scoffing: 'The great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?' The wicked pray to be buried beneath the rocks of the mountains, rather than meet the face of Him whom they have despised and rejected."—*The Great Controversy,* page 642.

11. What universal event, which Satan cannot duplicate, is to accompany the coming of Jesus? 1 Thess. 4:16.

NOTE.—"Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: 'Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!' Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying: 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' 1 Corinthians 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory."—*The Great Controversy,* page 644.

12. How will the righteous remnant express their joy when the Lord appears in the clouds of heaven? Isa. 25:9.

Assurance and Counsel to the Remnant

13. What aid will God give His people as they pass through the perplexities that precede His coming? Rev. 3:10, 11.

NOTE.—"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His Word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 625, 626.

14. What preparation should God's people make for the difficulties that lie ahead? 1 Thess. 5:1-6.

Lesson 7, for August 14, 1965

Attacks on God's Law

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will magnify the law, and make it honorable." Isa. 42:21.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 36; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To seek strength for personal victory in the final conflict when the supreme test of obedience will be brought to bear upon all.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3; begin reading study helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Satan's Hatred of God's Law

1. Lucifer created perfect. Ezek. 28:15.
2. His character since his fall. 1 John 3:8.
3. The devil cast out of heaven. Isa. 14:12.

II. Christ's Defense of the Law

4. Prophecy regarding Christ and the law. Isa. 42:21.
5. Christ's exaltation of the law. Matt. 5:17-22, 27, 28.
6. Christ's testimony regarding His life. John 15:10.
7. Attitude of James toward God's law. James 1:25.

III. The Controversy in the Last Days

8. Satan wars especially against commandment keepers. Rev. 12:17.
9. Effects on earth of transgression of God's law. Isa. 24:4-6.
10. Satan blames God's people for trouble. 1 Kings 18:17, 18.
11. Attitude of God's people. Ps. 119:110-112.
12. Time for the Lord to work. Ps. 119:126.
13. Our prayer. Ps. 119:18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same."—*The Great Controversy,* page 582.

Satan's Hatred of God' Law

1. What are we told about Lucifer's original moral state? Ezek. 28:15.

2. Of what has Satan been guilty "from the beginning"? 1 John 3:8. Compare Ezek. 28:16.

NOTE.—"Our only definition of sin is that given in the Word of God; it is 'the transgression of the law;' it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government."—*The Great Controversy,* page 493.

"To commit sin is to break God's law: sin, in fact, is lawlessness." 1 John 3:4, The New English Bible.*

3. What was done with Lucifer after he ceased to abide "in the truth"? Isa. 14:12. Compare Rev. 12:7-9.

NOTE.—"When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence."—*The Great Controversy,* page 499.

Christ's Defense of the Law

4. What had Isaiah prophesied regarding Christ's attitude toward God's law? Isa. 42:21.

NOTE.—"But it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to the earth to suffer and to die. He came to 'magnify the law' and to 'make it honorable.' Not alone that the inhabitants of this world might regard the law as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds of the universe that God's law is unchangeable. Could its claims have been set aside, then the Son of God need not have yielded up His life to atone for its transgression. The death of Christ proves it immutable. And the sacrifice to which infinite love impelled the Father and the Son, that sinners might be redeemed, demonstrates to all the universe—what nothing less than this plan of atonement could have sufficed to do—that justice and mercy are the foundation of the law and government of God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 503.

5. How did Christ fulfill this prophecy? Matt. 5:17-22, 27, 28. Compare Luke 10:25, 26.

NOTE.—" 'Do not suppose that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to complete. I tell you this: so long as heaven and earth endure, not a letter, not a stroke, will disappear from the Law until all that must happen has happened.' " Matt. 5:17, 18, The New English Bible.*

6. What could Christ testify regarding His own obedience to God's law? John 15:10.

7. How did James regard God's law? James 1:25.

NOTE.—"Let the human agent compare his life with the life of Christ. . . . Let him imitate the example of Him who lived out the law of Jehovah, who said, 'I have kept My Father's commandments.' Those who follow Christ will be continually looking into the perfect law of liberty, and through the grace given them by Christ, will fashion the character according to the divine requirements."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 137.

The Controversy in the Last Days

8. Against whom will Satan conduct special warfare in the last days? Rev. 12:17.

NOTE.—"The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition."—*The Great Controversy,* page 582.

9. How are the effects of transgression of God's law seen in the earth itself? Isa. 24:4-6.

NOTE.—"*The curse devoured.* It is not God, but Satan, the instigator of sin, who is responsible for the curse that results from it. Everywhere the forces of evil are at work and everywhere the handiwork of Satan is clearly seen (DA 636; GC 589). In disease and death, in earthquakes and storms, in fires and floods, the work of the evil one is manifest. Transgression of the laws of God has not brought peace and prosperity, but trouble, pestilence, pain, and ultimately death."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 24:6.

10. Whom did King Ahab blame for the famine in Israel? 1 Kings 18: 17, 18.

NOTE.—"In every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. . . .

"And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. . . . As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah."—*The Great Controversy,* page 590.

11. What should be the attitude of God's people toward His law? Ps. 119:110-112.

NOTE.—"To the obedient child of God, the commandments are a delight. . . .

"David saw the divine precepts thrown aside, and obstinacy and rebellion increas-

ing. Was he swept away by the prevalence of apostasy? Did the scorn and contempt cast upon the law lead him to cowardly refrain from making an effort to vindicate the law? On the contrary his reverence for the law of Jehovah increased as he saw the disregard and contempt shown for it by others."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* vol. 3, p. 1152.

12. What sin especially calls for God's intervention? Ps. 119:126.

NOTE.—"God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain 'Thus saith the Lord' in its support."—*The Great Controversy,* page 595.

13. What should be the prayer of all God's faithful ones? Ps. 119:18.

NOTE.—"One reason why many theologians have no clearer understanding of God's Word is, they close their eyes to truths which they do not wish to practice. An understanding of Bible truth depends not so much on the power of intellect brought to the search as on the singleness of purpose, the earnest longing after righteousness.

"The Bible should never be studied without prayer. The Holy Spirit alone can cause us to feel the importance of those things easy to be understood, or prevent us from wresting truths difficult of comprehension."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 599, 600.

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Lesson 8, for August 21, 1965

Attempts to Destroy the Sabbath

MEMORY VERSE: "Hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." Ezek. 20:20.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 25; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To become aware of, and to guard against, Satan's devious measures to obscure the true Sabbath and substitute a counterfeit in its place.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9, 10; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. God's Regard for the Sabbath

1. The heart of God's law. Ex. 20: 8-11.
2. A sign that the Lord is God. Ezek. 20:20.

II. Enduring Nature of the Law

3. Christ's attitude toward the law. Matt. 5:17, 18; Mark 2:27-28.
4. No divine command broken with impunity. Matt. 5:19.
5. Apostolic teaching on the perpetuity of the law. James 2:10-12.

III. Satan's Opposition to the Law

6. Tampering with God's commandments. Matt. 15:3-8.
7. The working of the mystery of iniquity. 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7-9.
8. Daniel's prophecy of Satan at work. Dan. 7:25.

IV. Importance of Sabbath Restoration

9. Human substitutions lead to "vain worship." Matt. 15:9.
10. A prophecy of Sabbath restoration. Isa. 58:12-14.
11. We are the servants of the one we obey. Rom. 6:16.
12. A call for decision. 1 Kings 18:21.
13. The remnant keep the commandments of God. Rev. 14:12.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Satan well knew that "had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel."—*The Great Controversy,* page 438. In the endeavor to secure his own ends in his warfare against God, it was inevitable that the Sabbath should become an object of Satan's special attack.

God's Regard for the Sabbath

1. Which commandment of the Decalogue is a perpetual reminder of the true God as Creator of heaven and earth? Ex. 20:8-11.

NOTE.—"In Eden, God set up the memorial of His work of creation, in placing His blessing upon the seventh day. The Sabbath was committed to Adam, the father and representative of the whole human family. Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful Sovereign; that they were the work of His hands, and the subjects of His authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative, and given to all mankind. There was nothing in it shadowy or of restricted application to any people."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 48.

2. Of what is the Sabbath declared to be a sign? Ezek. 20:20.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath is ever the sign that distinguishes the obedient from the disobedient. With masterly power Satan has worked to make null and void the fourth commandment, that the sign of God may be lost sight of. The Christian world have trodden underfoot the Sabbath of the Lord and observe a sabbath instituted by the enemy. But God has a people who are loyal to Him. His work is to be carried forward in right lines. The people who bear His sign are to establish churches and institutions as memorials to Him. These memorials, however humble in appearance, will constantly bear witness against the false sabbath instituted by Satan, and in favor of the Sabbath instituted by the Lord in Eden, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy."—*Testimonies,* vol. 7, p. 105.

Enduring Nature of the Law

3. How did Christ testify to the enduring nature of the law? Matt. 5:17, 18; Mark 2:27, 28.

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. 'From one Sabbath to another' the inhabitants of the glorified new earth shall go up 'to worship before Me, saith the Lord.' Matt. 5:18; Isa. 66:23." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 283.

4. What did Christ teach regarding the seriousness of deliberately breaking any command of the law? Matt. 5:19.

NOTE.—"The claim that Christ by His death abolished His Father's law is without foundation. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or set aside, then Christ need not have died to save man from the penalty of sin. The death of Christ, so far from abolishing the law, proves that it is immutable."—*The Great Controversy,* page 466.

5. Of what is one guilty who breaks even one command of the law? James 2:10-12.

NOTE.—"That the law which was spoken by God's own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward. It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained. For 'whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.' James 2:10. By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world. . . .

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.

"Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 763.

Satan's Opposition to the Law

6. How had the scribes and Pharisees obscured the purpose of God's commandments? Matt. 15:3-8.

NOTE.—"To prepare the way for the work which he designed to accomplish, Satan had led the Jews, before the advent of Christ, to load down the Sabbath with the most rigorous exactions, making its observance a burden."—*The Great Controversy,* page 52.

7. How did Paul describe an earthly power through which Satan would work against God? 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 7-9.

NOTE.—The expression "that wicked" of verse 8 means " 'the [one] destitute of law,' hence, 'the violator of the law,' 'the lawless one,' or 'the wicked one.' The reference is to the 'man of sin' (v. 3), or the 'mystery of iniquity' (v. 7). According to one view 'the lawless one' is the papacy (see on v. 4; cf. GC 356, 579). According to a second view, he is not only the papacy, but more importantly, Satan himself, the

supreme Antichrist, as he impersonates Christ just before the last day (see on vs. 4, 9)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Thess. 2:8.

8. What would the little horn think to do regarding God's law? Dan. 7:25.

NOTE.—Have any religious groups acknowledged that there has been an attempt to change God's law?

"We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church . . . transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday."—Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine,* page 50.

A noted Lutheran church historian, Augustus Neander, writes:

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect, far from them, and from the early apostolic church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday."—*The History of the Christian Religion and Church,* page 186.

Importance of Sabbath Restoration

9. What did Jesus say about any worship based upon the commandments of men? Matt. 15:9.

NOTE.—"There is cause for alarm in the condition of the religious world today. God's mercy has been trifled with. The multitudes make void the law of Jehovah, 'teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' Matthew 15:9. Infidelity prevails in many of the churches in our land; not infidelity in its broadest sense—an open denial of the Bible—but an infidelity that is robed in the garb of Christianity, while it is undermining faith in the Bible as a revelation from God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 166.

10. How did God call for a reform in the matter of Sabbath observance? Isa. 58:12-14.

NOTE.—"In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired. God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation, a constant reminder of the power of God. In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to cooperate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in."—*Prophets and Kings,* page 678.

11. What determines which side a man is on in the great controversy between Christ and Satan? Rom. 6:16. Compare James 4:17.

NOTE.—"But Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 449.

12. What ancient call of God is of special importance today? 1 Kings 18:21.

13. What two fundamental doctrines will God's people uphold? Rev. 14:12.

The Sabbath—Great Test of Loyalty

MEMORY VERSE: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Ps. 91:1.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," first half of chapter 39; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To seek to comprehend prophecies showing the enemy's final effort to force God's people to recognize a spurious sabbath.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4, 5; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Sealing Work

1. Strife held back until God's servants sealed. Rev. 7:1-3.
2. The 144,000 sealed. Rev. 7:4.
3. The 144,000 seen in heaven, without fault. Rev. 14:1, 5.

II. God's People and Their Message

4. The message to be given. Rev. 14:6-10.
5. Those who accept the message. Rev. 14:12.

III. God's People Persecuted

6. The saints suffer for their faith. Rev. 13:7, 8, 16.
7. The death decree. Rev. 13:15-17.
8. A great time of trouble. Dan. 12:1.
9. "Hated of all men." Matt. 10:16-22.

IV. God Vindicates His People

10. Plagues poured out on wicked. Rev. 18:4, 8.
11. God protects His people. Ps. 91:1, 5-8.
12. God delivers His people. Jer. 30: 7, 8, 10.
13. The saints in heaven. Rev. 15:2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. . . . While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God's law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 605.

The Sealing Work

1. What are certain angels of God represented as doing in the last days, and for what reason? Rev. 7:1-3.

2. What special group is represented as receiving God's seal? Rev. 7:4.

NOTE.—"The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God." —*The Great Controversy,* page 640.

"The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character.

"As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ.

"It is obedience to the principles of the commandments of God, that molds the character after the divine similitude."—*The Faith I Live By,* page 287.

"It is not His [God's] will that they shall get into controversy over questions which will not help them spiritually, such as, Who is to compose the hundred and forty-four thousand? This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question."—*Selected Messages,* b. 1, p. 174.

3. Where is this group later seen, and what is said to be their spiritual condition? Rev. 14:1, 5.

God's People and Their Message

4. To prepare a people for God's kingdom, what message is to be proclaimed just before Jesus comes? Rev. 14:6-10.

NOTE.—A call to worship God as the Creator would necessarily include mention of the Sabbath, which is God's everlasting memorial as the Creator. The words of Revelation 14:7, "Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters," are strikingly similar to those of the fourth commandment: "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." Ex. 20:11.

"The light we have received upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. Not all in regard to this matter is yet understood, nor will it be understood until the unrolling of the scroll; but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 17.

5. How are those who receive the three angels' messages identified? Rev. 14:12.

God's People Persecuted

6. What indicates that God's commandment-keeping people all over the world will suffer for their faith? Rev. 13:7, 8, 16.

NOTE.—"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 18.

"Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world."—*Ibid.,* p. 395.

7. What extreme measures will be taken by the secular powers? Rev. 13:15-17.

NOTE.—"As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand will make them objects of universal execration. . . . A decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World and apostate Protestantism in the New will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all

the divine precepts."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 615, 616.

"When Jesus leaves the most holy, His restraining Spirit is withdrawn from rulers and people. They are left to the control of evil angels. Then such laws will be made by the counsel and direction of Satan, that unless time should be very short, no flesh could be saved."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 204.

8. In what words did Daniel foretell this period of extreme difficulty? Dan. 12:1.

NOTE.—"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. What counsel did Jesus give His disciples for the time when they should encounter persecution? Matt. 10:16-22.

NOTE.—"It is our work to speak the truth in love and not to mix in with the truth the unsanctified elements of the natural heart and speak things that savor of the same spirit possessed by our enemies. All sharp thrusts will come back upon us in double measure when the power is in the hands of those who can exercise it for injury. Over and over the message has been given to me that we are not to say one word, not to publish one sentence, especially by way of personalities, unless positively essential in vindicating the truth, that will stir up our enemies against us and arouse their passions to a white heat. Our work will soon be closed up, and soon the time of trouble, such as never was, will come upon us, of which we have but little idea."—*Testimonies,* vol. 9, p. 241.

God Vindicates His People

10. What will be poured out upon the unrepentant world symbolized by Babylon? Rev. 18:4, 8.

11. What will be the experience of God's people during the seven last plagues? Ps. 91:1, 5-8.

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

12. What does God promise His people in the "time of Jacob's trouble"? Jer. 30:7, 8, 10.

13. Who are pictured as being saved in God's eternal kingdom? Rev. 15:2.

"Every day some portion of time should be appropriated to the study of the lessons." —*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 53.

Meeting Attacks on the Bible

MEMORY VERSE: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapters 32 and 37; "Steps to Christ," chapter "What to Do With Doubt;" "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To discover the reasons behind Satan's special hatred of the Bible and how we may meet the arguments he has used against it.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-10.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 11-13; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Question 14; read further on study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Why Satan Hates God's Word

1. It brings light. Ps. 119:130.
2. It makes men wise unto salvation and perfects character. 2 Tim. 3:15-17.
3. It gives a true picture of God's character. Micah 7:18; Matt. 5:45.
4. It testifies of Jesus. John 5:39; 1 John 3:8; John 8:44.
5. It sets forth the final victory. Rev. 21:3, 4; 22:3.

II. False Arguments Against the Bible

6. Miracles are impossible. John 11:47; Acts 4:16.
7. Science disproves the Bible. 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Peter 3:2-7.
8. Some of Bible is folklore. 2 Tim. 3:16, first part.
9. Impossible for unlettered to comprehend. Ps. 19:7, 11; 2 Tim. 3:15.
10. Its demands too narrow and restricted. Ps. 19:8-10; 119:96.

III. Reasons Some Give for Rejecting the Bible

11. All doubts not settled. Mark 9:24.
12. The majority can't be wrong. John 7:48.
13. A warning against error. 2 Peter 2:1.

IV. The Christian's Desire

14. Our prayer. Ps. 119:33, 34.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In Satan's warfare against God he has made the Bible a special object of his attack. "There is nothing that he desires more than to destroy confidence in God and in His Word."—*The Great Controversy*, page 526.

"The position that it is of no consequence what men believe is one of Satan's most

successful deceptions. He knows that the truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver; therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel."—*Ibid.*, p. 520. Perhaps at no other period in history has Satan been more successful than today in undermining faith in the Bible as God's Word.

Why Satan Hates God's Word

1. What does Bible truth do that is especially obnoxious to the prince of darkness? Ps. 119:130.

NOTE.—"The study of the Bible will ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as no other study can. It gives stability of purpose, patience, courage, and fortitude; it refines the character and sanctifies the soul. An earnest, reverent study of the Scriptures, bringing the mind of the student in direct contact with the infinite mind, would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect, as well as of nobler principle, than has ever resulted from the ablest training that human philosophy affords. 'The entrance of Thy words,' says the psalmist, 'giveth light; it giveth understanding.' Psalm 119:130."—*The Great Controversy,* page 94.

2. What information does the Bible provide, of which Satan would deprive us? 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

3. Contrary to the picture of God's character presented to the world by Satan, what does Scripture teach? Micah 7:18; Matt. 5:45.

NOTE.—"It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 569.

4. Of whom does the Bible testify? What does it declare concerning Satan? John 5:39; 1 John 3:8; John 8:44.

5. How does the Bible set forth the final victory over sin and the evil one? Rev. 21:3, 4; 22:3.

False Arguments Against the Bible

6. Contrary to the claim that miracles are impossible, what were Jesus' enemies forced to admit? John 11:47; Acts 4:16.

NOTE.—"Men of science claim that there can be no real answer to prayer; that this would be a violation of law, a miracle, and that miracles have no existence. The universe, say they, is governed by fixed laws, and God Himself does nothing contrary to these laws. Thus they represent God as bound by His own laws—as if the operation of divine laws could exclude divine freedom. Such teaching is opposed to the testimony of the Scriptures. Were not miracles wrought by Christ and His apostles? The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural cooperates with the supernatural."—*The Great Controversy,* page 525.

7. What warning is given relative to the teachings of a science that is opposed to the Bible? 1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Peter 3:2-7.

NOTE.—"Human knowledge of both material and spiritual things is partial and imperfect; therefore many are unable to

harmonize their views of science with Scripture statements. Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God's Word is to be tested by the teachings of 'science falsely so called.' 1 Timothy 6:20. The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is regarded as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments too often go a step further and doubt the existence of God and attribute infinite power to nature. Having let go their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity."—*The Great Controversy,* page 522.

8. How much of Scripture is inspired? 2 Tim. 3:16, first part.

NOTE.—"And when men, compassed with human infirmities, affected in a greater or less degree by surrounding influences, and having hereditary and cultivated tendencies which are far from making them wise or heavenly-minded, undertake to arraign the Word of God, and to pass judgment upon what is divine and what is human, they are working without the counsel of God. The Lord will not prosper such a work. The effect will be disastrous, both upon the one engaged in it and upon those who accept it as a work from God. Skepticism has been aroused in many minds by the theories presented as to the nature of inspiration. Finite beings, with their narrow, shortsighted views, feel themselves competent to criticize the Scriptures, saying: 'This passage is needful, and that passage is not needful, and is not inspired.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 709

9. What will a reading of the Scriptures do for "the simple"? Ps. 19:7, 11; 2 Tim. 3:15.

NOTE.—"In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over church and state.

"The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will." —*The Great Controversy,* page 51.

10. What is said regarding the breadth of Bible teaching and counsel? Ps. 19:8-10; 119:96.

NOTE.—"Those who are unwilling to accept the plain, cutting truths of the Bible are continually seeking for pleasing fables that will quiet the conscience. The less spiritual, self-denying, and humiliating the doctrines presented, the greater the favor with which they are received. These persons degrade the intellectual powers to serve their carnal desires. Too wise in their own conceit to search the Scriptures with contrition of soul and earnest prayer for divine guidance, they have no shield from delusion. Satan is ready to supply the heart's desire, and he palms off his deceptions in the place of truth."—*The Great Controversy,* page 523.

Reasons Some Give for Rejecting the Bible

11. When troubled by doubts, what should we pray? Mark 9:24.

NOTE.—"There is but one course for those to pursue who honestly desire to be freed from doubts. Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which they do not understand, let them give heed to the light which already shines upon them, and they will receive greater light. Let them do every duty which has been made plain to their understanding, and they will be enabled to understand and perform those of which they are now in doubt."—*The Great Controversy,* page 528.

"In almost every case where persons become unsettled in regard to the inspiration of the Word of God, it is on account of their unsanctified lives, which that Word condemns. . . . Difficulties and doubts which perplex the vicious heart will be cleared away before the one practicing the pure principles of truth."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 440.

12. In an attempt to persuade others to join the majority, what misleading question did some raise in Christ's day? John 7:48.

13. What warning is given against false teachings? 2 Peter 2:1. Compare Acts 20:29, 30.

NOTE.—"Innumerable are the erroneous doctrines and fanciful ideas that are obtaining among the churches of Christendom. . . .

"The errors of popular theology have driven many a soul to skepticism who might otherwise have been a believer in the Scriptures. It is impossible for him to accept doctrines which outrage his sense of justice, mercy, benevolence; and since these are represented as the teaching of the Bible, he refuses to receive it as the Word of God.

"And this is the object which Satan seeks to accomplish."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 525, 526.

"When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant, be afraid of them. They do not bear the divine credentials. God has not given them any such burden of labor. They would tear down that which God would restore by the Laodicean message. He wounds only that He may heal, not cause to perish. The Lord lays upon no man a message that will discourage and dishearten the church. He reproves, He rebukes, He chastens; but it is only that He may restore and approve at last."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* pages 22, 23.

The Christian's Desire

14. What should be the prayer of the true Christian? Ps. 119:33, 34.

Lesson 11, for September 11, 1965

Stewardship and the Final Crisis

MEMORY VERSE: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7.

STUDY HELPS: "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 50; "Counsels on Stewardship," section II; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary;" "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 152, 154, 155.

AIM: To study God's plan for the support of His work in the earth, to gain a greater appreciation of the blessings accompanying faithful tithing and generous giving.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-10.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Warning Against Covetousness

1. "Beware of covetousness." Luke 12:15.
2. The foolish rich man. Luke 12:16-21.
3. Our treasure to be in heaven. Luke 12:33, 34.
4. Unhappy result of the love of money. 1 Tim. 6:9, 10.
5. Admonition to the rich. 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

II. Tithing—God's Antidote to Covetousness

6. Instituted early. Lev. 27:30.
7. Strongly supported by Christ. Matt. 23:23.
8. God's promised blessings. Mal. 3:10, 11.
9. Stealing from God. Mal. 3:8, 9.
10. Support of the ministry. Num. 18:21.

III. The Importance of Liberality

11. Offerings to be brought. Ps. 96:8.
12. Relation of liberality to spirituality. Luke 12:34; Prov. 11:25.
13. Attitude of the giver. 2 Cor. 9:7.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Satan is pleased to have you increase your farms and invest your means in worldly enterprises, for by so doing you not only hinder the cause from advancing, but by anxiety and overwork lessen your prospect for eternal life."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 152.

Warning Against Covetousness

1. Against what sin did Christ especially warn His followers? Luke 12:15.

NOTE.—"We are as directly forbidden to indulge covetousness as was Achan to appropriate the spoils of Jericho. God has declared it to be idolatry. . . . And yet, notwithstanding all these warnings, covetousness abounds. . . .

"This evil exists not in the world alone, but in the church. How common even here to find selfishness, avarice, overreaching, neglect of charities, and robbery of God 'in tithes and offerings.' Among church members 'in good and regular standing,' there are, alas! many Achans. Many a man comes statedly to church, and sits at the table of the Lord, while among his possessions are hidden unlawful gains, the things that God has cursed. . . .

"The influence most to be feared by the church is not that of open opposers, infidels, and blasphemers, but of inconsistent professors of Christ. These are the ones that keep back the blessing of the God of Israel and bring weakness upon His people."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 496, 497.

2. What lesson did Jesus teach in His parable of the foolish rich man? Luke 12:16-21.

NOTE.—"I saw that it was impossible to have the affections and interests engrossed in worldly cares, to be increasing earthly possessions, and yet be in a waiting, watching position, as our Saviour has commanded. Said the angel: 'They can secure but one world. In order to acquire the heavenly treasure, they must sacrifice the earthly. They cannot have both worlds.'"—*Testimonies,* vol. 2, p. 193.

3. How are treasures laid up in heaven? Luke 12:33, 34.

4. What is the result of setting one's heart on riches? 1 Tim. 6:9, 10.

NOTE.—"When the love of the world takes possession of the heart and becomes a ruling passion, there is no room left for

adoration to God; for the higher powers of the mind submit to the slavery of mammon, and cannot retain thoughts of God and of heaven. The mind loses its remembrance of God and is narrowed and dwarfed to the accumulation of money."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 385.

5. What admonition is given to the rich? 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

NOTE.—"Paul shows what risks men will run to become rich. But many are determined to be rich; this is their study, and in their zeal eternal considerations are overlooked. They are blinded by Satan and make themselves believe that it is for good purposes they desire this gain; they strain their consciences, deceive themselves, and are constantly coveting riches. Such have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. They have sacrificed their noble, elevated principles, given up their faith for riches, and, if not disappointed in their object, they are disappointed in the happiness which they supposed riches would bring. They are entangled, perplexed with care; they have made themselves slaves to their avarice and compelled their families to the same slavery, and the advantages they reap are 'many sorrows.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, pp. 541, 542.

Tithing—God's Antidote to Covetousness

6. What plan did God institute as an antidote against satanic selfishness? Lev. 27:30.

NOTE.—"The special system of tithing was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as the law of God. This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews, else God would not have given it them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to end of time. Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what man needed."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, pp. 404, 405.

7. How did Jesus give support to the principle of tithing? Matt. 23:23.

NOTE.—"I have been shown that many of our people are robbing the Lord in tithes and in offerings, and as the result His work is greatly hindered. The curse of God will rest upon those who are living upon God's bounties and yet close their hearts and do nothing or next to nothing to advance His cause. Brethren and sisters, how can the beneficent Father continue to make you His stewards, furnishing you with means to use for Him, when you grasp it all, selfishly claiming that it is yours!"—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 151.

8. What is promised to the faithful tithepayer? Mal. 3:10, 11.

NOTE.—"The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 527.

9. Of what is a man guilty who withholds his tithes and offerings? Mal. 3:8, 9.

NOTE.—"He who embezzles his Lord's goods not only loses the talent lent him of God, but loses eternal life."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 387.

"With these words of light and truth before them, how dare men neglect so plain a duty? How dare they disobey God when obedience to His requirements means His blessing in both temporal and spiritual things, and disobedience means the curse of God? Satan is the destroyer. God cannot bless those who refuse to be faithful stewards. All He can do is to permit Satan to accomplish his destroying work. We see calamities of every kind and in every degree coming upon the earth, and why? The Lord's restraining power is not

exercised. The world has disregarded the Word of God. They live as though there were no God."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, pp. 388, 389.

10. What is God's plan for the use of the tithe? Num. 18:21. Compare 1 Cor. 9:13, 14.

NOTE.—"It is not God's purpose that Christians, whose privileges far exceed those of the Jewish nation, shall give less freely than they gave. 'Unto whomsoever much is given,' the Saviour declared, 'of him shall be much required.' Luke 12:48. The liberality required of the Hebrews was largely to benefit their own nation; today the work of God extends over all the earth. In the hands of His followers, Christ has placed the treasures of the gospel, and upon them He has laid the responsibility of giving the glad tidings of salvation to the world. Surely our obligations are much greater than were those of ancient Israel."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 337, 338.

The Importance of Liberality

11. Besides the tithe, what else is the believer to bring to God? Ps. 96:8.

NOTE.—"The payment of the tithe was but a part of God's plan for the support of His service. Numerous gifts and offerings were divinely specified. Under the Jewish system the people were taught to cherish a spirit of liberality both in sustaining the cause of God and in supplying the wants of the needy."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 336, 337.

12. What relationship is there between spiritual well-being and liberal giving? Luke 12:34; Prov. 11:25.

NOTE.—"The spiritual health and prosperity of the church is dependent in a great degree upon her systematic benevolence. It is like the lifeblood which must flow through the whole being, vitalizing every member of the body. It increases love for the souls of our fellowmen; for by self-denial and self-sacrifice we are brought into a closer relation to Christ, who for our sakes became poor. The more we invest in the cause of God to aid in the salvation of souls, the closer to our hearts will they be brought."—*Testimonies,* vol. 3, p. 405.

13. In what spirit are offerings to be presented to God? 2 Cor. 9:7.

Lesson 12, for September 18, 1965

Assaults Against the Ordinances

MEMORY VERSE: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." 1 Cor. 11:26.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," chapters 71, 72; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To understand better Satan's assaults on the memorials of Christ's death and resurrection, and how to meet them.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Remembering Christ's Death and Resurrection

1. The cross, assurance of Satan's defeat. Heb. 2:14.
2. Counsel to remember Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:2-4.
3. The Communion service. 1 Cor. 11:26.
4. Baptism. Col. 2:12.

II. God's Plan for the Communion Service

5. Christ washed disciples' feet. John 13:3-5.
6. Spiritual significance of this act. John 13:6-10.
7. Ordinance of humility a permanent part of the Communion service. John 13:13-17.
8. Bread and wine symbolize body and blood of Jesus. 1 Cor. 11:23-25.

III. God's Plan for Christian Baptism

9. Baptism for all desiring salvation. Acts 2:38.
10. Immersion practiced by the early church. Acts 8:38, 39.
11. Spiritual experience to accompany baptism. Rom. 6:3, 4.

IV. Conclusion

12. False practices obscure the meaning of these memorials.
13. Believers admonished to seek the things of heaven. Col. 3:1.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.' Gal. 6:14."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 661. Since Satan knows the power of Calvary on the human family, it is obvious that he will do all in his power to destroy the memorials of the Saviour's death and resurrection—baptism and the Communion service.

Remembering Christ's Death and Resurrection

1. What event gives assurance of Satan's final destruction? Heb. 2:14. Compare Rev. 20:10.

2. What events are those who desire salvation admonished always to keep in mind? 1 Cor. 15:2-4.

NOTE.—"Without the cross, man could have no union with the Father. On it depends our every hope. From it shines the light of the Saviour's love, and when at the foot of the cross the sinner looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy, for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling in faith at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 209, 210.

3. What memorial helps us to remember Christ's death? 1 Cor. 11:26. Compare Matt. 26:26-28.

4. Through what Christian ordinance are we made partakers with Christ in His death and resurrection? Col. 2:12.

NOTE.—"The vows which we take upon ourselves in baptism embrace much. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we are buried in the likeness of Christ's death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection, and we are to live a new life. Our life is to be bound up with the

life of Christ. Henceforth the believer is to bear in mind that he is dedicated to God, to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 98.

God's Plan for the Communion Service

5. What did Jesus do preceding the first Communion service? John 13: 3-5.

6. With what words did Jesus indicate to Peter the importance of this preparatory experience? John 13: 6-10.

NOTE.—"These words mean more than bodily cleanliness. Christ is still speaking of the higher cleansing as illustrated by the lower. He who came from the bath was clean, but the sandaled feet soon became dusty, and again needed to be washed. So Peter and his brethren had been washed in the great fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. Christ acknowledged them as His. But temptation had led them into evil, and they still needed His cleansing grace. When Jesus girded Himself with a towel to wash the dust from their feet, He desired by that very act to wash the alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. This was of far more consequence than the washing of their dusty feet. With the spirit they then had, not one of them was prepared for communion with Christ. Until brought into a state of humility and love, they were not prepared to partake of the paschal supper, or to share in the memorial service which Christ was about to institute. Their hearts must be cleansed."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 646.

7. What indicates that the ordinance of humility is to be a part of the Communion service? John 13: 13-17.

8. What do the unleavened bread and the unfermented wine of the Lord's supper symbolize? 1 Cor. 11: 23-25.

NOTE.—"As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber. We seem to be passing through the garden consecrated by the agony of Him who bore the sins of the world. We witness the struggle by which our reconciliation with God was obtained. Christ is set forth crucified among us."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 661.

God's Plan for Christian Baptism

9. What is God's plan for each individual who accepts salvation? Acts 2:38.

NOTE.—"No matter how faultless may have been your lives, as sinners you have steps to take. You are required to repent, believe, and be baptized. Christ was wholly righteous; yet He, the Saviour of the world, gave man an example by Himself taking the steps which He requires the sinner to take to become a child of God, an heir of heaven.

"If Christ, the spotless and pure Redeemer of man, condescended to take the steps necessary for the sinner to take in conversion, why should any, with the light of truth shining upon their pathway, hesitate to submit their hearts to God, and in humility confess that they are sinners, and show their faith in the atonement of Christ by words and actions, identifying themselves with those who profess to be His followers?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, pp. 40, 41.

10. What mode of baptism was practiced by the early church? Acts 8:38, 39.

NOTE.—Only in baptism by immersion do both minister and candidate go down together into the water. The Greek word for "baptize" means literally "to immerse," "to cover over with fluid."

11. What experience is to follow a Christian's baptism? Rom. 6:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Satan does not want anyone to see the necessity of an entire surrender to God. When the soul fails to make this surrender, sin is not forsaken; the appetites and passions are striving for the mastery; temptations confuse the conscience, so that true conversion does not take place. If all had a sense of the conflict which each soul must wage with satanic agencies that are seeking to ensnare, entice, and deceive, there would be much more diligent labor for those who are young in the faith.

"These souls, left to themselves, are often tempted and do not discern the evil of the temptation. Let them feel that it is their privilege to solicit counsel. Let them seek the society of those who can help them. Through association with those who love and fear God they will receive strength."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, pp. 92, 93.

Conclusion

12. How has Satan attempted to destroy the meaning of these memorials?

ANSWER: By introducing a variety of un-Biblical practices in various Christian churches; such as infant baptism, sprinkling and pouring, the use of fermented wine, neglect of the ordinance of humility, and the practice of giving the wine to the clergy only.

NOTE.—"The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are two monumental pillars, one without and one within the church. Upon these ordinances Christ has inscribed the name of the true God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 91.

13. What are baptized believers admonished to seek? Col. 3:1.

NOTE.—"You must experience a death to self, and must live unto God. . . . Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. It should be a subject of thought, of study, and earnest inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? What shall be our conduct that we may show ourselves approved unto God?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 705.

Lesson 13, for September 25, 1965

Satan's Last Stand

MEMORY VERSE: "What do ye imagine against the Lord? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

STUDY HELPS: "The Great Controversy," chapter 30; "S.D.A. Bible Commentary;" "S.D.A. Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To seek to understand the true character of Satan, and how to avoid falling prey to his sophistries.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Wednesday: Begin reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Satan's Attempts to Conceal His True Character

1. As a beautiful serpent. Gen. 3:1.
2. As an angel of light. 2 Cor. 11:14.
3. His true character. Rev. 12:12; 1 Peter 5:8.
4. Pretending he does not exist.
5. Pictures himself as a hideous creature.

II. Satan's Attempts to Blind Mankind

6. Enmity between Satan and the church. Gen. 3:15, first part.
7. Enmity between Christians and unbelievers. Gen. 3:15, second part.
8. Satan's attempts to blind mankind. 2 Cor. 4:4.

III. The Annihilation of Evil

9. The cross assures Satan's destruction. Heb. 2:14.
10. He will be reduced to ashes. Ezek. 28:16-19; Rev. 20:10; 21:4 (last part), 27.
11. Sin will never rise again. Nahum 1:9.
12. Redeemed praise God for victory. Rev. 7:9, 10.
13. The invitation to come and escape the annihilation. Rev. 22:17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Had Satan revealed himself in his real character, he would have been repulsed at once, for Adam and Eve had been warned against this dangerous foe; but he worked in the dark, concealing his purpose, that he might more effectually accomplish his object. . . . Had Eve refrained from entering into argument with the tempter, she would have been safe; but she ventured to parley with him and fell a victim to his wiles. It is thus that many are still overcome. They doubt and argue concerning the requirements of God; and instead of obeying the divine commands, they accept human theories, which but disguise the devices of Satan."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 531, 532.

Satan's Attempts to Conceal His True Character

1. In what disguise did Satan first present himself to mankind? Gen. 3:1.

NOTE.—"In order to accomplish his work unperceived, Satan chose to employ as his medium the serpent—a disguise well adapted for his purpose of deception. The serpent was then one of the wisest and most beautiful creatures on the earth. It had wings, and while flying through the air presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold. Resting in the rich-laden branches of the forbidden tree and regaling itself with the delicious fruit, it was an object to arrest the attention and delight the eye of the beholder. Thus in the garden of peace lurked the destroyer, watching for his prey."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 53.

2. In what disguise will Satan present himself in the last days? 2 Cor. 11:14.

NOTE.—"I have been shown that we must be guarded on every side and perseveringly resist the insinuations and devices of Satan. He has transformed himself into an angel of light and is deceiving thousands and leading them captive. The advantage he takes of the science of the human mind, is tremendous. Here, serpentlike, he imperceptibly creeps in to corrupt the work of God. The miracles and works of Christ he would make appear as the result of human skill and power. If he should make an open, bold attack upon Christianity, it would bring the Christian in distress and agony to the feet of his Redeemer, and his strong and mighty Deliverer would put the bold adversary to flight. He therefore transforms himself into an angel of light and works upon the mind to allure from the only safe and right path."—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 290.

3. What is Satan's true character? Rev. 12:12; 1 Peter 5:8.

NOTE.—"Satan is Christ's personal enemy. He is the originator and leader of every species of rebellion in heaven and earth. His rage increases; we do not realize his power. If our eyes could be opened to discern the fallen angels at work with those who feel at ease and consider themselves safe, we would not feel so secure. Evil angels are upon our track every moment. We expect a readiness on the part of bad men to act as Satan suggests; but while our minds are unguarded against his invisible agents, they assume new ground and work marvels and miracles in our sight. Are we prepared to resist them by the Word of God, the only weapon we can use successfully?"—*Testimonies,* vol. 1, p. 302.

4. What novel idea has Satan introduced to deceive the unwary?

ANSWER: *The idea that he does not exist.*

NOTE.—"None are in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than those who, notwithstanding the direct and ample testimony of the Scriptures, deny the existence and agency of the devil and his angels. So long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have almost inconceivable advantage; many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom. This is why, as we approach the close of time, when Satan is to work with greatest power to deceive and destroy, he spreads everywhere the belief that he does not exist. It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working."—*The Great Controversy,* page 516.

5. How has Satan caused himself to be pictured to lead people to reject the idea of his existence?

ANSWER: As a ridiculous creature, half animal, half human, complete with pitchfork, a being which could not be taken seriously by any thoughtful person.

NOTE.—"The better to disguise his real character and purposes, he has caused himself to be so represented as to excite no stronger emotion than ridicule or contempt. He is well pleased to be painted as a ludicrous or loathsome object, misshapen, half animal and half human. He is pleased to hear his name used in sport and mockery by those who think themselves intelligent and well informed.

"It is because he has masked himself with consummate skill that the question is so widely asked: 'Does such a being really exist?' It is an evidence of his success that theories giving the lie to the plainest testimony of the Scriptures are so generally received in the religious world."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 516, 517.

Satan's Attempts to Blind Mankind

6. What promise did God make to man after his fall? Gen. 3:15, first part.

NOTE.—"God declares: 'I will put enmity.' This enmity is not naturally entertained. When man transgressed the divine law, his nature became evil, and he was in harmony, and not at variance, with Satan. There exists naturally no enmity between sinful man and the originator of sin. Both became evil through apostasy. The apostate is never at rest, except as he obtains sympathy and support by inducing others to follow his example. For this reason fallen angels and wicked men unite in desperate companionship. Had not God specially interposed, Satan and man would have entered into an alliance against Heaven; and instead of cherishing enmity against Satan, the whole human family would have been united in opposition to God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 505.

7. In addition to Satan and the woman, who else were to experience this enmity? Gen. 3:15, second part.

NOTE.—"But the purity and holiness of Christ called forth against Him the hatred of the ungodly. His life of self-denial and sinless devotion was a perpetual reproof

to a proud, sensual people. It was this that evoked enmity against the Son of God. Satan and evil angels joined with evil men. All the energies of apostasy conspired against the Champion of truth.

"The same enmity is manifested toward Christ's followers as was manifested toward their Master. Whoever sees the repulsive character of sin, and in strength from above resists temptation, will assuredly arouse the wrath of Satan and his subjects. Hatred of the pure principles of truth, and reproach and persecution of its advocates, will exist as long as sin and sinners remain. The followers of Christ and the servants of Satan cannot harmonize."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 506, 507.

8. What has Satan done to prevent man's acceptance of the gospel? 2 Cor. 4:4.

"Satan is constantly drawing the people from saving light to custom and fashion, irrespective of physical, mental, and moral health. The great enemy knows that if appetite and passion predominate, health of body and strength of intellect are sacrificed upon the altar of self-gratification, and man is brought to speedy ruin."—*Messages to Young People,* page 237.

The Annihilation of Evil

9. What assurance is given that Satan will ultimately be destroyed? Heb. 2:14.

10. How is Satan's destruction pictured in the Bible? Ezek. 28:16-19; Rev. 20:10; 21:4 (last part), 27.

NOTE.—"The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them." —*The Great Controversy,* page 672.

11. What comforting assurance is given to God's afflicted people? Nahum 1:9.

NOTE.—"The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest."—*The Great Controversy,* page 504.

12. With what joyous hymn will the redeemed in heaven praise God? Rev. 7:9, 10.

NOTE.—"The redeemed raise a song of praise that echoes and reechoes through the vaults of heaven: 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' . . . And angel and seraph unite their voices in adoration. As the redeemed have beheld the power and malignity of Satan, they have seen, as never before, that no power but that of Christ could have made them conquerors. In all that shining throng there are none to ascribe salvation to themselves, as if they had prevailed by their own power and goodness. Nothing is said of what they have done or suffered; but the burden of every song, the keynote of every anthem, is: Salvation to our God, and unto the Lamb."—*The Great Controversy,* page 665.

13. What invitation does Christ extend to every living soul? Rev. 22:17.

"The Lord designs that the means entrusted to us shall be used in building up His kingdom."—"Counsels on Stewardship," page 35.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 25, 1965

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION

The Southern European Division is made up of fifty-seven countries and islands, including the Vatican State, with territory on three continents. Think of the tremendous task of covering such a vast territory and of the great variety of languages in which the work must be conducted. In this total population of 310,168,036, we have 1,567 Adventist churches, with a membership of 114,419, but with a Sabbath school membership of 161,803, as of June 30, 1964.

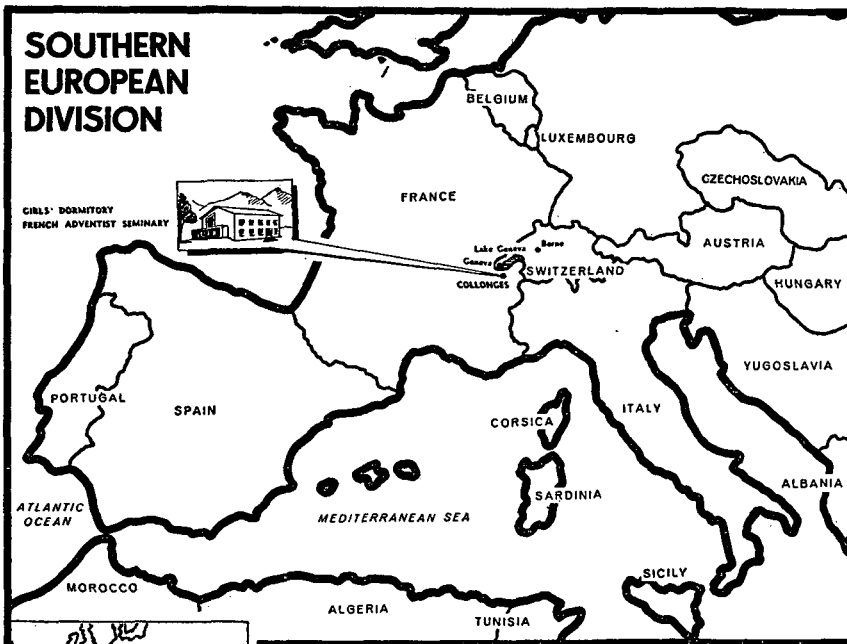
One of the greatest needs for carrying on the work in this international field is the need for trained workers. The French Adventist Seminary at Collonges, France, has been filling this need for a number of years. Our increasing membership means an increasing enrollment at the seminary, and that is the reason this senior college has been named to be the recipient of a part of the overflow from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 25, for the purpose of building a new girls' dormitory. The rest of the overflow will go to build a new mission station near Abong Mbang, South Cameroun, Africa, one of the mission fields of the Southern European Division.

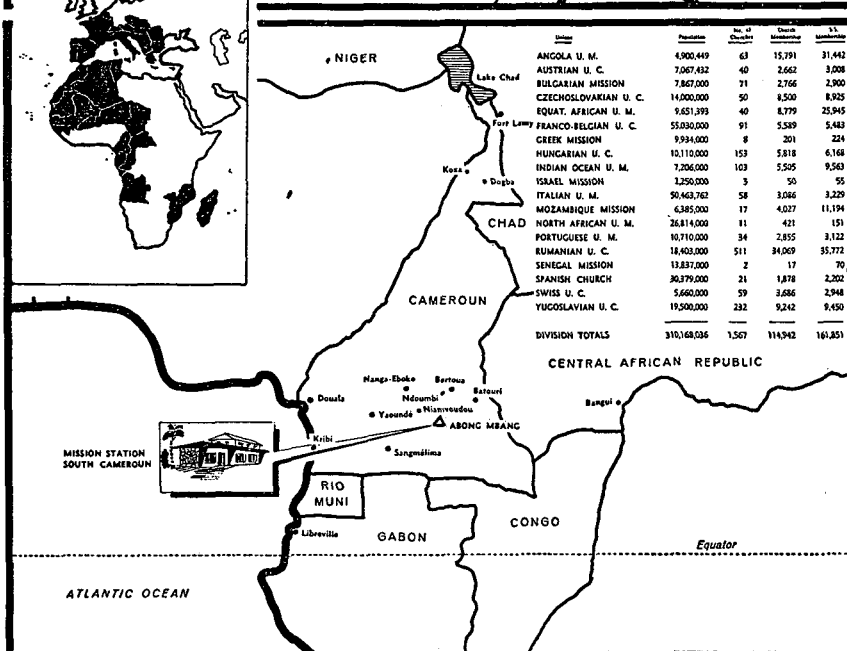
Lessons for the Fourth Quarter of 1965

Sabbath school members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the fourth quarter of 1965 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the lessons for the quarter is "The Church in the Christian Era." The title of the first lesson is "What Is the Church?" The memory verse is Ephesians 1:22, 23. The study helps are *The Desire of Ages,* pages 412-414; *Testimonies to Ministers,* pages 15-23; *The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 595, 596. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. 1 Cor. 11:18; 14:4, 28, 35.
Ques. 2. 1 Cor. 1:2.
Ques. 3. Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:12; Rom. 12:4, 5.
Ques. 4. Eph. 2:18, 19.
Ques. 5. Eph. 3:14, 15; Heb. 12:22-24.
Ques. 6. Heb. 1:13, 14; Ps. 34:7.
Ques. 7. Eph. 1:3-6; Gal. 4:4-6.
Ques. 8. Eph. 2:12, 13, 16, 18.
Ques. 9. 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; John 1:12.
Ques. 10. 1 John 4:7, 10, 11.
Ques. 11. Eph. 2:21.
Ques. 12. Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11.
Ques. 13. 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16.
Ques. 14. Eph. 2:22.

SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION





Unions	Population	No. of Churches	Church Membership	S.S. Membership
ANGOLA U. M.	4,900,449	63	15,791	31,442
AUSTRIAN U. C.	7,067,432	40	2,662	3,008
BULGARIAN MISSION	7,867,000	71	2,766	2,900
CZECHOSLOVAKIAN U. C.	14,000,000	50	8,500	8,925
EQUAT. AFRICAN U. M.	9,651,393	40	8,779	25,945
FRANCO-BELGIAN U. C.	55,030,000	91	5,589	5,483
GREEK MISSION	9,934,000	8	201	224
HUNGARIAN U. C.	10,110,000	153	5,818	6,168
INDIAN OCEAN U. M.	7,206,000	103	5,505	9,563
ISRAEL MISSION	3,250,000	3	50	55
ITALIAN U. M.	50,463,762	58	3,086	3,229
MOZAMBIQUE MISSION	6,385,000	17	4,027	11,194
NORTH AFRICAN U. M.	26,814,000	11	421	151
PORTUGUESE U. M.	10,710,000	34	2,855	3,122
RUMANIAN U. C.	18,403,000	511	34,069	35,772
SENEGAL MISSION	13,837,000	2	17	70
SPANISH CHURCH	30,379,000	21	1,878	2,202
SWISS U. C.	5,660,000	59	3,686	2,948
YUGOSLAVIAN U. C.	19,500,000	232	9,242	9,450
DIVISION TOTALS	310,168,036	1,567	114,942	161,851