



Paradise

Sabbath Bible Lessons

Senior Division

October-December, 2006

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Sabbath Bible Lessons, a daily study program, is based solely on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy without additional comments. The quotations are as brief as possible to provide concise, direct thoughts. In brackets [] are supplied some cases to ensure clarity, proper context, and smooth readability. Further study in the source materials is strongly recommended.

Illustrations: PhotoDisc on front cover; Map-Resources on pp. 4, 25, 40, 72; PhotoDisc on back cover.

Sabbath Bible Lessons

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“An aimless life is a living death. The mind should dwell upon themes relating to our eternal interests. This will be conducive to health of body and mind.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 51.

The lessons for this quarter, *Paradise*, have special importance for the time in which we are living. Satan is making every effort to deceive, if possible, the very elect and divert their mind and attention to anything except the only source of power—Jesus Christ. This series of lessons is designed to refresh the mind with the Christian's hope. We are not likely to get sidetracked if we keep in mind the destination before us.

The patriarchs maintained their faith and courage because they did not lose the sight of their goal. It is said of Abraham, “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” It should also be able to be said of us as children of faith: “For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (Hebrews 11:10, 14–16).

We are what we think. If we think predominantly of the world or of the things of the world, we are worldly and under the banner of the prince of this world. However, if our best and sweetest thoughts are of our Saviour and His plan for us, we will be preparing to enter the mansions He has prepared for us. Let all be able to say from the heart, “For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come” (Hebrews 13:14).

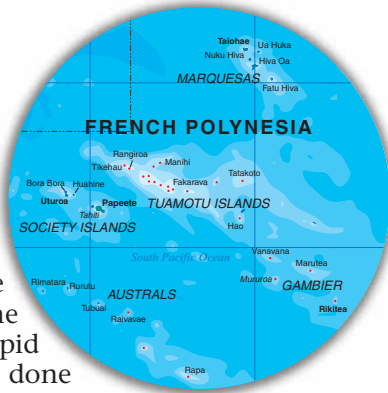
The General Conference Sabbath School Department

“There is a broad field in Sabbath school work that needs to be diligently cultivated, and that is to inspire our youth to give themselves wholly to the Lord, to be used by Him in His cause. There should be zealous, faithful workers in our Sabbath schools, who will watch and discern upon whom the Spirit of God is moving, and cooperate with the angels of God in winning souls for Christ. There are sacred responsibilities entrusted to Sabbath school workers, and the Sabbath school should be the place where, through a living connection with God, men and women, youth and children, may be so fitted up that they shall be a strength and blessing to the church. They should help the church upward and onward, as far as it lies in their ability, going from strength to greater strength.”—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 11.

First Sabbath Offering

for French Polynesia

The French Polynesian Field, which is responsible for spreading the gospel across the French speaking portions of the south Pacific, is growing at a rapid rate. There is a large work to be done throughout this vast Field. It is an “island hopping” work as missionaries go from island to island spreading the wonderful message of salvation through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



While French Polynesia alone has only 3,660 sq km of land area, this is spread out over 118 islands and atolls. To reach the 271,000 inhabitants requires travel to many large and small islands. By the grace of God this work has been going on with zeal. Now the brethren from French Polynesia need your assistance in the development of proper worship places on the islands where the work is just now being established.

French Polynesia will also host this winter's Pacific International Youth Congress. The dates for this event are December 29, 2006 to January 6, 2007. The location will be the beautiful island of Huahine, which is 175 km (100 mi) northwest of Tahiti. The theme for the meetings is “Youth—Ambassadors for Christ.” Young people from around the world are encouraged to attend this event.

The believers in French Polynesia are few, but we are determined in our efforts to preach the Third Angel's Message to these islands. Now we need your help to finish this task. Please give generously to this cause.

Your brethren and sisters from the French Polynesian Field

The Time of Trouble

“And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time” (Daniel 12:1).

“It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 622.

Suggested Reading: *Early Writings*, pp. 282–285.

Sunday

October 1

1. THE END OF PROBATION

- a. **What solemn announcement will be made when Jesus ceases His intercession in the heavenly sanctuary? Revelation 22:11.**

“Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the ten commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, ‘It is done.’”—*Early Writings*, p. 279.

“Every case has been decided for life or death.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 613.

- b. **What events take place on earth after Jesus leaves the sanctuary? Zephaniah 1:14, 15.**

“When [Christ] leaves the sanctuary, darkness covers the inhabitants of the earth. In that fearful time the righteous must live in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. The restraint which has been upon the wicked is removed, and Satan has entire control of the finally impenitent. God's long-suffering has ended. The world has rejected His mercy, despised His love, and trampled upon His law.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 614.

2. TOO LATE

- a. What will many seek and will not be able to find? Amos 8:11, 12.
-

“Those who had not prized God’s Word were hurrying to and fro, wandering from sea to sea, and from the north to the east, to seek the Word of the Lord. Said the angel, ‘They shall not find it. There is a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but for hearing the words of the Lord. What would they not give for one word of approval from God! but no, they must hunger and thirst on.’”—*Early Writings*, p. 281.

- b. With what words will the ungodly lament their condition? Jeremiah 8:20.
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“At the day of judgment there comes to the lost a full realization of the meaning of the sacrifice made on Calvary. They see what they have lost by refusing to be loyal. They think of the high, pure association it was their privilege to gain. But it is too late. The last call has been made. The wail is heard: ‘The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved’ (Jeremiah 8:20).”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 16.

- c. Whom will the wicked reproach for not being saved? Luke 12:53.
-

“Many of the wicked were greatly enraged as they suffered the effects of the plagues. It was a scene of fearful agony. Parents were bitterly reproaching their children, and children their parents, brothers their sisters, and sisters their brothers. Loud, wailing cries were heard in every direction, ‘It was you who kept me from receiving the truth which would have saved me from this awful hour.’ The people turned upon their ministers with bitter hate and reproached them, saying, ‘You have not warned us. You told us that all the world was to be converted, and cried, Peace, peace, to quiet every fear that was aroused. You have not told us of this hour; and those who warned us of it you declared to be fanatics and evil men, who would ruin us.’”—*Early Writings*, p. 282.

3. THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (1)

- a. When and how will the wrath of God be poured out upon the impenitent? Revelation 15:1; 16:1.
-

“When Christ ceases His intercession in the sanctuary, the unmingled wrath threatened against those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark (Revelation 14:9, 10), will be poured out. The plagues upon Egypt when God was about to deliver Israel were similar in character to those more terrible and extensive judgments which are to fall upon the world just before the final deliverance of God’s people.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 627, 628.

- b. Describe the predicted outpouring of the seven last plagues. Revelation 16:2–21.
-

“Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven. The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given. The sweet voice of mercy was no more to invite them. When the saints, and all heaven, were interested for their salvation, they had no interest for themselves. Life and death had been set before them. Many desired life, but made no effort to obtain it.”—*Early Writings*, p. 281.

“These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 628, 629.

4. THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES (2)

- a. Whom will the unrighteous hold responsible for the outpouring of the plagues? What experience will then be repeated? 1 Kings 18:17, 18.

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 36, 37.

- b. Who actually are guilty before God and deserve to receive the plagues? Revelation 16:5–7.

“God’s judgments will be visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. His long forbearance with the wicked emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is nonetheless certain and terrible because it is long delayed. . . . By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His down-trodden law. The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord’s reluctance to execute justice.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 627.

“Terrible as these inflictions are, God’s justice stands fully vindicated. The angel of God declares: ‘Thou art righteous, O Lord, . . . because Thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy’ (Revelation 16:2–6). By condemning the people of God to death, they have as truly incurred the guilt of their blood as if it had been shed by their hands. In like manner Christ declared the Jews of His time guilty of all the blood of holy men which had been shed since the days of Abel; for they possessed the same spirit and were seeking to do the same work with these murderers of the prophets.”—*Ibid.*, p. 628.

5. WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- a. What instruction is given us in God’s word as to what we should do in the time of trouble? Isaiah 26:20, 21.

“What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels. The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth; and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Everyone must stand the test for himself.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 19, 1908.

- b. Where will many of God’s people be in that terrible time of trouble? What promise will be fulfilled with them? Isaiah 33:15, 16.

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for ‘the munitions of rocks’ (Isaiah 33:16).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 626.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who will plunge the inhabitants of the earth into a great, final trouble?
2. As the wicked see what they had lost, what wailing cry will they utter?
3. Describe the plagues after the close of probation.
4. What will the saints do in the time of trouble as they are destined to be killed?
5. What promise of God should encourage us to face the time of trouble?

God's People Delivered

"And at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

"But in that day, as in the time of Jerusalem's destruction, God's people will be delivered, everyone that shall be found written among the living."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 37.

Suggested Reading: *Early Writings*, pp. 285–288.

Sunday

October 8

1. GOD'S INTERPOSING

- a. What conspiracy will be formed against God's people? Esther 3:8, 13.

"The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 605.

- b. How will God interpose for the deliverance of His people? Revelation 16:17, 18; Amos 8:9.

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 636.

Monday

October 9

2. A SPECIAL RESURRECTION

- a. When God's voice says "It is done" at the beginning of the seventh plague, who are those resurrected righteous? Daniel 12:2.

"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."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 637.

"The graves were opened, and those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds, glorified, to hear the covenant of peace that God was to make with those who had kept His law."—*Early Writings*, p. 285.

- b. Besides those who had died in the third angel's message, who else are raised and for what purpose? Revelation 1:7; Matthew 26:64.

"'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*, p. 637.

"Those who derided His claim to be the Son of God are speechless now. There is the haughty Herod who jeered at His royal title and bade the mocking soldiers crown Him king. There are the very men who with impious hands placed upon His form the purple robe, upon His sacred brow the thorny crown, and in His unresisting hand the mimic scepter, and bowed before Him in blasphemous mockery. The men who smote and spit upon the Prince of life now turn from His piercing gaze and seek to flee from the overpowering glory of His presence. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet, the soldier who pierced His side, behold these marks with terror and remorse."—*Ibid.*, p. 643.

3. GOD'S COVENANT OF PEACE

- a. What event takes place after the partial resurrection of Daniel 12:2, but before the coming of Jesus? Psalm 50:6.

"There appears against the sky a hand holding two tables of stone folded together. Says the prophet: 'The heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself' (Psalm 50:6). That holy law, God's righteousness, that amid thunder and flame was proclaimed from Sinai as the guide of life, is now revealed to men as the rule of judgment. The hand opens the tables, and there are seen the precepts of the Decalogue, traced as with a pen of fire. The words are so plain that all can read them. Memory is aroused, the darkness of superstition and heresy is swept from every mind, and God's ten words, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, are presented to the view of all the inhabitants of the earth."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 639.

- b. Who are the "Israel of God" when the "day and hour" is announced, and how many are they in number? Romans 11:5, 26 (first part); Revelation 7:4.

"The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 640.

"Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus' coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake. When God spoke the time, He poured upon us the Holy Ghost, and our faces began to light up and shine with the glory of God, as Moses' did when he came down from Mount Sinai."—*Early Writings*, p. 15.

"Waiting, watching, working, we are to prepare for His return."—*The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1902.

4. STILL IN THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

- a. Will the 144,000 go through anguish after the partial resurrection? When will they be fully free from anguish? Jeremiah 30:7; Revelation 7:14, 15.

"At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. . . .

"We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud. . . . Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness. Then we all cried out, 'Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?' Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: 'Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you.' At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sang again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth."—*Early Writings*, pp. 15, 16.

"Before His presence 'all faces are turned into paleness;' upon the rejecters of God's mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. 'The heart melteth, and the knees smite together, . . . and the faces of them all gather blackness' (Jeremiah 30:6; Nahum 2:10). The righteous cry with trembling: 'Who shall be able to stand?' The angels' song is hushed, and there is a period of awful silence. Then the voice of Jesus is heard, saying: 'My grace is sufficient for you.' The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart. And the angels strike a note higher and sing again as they draw still nearer to the earth."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 641.

5. CHANGED FROM GLORY TO GLORY

- a. What are the successive steps in the glorification of God's people? 2 Corinthians 3:18.

1. At the outpouring of the latter rain: (*The Great Controversy*, p. 612).
2. At the partial resurrection: (*Ibid.*, p. 637).
3. When the day and hour is announced: (*Ibid.*, p. 640).
4. At the coming of Jesus: (*Ibid.*, p. 641).

- b. What will happen to the saints, including those resurrected at the partial resurrection, when the first general resurrection occurs? 1 Corinthians 15:51–53.

"The living righteous are changed 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.' At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 645.

"The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air. Oh, what a glorious meeting! Friends whom death had separated were united, never more to part."—*Early Writings*, p. 287.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What visible signs indicate the deliverance of God's people?
2. What will occur in the beginning of the seventh plague?
3. How many will be the number of the saints after the partial resurrection?
4. By what words of Jesus will the anguish of God's people come to an end?
5. Describe the various steps in the glorification of God's people.

The Coming of Jesus

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27).

"Precious also is [the] promise [of His return] to every true follower of Christ. None who truly love Jesus will be sorry that He is coming again."—*The Youth's Instructor*, April 1, 1854.

Suggested Readings: *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 662, 663.
The Great Controversy, pp. 640–644.

1. A LONG AWAITED EVENT

- a. What important event has been the expectation of all the children of God throughout the ages? Titus 2:13.

"One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption. To God's pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in 'the region and shadow of death,' a precious, joy-inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is 'the resurrection and the life,' to 'bring home again His banished.' The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 299.

- b. What will the "Israel of God" witness, those with whom God will make an everlasting covenant? Mark 13:26.

"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."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 640.

2. THE PROMISE FULFILLED

- a. What did Jesus promise, which was also repeated by the angels to the disciples? John 14:3; Acts 1:10, 11.

“When the Saviour was about to be separated from His disciples, He comforted them in their sorrow with the assurance that He would come again: ‘Let not your heart be troubled. . . . In My Father’s house are many mansions. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself’ (John 14:1–3). ‘The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him.’ . . .

“The angels who lingered upon Olivet after Christ’s ascension repeated to the disciples the promise of His return: ‘This *same* Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall *so* come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven’ (Acts 1:11).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 301.

- b. What was the hope of the patriarchs and all holy men of God in all ages? Job 19:25–27.

“The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures. From the day when the first pair turned their sorrowing steps from Eden, the children of faith have waited the coming of the Promised One to break the destroyer’s power and bring them again to the lost Paradise. Holy men of old looked forward to the advent of the Messiah in glory, as the consummation of their hope.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 299.

“The coming of the Lord has been in all ages the hope of His true followers. The Saviour’s parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim. Amid suffering and persecution, the ‘appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ’ was the ‘blessed hope.’ When the Thessalonian Christians were filled with grief as they buried their loved ones, who had hoped to live to witness the coming of the Lord, Paul, their teacher, pointed them to the resurrection, to take place at the Saviour’s advent.”—*Ibid.*, p. 302.

3. THE MANNER OF HIS COMING

- a. How do we know that the coming of Jesus will be: 1. visible, 2. literal, and 3. personal? Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

“When Christ shall come to the earth again, not as a prisoner surrounded by a rabble will men see Him. They will see Him then as heaven’s King. Christ will come in His own glory, in the glory of His Father, and the glory of the holy angels. Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels, the beautiful and triumphant sons of God, possessing surpassing loveliness and glory, will escort Him on His way. Then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations. Then every eye shall see Him, and they also that pierced Him. In the place of a crown of thorns, He will wear a crown of glory—a crown within a crown.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 739.

- b. What specific warning of Jesus should be kept in mind concerning His second coming? Matthew 24:23–27.

“Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ’s advent. The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His second coming. ‘There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth; behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be’ (Matthew 24:24–27, 31; 25:31; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). This coming there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 625.

4. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

- a. What is the purpose of Jesus coming the second time? Isaiah 25:9; Jude 14, 15.

“Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a relinking of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when ‘the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed’ (1 Corinthians 15:52). A little longer, and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer, and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer, and He will present us ‘faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy’ (Jude 24).”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 632.

- b. What are the words Jesus will address to the people that have so long awaited His coming? Matthew 25:34.

“Christ’s promise to His disciples, ‘I will come again, and receive you unto Myself’ (John 14:3) will be fulfilled [when He returns the second time]. Those who have loved Him and waited for Him, He will crown with glory and honor and immortality. The righteous dead will come forth from their graves, and those who are alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air. They will hear the voice of Jesus, sweeter than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying to them, Your warfare is accomplished. ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 25:34). Well might the disciples rejoice in the hope of their Lord’s return.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 34.

“The redeemed of the Lord shall at last come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads, in victorious triumph. All the angelic hosts will rejoice over them with singing.”—*That I May Know Him*, p. 353.

5. HASTENING HIS COMING

- a. What were the disciples interested to know concerning the coming of Jesus? What forewarning is given us? Mark 13:3, 4; Luke 21:34–36.

“Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 628.

- b. What should our attitude be in this solemn time of probation? James 5:7, 8; Revelation 22:20.

“While we watch and wait, God bids us work courageously to proclaim the message of [Christ’s] return, ‘unto the uttermost part of the earth.’ ”—*The Review and Herald*, March 4, 1909.

“It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 22.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which is the most important prophecy ever given in the Scriptures?
2. With what words did the angels assure the disciples, on the Mount of Olives, that Jesus would come the second time?
3. How will the coming of Jesus be?
4. Who will be granted glory, honor, and immortality?
5. How did Jesus describe the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world?

The First General Resurrection

“Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead” (Isaiah 26:19).

“Blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment to them.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 550.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 644–646.

Sunday

October 22

1. ALL THE DEAD ARE ASLEEP

- a. What has been the belief of God’s children throughout the ages about the condition of the dead? Job 14:10–12; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

“Nowhere in the Sacred Scriptures is found the statement that the righteous go to their reward or the wicked to their punishment at death. The patriarchs and prophets have left no such assurance. Christ and His apostles have given no hint of it. The Bible clearly teaches that the dead do not go immediately to heaven.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 549, 550.

- b. Where do all go when they die? What do they know about things around them? Ecclesiastes 9:10; 3:20; Psalm 146:4.

“In the very day when the silver cord is loosed and the golden bowl broken (Ecclesiastes 12:6), man’s thoughts perish. They that go down to the grave are in silence. They know no more of anything that is done under the sun. Job 14:21. Blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment to them. They sleep; they are awakened by the trump of God to a glorious immortality.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 550.

Monday

October 23

2. THE PROMISE OF A RESURRECTION

- a. What assurance is given by Jesus about the deceased believers? John 11:25.

“Still seeking to give a true direction to [Martha’s] faith, Jesus declared, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’ In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. ‘He that hath the Son hath life’ (1 John 5:12). The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life. ‘He that believeth in Me,’ said Jesus, ‘though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?’ Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 530.

- b. If there would be no resurrection, what would happen to all the saints who died from the beginning? 1 Corinthians 15:16–18.

“Popular theology represents the righteous dead as in heaven, entered into bliss and praising God with an immortal tongue. . . . ‘The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence’ (Psalm 115:17).

“Peter on the Day of Pentecost declared that the patriarch David ‘is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.’ ‘For David is not ascended into the heavens’ (Acts 2:29, 34). The fact that David remains in the grave until the resurrection proves that the righteous do not go to heaven at death. It is only through the resurrection, and by virtue of the fact that Christ has risen, that David can at last sit at the right hand of God.

“And said Paul: ‘If the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished’ (1 Corinthians 15:16–18). If for four thousand years the righteous had gone directly to heaven at death, how could Paul have said that if there is no resurrection, ‘they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished’? No resurrection would be necessary.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 546, 547.

3. THE GREAT MULTITUDE

- a. When will the first general resurrection of the righteous take place? 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 6:39.
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“Then Jesus’ silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, ‘Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise.’ Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality.”—*Early Writings*, p. 16.

“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, 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.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 644.

- b. Who will assist Jesus at the resurrection of the righteous? By whose voice are the dead raised? Matthew 24:31; John 5:25.
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“Christ is coming with clouds and with great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments, and to take them to Himself.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 632.

“Angels ‘gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’ Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers’ arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the City of God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 645.

4. IMMORTALITY GRANTED

- a. Before the saints can appear in the presence of God, what must take place? 1 Corinthians 15:53.
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“All come forth from their graves the same in stature as when they entered the tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. But all arise with the freshness and vigor of eternal youth. In the beginning, man was created in the likeness of God, not only in character, but in form and feature. Sin defaced and almost obliterated the divine image; but Christ came to restore that which had been lost. He will change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body. The mortal, corruptible form, devoid of comeliness, once polluted with sin, becomes perfect, beautiful, and immortal. All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 644, 645.

- b. What great shout will be heard from the lips of the resurrected? 1 Corinthians 15:54, 55.
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“Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice [of the Son of God], 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*, p. 644.

5. THE BLESSED HOPE

- a. What is said of those who take part in the first general resurrection? Revelation 20:6.

“In consequence of Adam’s sin, death passed upon the whole human race. All alike go down into the grave. And through the provisions of the plan of salvation, all are to be brought forth from their graves. . . . They who have been ‘accounted worthy’ of the resurrection of life are ‘blessed and holy.’ ‘On such the second death hath no power’ (Revelation 20:6).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 544.

- b. What will happen when the “living saints” (144,000 in number—EW 15) meet the great multitude? 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.

“The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, ‘Alleluia!’ as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.”—*Early Writings*, p. 16.

“The living righteous are changed ‘in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.’ At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 645.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the Christian’s understanding of the condition of the dead?
2. What is one of the things that takes the sting of death?
3. Whose voice raises the dead at the partial resurrection? and at the general resurrection?
4. What will be given to the saints when they are resurrected?
5. What is the experience of the living saints at this time?

First Sabbath Offering

Literature for Needy Countries



Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor” (Luke 4:18).

“God works by means of instruments, or second causes. He uses the gospel ministry, medical missionary work, and the publications containing present truth to impress hearts. All are made effectual by means of faith. As the truth is heard or read, the Holy Spirit sends it home to those who hear and read with an earnest desire to know what is right.”—*Evangelism*, p. 547.

“Papers and books are the Lord’s means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the Word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser, will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the Word.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 161, 162.

“Our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost. What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls? Every dollar of our means should be considered as the Lord’s, not ours; and as a precious trust from God to us; not to be wasted for needless indulgences, but carefully used in the cause of God, in the work of saving men and women from ruin.”—*Life Sketches*, p. 214.

Dear brethren, sisters, and friends: In light of these inspired statements, please remember the urgent need of means to spread the light of present truth to souls starving for the bread of life in poor countries around the world. When the First Sabbath Offering is collected on November 4, 2006, let us stretch forth our hands with an open heart for this timely work. May the Lord richly bless each gift and giver!

Daniel Lee, GC Publishing Secretary

A Thousand Years of Peace

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:2).

“Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 659.

Suggested Reading: *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 415–417.

Sunday

October 29

1. THE SAINTS TRANSLATED

- a. **What event takes place after the resurrection of the righteous and the change of the “living saints”?** 1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:3.

“The living saints are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and caught up with the risen ones, and together they meet their Lord in the air. Oh, what a glorious meeting! Friends whom death had separated were united, never more to part.”—*Early Writings*, p. 287.

- b. **What words are addressed to the saved as they travel to the Holy City?** Matthew 25:34 (cf. Isaiah 26:2).

“Before the ransomed throng is the Holy City. Jesus opens wide the pearly gates, and the nations that have kept the truth enter in. There they behold the Paradise of God, the home of Adam in his innocence. Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying: ‘Your conflict is ended.’ ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ ”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 646.

Monday

October 30

2. THE EARTH IN CHAOS

- a. **What will happen to all the living wicked before the ascension of the saints?** 2 Thessalonians 2:8; 1:8, 9.

“At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth—consumed with the spirit of His mouth and destroyed by the brightness of His glory. Christ takes His people to the City of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 657.

- b. **What will be the condition of the earth after the death of the wicked? Who will remain on this globe?** Jeremiah 4:23–27; Isaiah 24:3.

“The earth looked like a desolate wilderness. Cities and villages, shaken down by the earthquake, lay in heaps. Mountains had been moved out of their places, leaving large caverns. Ragged rocks, thrown out by the sea, or torn out of the earth itself, were scattered all over its surface. Large trees had been uprooted and were strewn over the land. Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years.”—*Early Writings*, p. 290.

- c. **What refutes the theory that there will be a thousand years of peace among the nations on earth?** Matthew 24:12; Timothy 3:1–7, 13; Luke 17:26–30.

“Taking the manner in which the prophecies had been fulfilled in the past as a criterion by which to judge of the fulfillment of those which were still future, [William Miller] became satisfied that the popular view of the spiritual reign of Christ—a temporal millennium before the end of the world—was not sustained by the word of God. This doctrine, pointing to a thousand years of righteousness and peace before the personal coming of the Lord, put far off the terrors of the day of God. But, pleasing though it may be, it is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His apostles, who declared that the wheat and the tares are to grow together until the harvest, the end of the world.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 321.

3. SATAN IN PRISON AND THE WICKED IN THE PIT

- a. What will happen to Satan while the earth is in this chaotic condition? Revelation 20:1, 2.

“Here [Satan] will be confined, to wander up and down over the broken surface of the earth and see the effects of his rebellion against God’s law. For a thousand years he can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused.”—*Early Writings*, p. 290.

“Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound: there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 659.

- b. Where and how will the wicked be kept in prison during the millennium? Isaiah 24:21, 22.

“Isaiah declares, concerning the wicked: ‘They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and *after many days shall they be visited*’ (Isaiah 24:22).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 661.

- c. What will Satan and his angels be unable to do when the saints are with the Lord and the wicked are dead? Isaiah 14:18–20.

“Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan, and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought. ‘The kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, everyone in his own house [the grave]. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch. . . . Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people’ (Isaiah 14:18–20).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 660.

4. JOY IN HEAVEN

- a. What will be the reward of the saved? What will be the special joy and gladness of the redeemed? Matthew 25:21.

“With unutterable love, Jesus welcomes His faithful ones to the joy of their Lord. The Saviour’s joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in His joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labors, and their loving sacrifice. As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus’ feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 647.

“I heard shouts of triumph from the angels and from the redeemed saints, which sounded like ten thousand musical instruments, because they were to be no more annoyed and tempted by Satan and because the inhabitants of other worlds were delivered from his presence and his temptations.”—*Early Writings*, p. 290.

- b. What privileges will the saved enjoy? Revelation 22:1, 2; 2:7.

“I then saw Jesus leading His people to the tree of life, and again we heard His lovely voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying, ‘The leaves of this tree are for the healing of the nations. Eat ye all of it.’ Upon the tree of life was most beautiful fruit, of which the saints could partake freely. In the city was a most glorious throne, from which proceeded a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal. On each side of this river was the tree of life, and on the banks of the river were other beautiful trees bearing fruit which was good for food.”—*Early Writings*, p. 289.

5. BEYOND DESCRIPTION

- a. As we experience hardships and sorrows in this world, what promise does comfort us in our pilgrimage? Romans 8:18.

“We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, ‘Alleluia, heaven is cheap enough!’ and we touched our glorious harps and made heaven’s arches ring.”—*Early Writings*, p. 17.

- b. How beautiful is the place that Jesus is preparing for all those who love Him? 1 Corinthians 2:9.

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

“Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray.”—*Steps to Christ*, p. 86.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the first event that prepares the way for the millennium?
2. What will be the condition of the earth during the millennial period?
3. What circumstances make Satan a prisoner?
4. What contrasting experience will the saints enjoy during the millennium?
5. How much can we comprehend of the home of the saved?

The Judgment of the Wicked

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Corinthians 6:2).

“In union with Christ [the righteous] judge the wicked. . . . Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people.”—*The Southern Watchman*, March 14, 1905.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 653–661.

1. CHRIST AND THE SAINTS ARE JUDGES

- a. What important responsibility will be given to those who are victorious over the beast, his image, and his mark? Revelation 20:4.

“It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, ‘the saints shall judge the world’ (1 Corinthians 6:2). In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 661.

- b. What will be the guide in the judgment of Satan, his angels, and the wicked? Revelation 20:12.

“Christ, in union with His people, judged the wicked dead, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Word of God, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then they meted out to the wicked the portion which they must suffer, according to their works; and it was written against their names in the book of death. Satan also and his angels were judged by Jesus and the saints.”—*Early Writings*, p. 291.

2. THE BOOKS OF RECORD

- a. By what testimony will Jesus and the saints judge the devil, his angels, and the wicked? Revelation 20:13 (last part).

“The books are opened—the book of life and the book of death. The book of life contains the good deeds of the saints; and the book of death contains the evil deeds of the wicked. These books are compared with the statute book, the Bible, and according to that men are judged. The saints, in unison with Jesus, pass their judgment upon the wicked dead. ‘Behold ye,’ said the angel, ‘the saints, in unison with Jesus, sit in judgment, and mete out to the wicked according to the deeds done in the body, and that which they must receive at the execution of the judgment is set off against their names.’ This, I saw, was the work of the saints with Jesus through the one thousand years in the Holy City before it descends to the earth.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 52, 53.

- b. What should constitute one of our greatest joy? What will it be if we do not remain faithful? Luke 10:20; Exodus 32:33.

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book’ (Exodus 32:33). And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned’ (Ezekiel 18:24).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 483.

3. NO SECOND PROBATION

- a. If the wicked were given another opportunity to repent, what would be the result? Isaiah 26:10.

“As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth with the same enmity to Christ and the same spirit of rebellion. They are to have no new probation in which to remedy the defects of their past lives. Nothing would be gained by this. A lifetime of transgression has not softened their hearts. A second probation, were it given them, would be occupied as was the first in evading the requirements of God and exciting rebellion against Him.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662.

- b. What foreshadowed event takes place during the millennium? Leviticus 16:8–10, 20–22.

“Now the event takes place foreshadowed in the last solemn service of the Day of Atonement. When the ministration in the holy of holies had been completed, and the sins of Israel had been removed from the sanctuary by virtue of the blood of the sin offering, then the scapegoat was presented alive before the Lord; and in the presence of the congregation the high priest confessed over him ‘all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat’ (Leviticus 16:21). In like manner, when the work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary has been completed, then in the presence of God and heavenly angels and the hosts of the redeemed the sins of God’s people will be placed upon Satan; he will be declared guilty of all the evil which he has caused them to commit. And as the scapegoat was sent away into a land not inhabited, so Satan will be banished to the desolate earth, an uninhabited and dreary wilderness.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 658.

4. A RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

- a. What does the Bible say about the certainty of the judgment of the wicked? Psalm 9:8; Nahum 1:3 (first part).

“God’s judgments will be visited upon those who are seeking to oppress and destroy His people. His long forbearance with the wicked emboldens men in transgression, but their punishment is nonetheless certain and terrible because it is long delayed. ‘The Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act’ (Isaiah 28:21). To our merciful God the act of punishment is a strange act. ‘As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked’ (Ezekiel 33:11). The Lord is ‘merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.’ Yet He will ‘by no means clear the guilty.’ ‘The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked’ (Exodus 34:6, 7; Nahum 1:3).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 627.

- b. Who is to be held responsible for any soul that is lost? Deuteronomy 30:15, 19; Galatians 6:7.

“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*, pp. 539, 540.

5. CONTRARY TO GOD’S WILL

- a. In what act does God have no pleasure? Ezekiel 18:31, 32.

“By terrible things in righteousness He will vindicate the authority of His downtrodden law. The severity of the retribution awaiting the transgressor may be judged by the Lord’s reluctance to execute justice. The nation with which He bears long, and which He will not smite until it has filled up the measure of its iniquity in God’s account, will finally drink the cup of wrath unmixed with mercy.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 627.

“God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is passed, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth, and He will destroy without remedy.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 28, 1905.

- b. What should remember those who are tempted to compromise with evil or backslide? Ezekiel 18:26.

“When the righteous turn from their righteousness and do evil, their past righteousness will not save them from the wrath of a just and holy God.”—*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 379.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what important work will the saved be associated with Jesus?
2. How will the judgment proceed without those concerned being present?
3. What would unrepentant sinners do if they were given a second chance?
4. Why will there be no appeal from this judgment?
5. What act will become necessary even by a God of love?

The Second General Resurrection

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (Revelation 20:5).

“As [Christ] descends in terrific majesty He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. They come forth, a mighty host, numberless as the sands of the sea.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662.

Suggested Reading: *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 417–420.

Sunday

November 12

1. THE MILLENNIUM ENDS

- a. How long will the saints remain in heaven, and what will happen after that time? Revelation 20:4 (last part).

“After the judgment of the wicked dead had been finished, at the end of the one thousand years, Jesus left the city, and the saints and a train of the angelic host followed Him.”—*Early Writings*, p. 291.

- b. What will happen to Satan when the one thousand years are expired? Revelation 20:7.

“Satan [then] prepares for a last mighty struggle for the supremacy. While deprived of his power and cut off from his work of deception, the prince of evil was miserable and dejected; but as the wicked dead are raised and he sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy. He will marshal all the armies of the lost under his banner and through them endeavor to execute his plans.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

Monday

November 13

2. THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

- a. Why is the Mount of Olives so important in the consideration of the events to take place after the millennium? Luke 24:50, 51; Acts 1:8, 9.

“As the place of His ascension, Jesus chose the spot so often hallowed by His presence while He dwelt among men.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 829.

“Christ descends upon the Mount of Olives, whence, after His resurrection, He ascended.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 355.

“It is at the close of the one thousand years that Jesus stands upon the Mount of Olives, and the mount parts asunder and becomes a mighty plain.”—*Early Writings*, p. 53.

- b. Who will accompany Jesus at His coming after the one thousand years? Zechariah 14:5 (last part).

“After the judgment of the wicked dead had been finished, at the end of the one thousand years, Jesus left the city, and the saints and a train of the angelic host followed Him. . . .

“Then Jesus and all the retinue of holy angels, and all the redeemed saints, left the city. The angels surrounded their Commander and escorted Him on His way, and the train of redeemed saints followed.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 291, 292.

- c. What happens to the Mount of Olives as the feet of Jesus touch it? Zechariah 14:4.

“Christ descends upon the Mount of Olives, whence, after His resurrection, He ascended, and where angels repeated the promise of His return. Says the prophet: ‘The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with Thee.’ ‘And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof, . . . and there shall be a very great valley.’ ”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662, 663.

3. THE WICKED DEAD ARE RAISED

- a. What will happen to the wicked as Jesus comes down from heaven at the end of the one thousand years? Revelation 20:5, 13.

“As [Christ] descends in terrific majesty He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. They come forth, a mighty host, numberless as the sands of the sea. What a contrast to those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662.

“Then, in terrible, fearful majesty, Jesus called forth the wicked dead; and they came up with the same feeble, sickly bodies that went into the grave. What a spectacle! what a scene! At the first resurrection all came forth in immortal bloom; but at the second the marks of the curse are visible on all.”—*Early Writings*, p. 292.

- b. Who are among the innumerable throng, and what will they exclaim? Luke 13:35.

“The kings and noblemen of the earth, the mean and low, the learned and unlearned, come forth together. All behold the Son of man; and those very men who despised and mocked Him, who put the crown of thorns upon His sacred brow, and smote Him with the reed, behold Him in all His kingly majesty. Those who spit upon Him in the hour of His trial now turn from His piercing gaze and from the glory of His countenance. Those who drove the nails through His hands and feet now look upon the marks of His crucifixion. Those who thrust the spear into His side behold the marks of their cruelty on His body. And they know that He is the very one whom they crucified and derided in His expiring agony.”—*Early Writings*, p. 292.

“Every eye in that vast multitude is turned to behold the glory of the Son of God. With one voice the wicked hosts exclaim: ‘Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!’ It is not love to Jesus that inspires this utterance. The force of truth urges the words from unwilling lips.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662.

4. THE HOLY CITY DESCENDS

- a. What event takes place after the great plain is purified by Jesus? Revelation 21:2.

“As the New Jerusalem, in its dazzling splendor, comes down out of heaven, it rests upon the place purified and made ready to receive it, and Christ, with His people and the angels, enters the Holy City.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

“Then we looked up and saw the great and beautiful city, with twelve foundations, and twelve gates, three on each side, and an angel at each gate. We cried out, ‘The city! the great city! it is coming down from God out of heaven!’ And it came down in all its splendor and dazzling glory and settled in the mighty plain which Jesus had prepared for it.”—*Early Writings*, p. 291.

- b. What promise will then be fulfilled? Galatians 4:26; Revelation 3:12; Hebrews 13:14; 11:16 (last part).

“For your sake I came into the world. I am working in your behalf. When I go away, I shall still work earnestly for you. I came into the world to reveal Myself to you, that you might believe. I go to the Father to cooperate with Him in your behalf. The object of Christ’s departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. He was going to prepare a place for them, that He might come again, and receive them unto Himself. While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 663.

“When the sin-cursed earth is purified from every stain of sin; when the Mount of Olives is rent asunder and becomes an immense plain; when the holy city of God descends upon it—the land that is now called the Holy Land will indeed become holy.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 9, 1896.

5. THE DIFFERENCE

- a. What difference will be seen between the saints and the wicked?
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“What a spectacle! what a scene! At the first resurrection all came forth in immortal bloom; but at the second the marks of the curse are visible on all.”—*Early Writings*, p. 292.

“The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 662.

“Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, the redeemed will ‘grow up’ (Malachi 4:2) to the full stature of the race in its primeval glory. The last lingering traces of the curse of sin will be removed, and Christ’s faithful ones will appear in ‘the beauty of the Lord our God,’ in mind and soul and body reflecting the perfect image of their Lord.”—*Ibid.*, p. 645.

- b. What feelings will the wicked reveal since there was no change in their character now that they are resurrected? Isaiah 26:11.
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“What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 466.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the most spectacular event that marks the end of the millennium?
2. How will the site for the New Jerusalem be prepared?
3. How is the capital city for the new earth established?
4. What other important event takes place at this time?
5. What differences will be seen between the two groups of those resurrected?

Satan’s Last Struggle

“And [Satan] shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea” (Revelation 20:8).

“While deprived of his power and cut off from his work of deception, the prince of evil was miserable and dejected; but as the wicked dead are raised and he sees the vast multitudes upon his side, his hopes revive, and he determines not to yield the great controversy.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 663–673.

1. COMING OUT OF HIS PRISON

- a. For what reason was the devil imprisoned during the millennium? Revelation 20:3.
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“For a thousand years [Satan] can enjoy the fruit of the curse which he has caused. Limited alone to the earth, he will not have the privilege of ranging to other planets, to tempt and annoy those who have not fallen. During this time, Satan suffers extremely.”—*Early Writings*, p. 290.

- b. As soon as Satan is released from his prison, what work will he start? Revelation 20:8.
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“Then I saw that Satan again commenced his work. He passed around among his subjects, and made the weak and feeble strong, and told them that he and his angels were powerful. He pointed to the countless millions who had been raised.”—*Early Writings*, p. 293.

2. STILL A DECEIVER

- a. What has been the work of Satan throughout the ages? Revelation 12:9.

“Some [professed followers of Christ, Satan] deceives in one way and some in another. He has different delusions prepared to affect different minds. Some look with horror upon one deception, while they readily receive another. Satan deceives some with Spiritualism. He also comes as an angel of light, and spreads his influence over the land. I saw false reformations everywhere.”—*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, p. 172.

- b. What argument will the devil use to deceive the resurrected wicked? John 8:44.

“In rejecting Christ [the vast multitudes of the wicked] have accepted the rule of the rebel leader. They are ready to receive his suggestions and to do his bidding. Yet, true to his early cunning, he does not acknowledge himself to be Satan. He claims to be the prince who is the rightful owner of the world and whose inheritance has been unlawfully wrested from him. He represents himself to his deluded subjects as a redeemer, assuring them that his power has brought them forth from their graves and that he is about to rescue them from the most cruel tyranny.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

- c. What will be the plan of Satan, his angels, and the wicked? Revelation 20:9 (first part).

“The presence of Christ having been removed, Satan works wonders to support his claims. He makes the weak strong and inspires all with his own spirit and energy. He proposes to lead them against the camp of the saints and to take possession of the City of God.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 663.

3. AN INNUMERABLE ARMY

- a. How many will be summoned for that army? Revelation 20:8 (last part).

“With fiendish exultation [Satan] points to the unnumbered millions who have been raised from the dead and declares that as their leader he is well able to overthrow the city and regain his throne and his kingdom.”—*The Great Controversy*, 663.

- b. Who are found in that last battle led by Satan himself? Psalm 11:2.

“In that vast throng are multitudes of the long-lived race that existed before the Flood; men of lofty stature and giant intellect, who, yielding to the control of fallen angels, devoted all their skill and knowledge to the exaltation of themselves; men whose wonderful works of art led the world to idolize their genius, but whose cruelty and evil inventions, defiling the earth and defacing the image of God, caused Him to blot them from the face of His creation. There are kings and generals who conquered nations, valiant men who never lost a battle, proud, ambitious warriors whose approach made kingdoms tremble.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 664.

- c. What deceptive assurance does Satan give them?

“Satan . . . tells [the countless millions] that the company in the city is small and feeble, and that they can go up and take it, and cast out its inhabitants, and possess its riches and glory themselves.”—*Early Writings*, p. 293.

4. A WICKED COUNCIL

- a. After the wicked have been resurrected, what will be their thoughts? Psalm 37:12, 32.

“In death [the vast throng of the wicked] experienced no change. As they come up from the grave, they resume the current of their thoughts just where it ceased. They are actuated by the same desire to conquer that ruled them when they fell. . . .

“They lay their plans to take possession of the riches and glory of the New Jerusalem. All immediately begin to prepare for battle. Skillful artisans construct implements of war. Military leaders, famed for their success, marshal the throngs of warlike men into companies and divisions.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 664.

- b. What kind of consultation is made between the evil spirits and the wicked? Job 22:17, 18.

“Satan consults with his angels, and then with these kings and conquerors and mighty men. They look upon the strength and numbers on their side, and declare that the army within the city is small in comparison with theirs, and that it can be overcome.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 664.

“Satan succeeds in deceiving them, and all immediately begin to prepare themselves for battle. There are many skillful men in that vast army, and they construct all kinds of implements of war. Then with Satan at their head, the multitude move on. Kings and warriors follow close after Satan, and the multitude follow after in companies. Each company has its leader, and order is observed as they march over the broken surface of the earth to the Holy City. Jesus closes the gates of the city, and this vast army surround it, and place themselves in battle array, expecting a fierce conflict.”—*Early Writings*, p. 293.

5. THE VERY LAST STRUGGLE

- a. Though Satan and the wicked try to take possession of the Holy City, who will defend the saints? Zechariah 14:3.

“With military precision the serried ranks advance over the earth’s broken and uneven surface to the City of God. By command of Jesus, the gates of the New Jerusalem are closed, and the armies of Satan surround the city and make ready for the onset.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 664.

“Notwithstanding that Satan has been constrained to acknowledge God’s justice and to bow to the supremacy of Christ, his character remains unchanged. The spirit of rebellion, like a mighty torrent, again bursts forth. Filled with frenzy, he determines not to yield the great controversy.”—*Ibid.*, p. 671.

- b. What will be inflicted upon those who try to conquer the Holy City? Zechariah 14:12; Revelation 20:9 (last part).

“Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. The day has come that shall burn as an oven. The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are burned up. Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 3:10. The earth’s surface seems one molten mass—a vast, seething lake of fire.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 672, 673.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what way does the desolate earth constitute a prison for the devil?
2. What characteristic will Satan retain even in his final struggle against God?
3. What facts give the wicked confidence in the plan of Satan?
4. What may we know about the thoughts of the wicked at their resurrection?
5. What will be the climax of the great controversy?

First Sabbath Offering

for Moldovan Union

Moldova is a small country in Eastern Europe between the borders of Romania and the Ukraine. Since the very beginning of the Reform Movement, brethren from Moldova have been active missionaries and have even provided many foreign missionaries to lands as far away as Brazil.



The active mission work was stalled in the middle of the last century when government restrictions swept over the land. Missionaries were rounded up and sent to prisons as far away as Siberia. The Sabbath Bible Lessons were banned during this period of time, but brethren from neighboring countries worked to smuggle in copies that were more prized than gold. Even with the harsh restrictions, the brethren continued to find souls ready to accept the message of salvation.

When these restrictions were overthrown in the early 1990s, freedom to do missionary work was once more restored. As in its early history, Moldova has once more become an active missionary engine. Besides the many local Bible workers and lay missionaries Moldova has sent workers as far away as Russia and the United States of America. In addition, the Moldavian Union has sent seven young men to Emmanuel Missionary School in Romania for additional training and has plans to send more students when the new semester begins this coming February.

As Moldova assists the work abroad, we have seen a correlating blessing at home. The work continues to grow and souls are coming forward to accept the present truth so that today Moldova has the highest proportion of Reformers to the general population of any country in the world. For all this we can only thank the Lord.

With more people comes more need. We need to build new centers from which the Sabbath schools can work to win souls for the Saviour. This Sabbath, we thank the Lord for our brethren around the world and thank you in advance for your donation to the mission development work in Moldova. The buildings constructed with your donations will be lighthouses to the communities they serve.

Your brethren and sisters from the Moldovan Union

Sin and Sinners Utterly Destroyed

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble” (Malachi 4:1).

“Satan is the root, and his children are the branches. The same fire that will devour the wicked will purify the earth.”—*Early Writings*, p. 52.

Suggested Reading: *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 420–431.

Sunday

November 26

1. THE SAINTS IN SECURITY

- a. While the wicked are led by the devil and his angels to conquer the Holy City, what happens to the saints inside the city? Job 11:19, 20.

“Jesus closes the gates of the city, and this vast army [of mighty wicked warriors] surround it, and place themselves in battle array, expecting a fierce conflict. Jesus and all the angelic host and all the saints, with the glittering crowns upon their heads, ascend to the top of the wall of the city.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 293, 294.

- b. Who will be left outside the Holy City? Revelation 21:7; 22:15.

“There is Nero, that monster of cruelty and vice, beholding the joy and exaltation of those whom he once tortured, and in whose extremest anguish he found satanic delight. His mother is there to witness the result of her own work. . . .

“There are papist priests and prelates, who claimed to be Christ’s ambassadors, yet employed the rack, the dungeon, and the stake to control the consciences of His people. There are the proud pontiffs who exalted themselves above God and presumed to change the law of the Most High.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 667, 668.

2. CHRIST'S CORONATION

- a. What titles rightfully belong to Christ? How and when will His coronation take place? Revelation 15:3; 17:14.

“As if entranced, the wicked have looked upon the coronation of the Son of God. . . .

“Satan seems paralyzed as he beholds the glory and majesty of Christ. He who was once a covering cherub remembers whence he has fallen. A shining seraph, ‘son of the morning;’ how changed, how degraded! From the council where once he was honored, he is forever excluded. He sees another now standing near to the Father, veiling His glory. He has seen the crown placed upon the head of Christ by an angel of lofty stature and majestic presence, and he knows that the exalted position of this angel might have been his.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 668, 669.

- b. Who are the ones with Jesus, nearest His throne, followed by others? John 17:24; Zechariah 3:2 (last part).

“Now Christ again appears to the view of His enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is a throne, high and lifted up. Upon this throne sits the Son of God, and around Him are the subjects of His kingdom. . . .

“Nearest the throne are those who were once zealous in the cause of Satan, but who, plucked as brands from the burning, have followed their Saviour with deep, intense devotion. Next are those who perfected Christian characters in the midst of falsehood and infidelity, those who honored the law of God when the Christian world declared it void, and the millions, of all ages, who were martyred for their faith. And beyond is the ‘great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, . . . before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands’ (Revelation 7:9). Their warfare is ended, their victory won. They have run the race and reached the prize.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 665.

3. GOD'S JUSTICE RECOGNIZED

- a. What will Satan, his angels, and all the wicked be compelled to recognize? What are they unable to change? Revelation 15:4.

“Notwithstanding that Satan has been constrained to acknowledge God’s justice and to bow to the supremacy of Christ, his character remains unchanged. The spirit of rebellion, like a mighty torrent, again bursts forth. Filled with frenzy, he determines not to yield the great controversy. The time has come for a last desperate struggle against the King of heaven. He rushes into the midst of his subjects and endeavors to inspire them with his own fury and arouse them to instant battle. But of all the countless millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his supremacy. His power is at an end. 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*, pp. 671, 672.

- b. When Satan and his army advance to take possession of the Holy City, what will happen? Psalm 11:6; Revelation 20:9.

“Satan rushes into the midst of his followers and tries to stir up the multitude to action. But fire from God out of heaven is rained upon them, and the great men, and mighty men, the noble, the poor and miserable, are all consumed together. I saw that some were quickly destroyed, while others suffered longer. They were punished according to the deeds done in the body. Some were many days consuming, and just as long as there was a portion of them unconsumed, all the sense of suffering remained. Said the angel, ‘The worm of life shall not die; their fire shall not be quenched as long as there is the least particle for it to prey upon.’”—*Early Writings*, p. 294.

4. ROOT AND BRANCHES UTTERLY DESTROYED

- a. How do the prophets describe the final destruction of the originator of sin and his followers? Psalm 9:17; Nahum 1:9.

“Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. The day has come that shall burn as an oven. The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are burned up. Malachi 4:1; 2 Peter 3:10. The earth’s surface seems one molten mass—a vast, seething lake of fire. It is the time of the judgment and perdition of ungodly men—‘the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion’ (Isaiah 34:8).”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 672, 673.

- b. What will be left of Satan and the wicked after they have been destroyed? Matthew 10:28; Psalm 37:20, 34–36; Malachi 4:1, 3.

“The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 673.

5. PEACE AND HARMONY RESTORED

- a. What is God to the wicked? What will He do with His children? Hebrews 12:29; Malachi 3:17, 18.

“While the earth was wrapped in the fire of destruction, the righteous abode safely in the Holy City. Upon those that had part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. While God is to the wicked a consuming fire, He is to His people both a sun and a shield. Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 673.

- b. What promise encourages us to look forward to the day of our redemption? Revelation 21:7.

“Satan’s work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God’s creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. ‘The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing’ (Isaiah 14:7). And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 673.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many classes will there be in the final day, and where will they be?
2. What great event, witnessed by all, will confirm before the whole universe the authority of Christ?
3. What will the wicked finally recognize concerning God?
4. What evidence disproves the theory of eternal torment?
5. What follows the entire removal of sin from the universe?

The Holy City

“For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10).

“The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called ‘the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 426.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 645–650.

Sunday

December 3

1. OUR FUTURE INHERITANCE

- a. What wonderful promise was made by Jesus to every obedient child of God? John 14:2.

“A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father’s house. Those who accept the teachings of God’s word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 674, 675.

- b. What was the expectation of the patriarchs, the prophets, and the apostles? Hebrews 11:16; 13:14.

“God gave to Abraham a view of this immortal inheritance, and with this hope he was content.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 170.

“These visions of future glory [when the redeemed will enter into possession of the promised land], scenes pictured by the hand of God, should be dear to His church today, when the controversy of the ages is rapidly closing and the promised blessings are soon to be realized in all their fullness.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 722.

Monday

December 4

2. THE BEAUTIFUL CITY

- a. What was shown to John the Revelator, and what was it called? Revelation 21:10.

“As the prophet [Isaiah] beholds the redeemed dwelling in the City of God, free from sin and from all marks of the curse, in rapture he exclaims, ‘Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her.’ ”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 729.

- b. Describe the foundation, walls, gates, and streets of the Holy City. Revelation 21:11–21.

“We may have a vision of the future, the blessedness of heaven. In the Bible are revealed visions of the future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, and these are dear to His church. By faith we may stand on the threshold of the eternal city, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life cooperate with Christ, regarding it as an honor to suffer for His sake.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 601.

“The streets of the city are paved with pure gold, and . . . the gates of the city are of gold set with pearls. The riches obtained here may be consumed. . . . There no thief shall approach; no moth or rust shall corrupt. . . . You will have an imperishable treasure which you can be in no danger of losing.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 363.

“Jesus has gone to prepare mansions for those who are waiting and watching for His appearing. There they will meet the pure angels and the redeemed host, and will join their songs of praise and triumph. There the Saviour’s love surrounds His people, and the city of God is irradiated with the light of His countenance—a city whose walls, great and high, are garnished with all manner of precious stones, whose gates are pearls, and whose streets are pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 3, 1880.

3. THE RIGHT TO ENTER IN

- a. Who are granted the privilege to enter into the city, and what will be their feelings? Revelation 22:14; Isaiah 26:2.

“Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’ We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.”—*Early Writings*, p. 17.

- b. What two important things are in the midst of the city, and what privilege is given to the redeemed? Revelation 22:1, 2.

“Here we saw the tree of life and the throne of God. Out of the throne came a pure river of water, and on either side of the river was the tree of life. On one side of the river was a trunk of a tree, and a trunk on the other side of the river, both of pure, transparent gold. At first I thought I saw two trees. I looked again, and saw that they were united at the top in one tree. So it was the tree of life on either side of the river of life. Its branches bowed to the place where we stood, and the fruit was glorious; it looked like gold mixed with silver.”—*Early Writings*, p. 17.

“Soon we heard [Jesus’] lovely voice again, saying, ‘Come, My people, you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to supper, for I will gird Myself, and serve you.’ We shouted, ‘Alleluia! glory!’ and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, ‘Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the water of the fountain.’”—*Ibid.*, pp. 19, 20.

4. EVERLASTING JOY

- a. What will be the condition of those who are privileged to come to Zion—the New Jerusalem? Isaiah 35:10; Revelation 21:4.

“Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. ‘There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying: . . . for the former things are passed away’ (Revelation 21:4).”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676.

“The prophet [Isaiah] caught the sound of music [in the city of God], and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived. ‘The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.’ ‘Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.’ ‘As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there.’ ‘They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord’ (Isaiah 35:10; 51:3; Psalm 87:7; Isaiah 24:14).”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 730.

- b. Besides the saved ones, who else will rejoice in the New Jerusalem? Isaiah 65:18, 19.

“In the visions of the prophet, those who have triumphed over sin and the grave are now seen happy in the presence of their Maker, talking freely with Him as man talked with God in the beginning. ‘Be ye glad,’ the Lord bids them, ‘and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying’ (Isaiah 65:18, 19).”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 729.

5. ETERNAL DAY

- a. What is the Lord to His people? How was this foreshadowed in the experience of the children of Israel? Psalm 27:1; Revelation 21:23; Exodus 10:22, 23.

“There is the New Jerusalem, the metropolis of the glorified new earth, ‘a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.’ ‘Her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.’ ‘The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.’”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676.

- b. What will not exist in the city and why? Revelation 21:25; 22:5.

“In the City of God ‘there shall be no night.’ None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning and shall ever be far from its close. . . . The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the Holy City with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What motivated the patriarchs to trust God’s wonderful promises?
2. What did the prophet exclaim as he saw the beauty of the New Jerusalem?
3. What must characterize all those who will enter the Holy City?
4. In contrast with the sin and sorrow of this life, what will the saved experience there?
5. What will the Lord be for His people for evermore?

Paradise Restored

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind” (Isaiah 65:17).

“[In our promised home] we shall see on every hand the beautiful trees of Paradise, in the midst of them the tree of life. There we shall behold with undimmed vision the beauties of Eden restored.”—*The Review and Herald*, September 3, 1903.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 285–288.

1. ALL THINGS NEW

- a. What will happen to this earth while fire destroys the wicked? 2 Peter 3:10, 13; Revelation 21:1.

“‘I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away’ (Revelation 21:1). The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 674.

- b. What responsibility, given to Adam and lost through disobedience, will be restored in the new earth? Micah 4:8; Daniel 7:27.

“The time has come to which holy men have looked with longing since the flaming sword barred the first pair from Eden, the time for ‘the redemption of the purchased possession’ (Ephesians 1:14). The earth originally given to man as his kingdom, betrayed by him into the hands of Satan, and so long held by the mighty foe, has been brought back by the great plan of redemption. All that was lost by sin has been restored.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 674.

2. THE GARDEN OF EDEN RESTORED

- a. What did our first parents lose through sin, and what promise is given us in the word of inspiration? Genesis 3:23, 24.

“The Garden of Eden remained upon the earth long after man had become an outcast from its pleasant paths. The fallen race were long permitted to gaze upon the home of innocence, their entrance barred only by the watching angels. At the cherubim-guarded gate of Paradise the divine glory was revealed. Hither came Adam and his sons to worship God. Here they renewed their vows of obedience to that law the transgression of which had banished them from Eden. When the tide of iniquity overspread the world, and the wickedness of men determined their destruction by a flood of waters, the hand that had planted Eden withdrew it from the earth. But in the final restitution, when there shall be ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ (Revelation 21:1), it is to be restored more gloriously adorned than at the beginning.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 62.

- b. **Though this earth was defiled by sin and the Garden of Eden was taken away, what does the Lord promise to do again? Isaiah 66:22; Revelation 21:5.**

“Long have we waited for our Saviour’s return. But nonetheless sure is the promise. Soon we shall be in our promised home. There Jesus will lead us beside the living stream flowing from the throne of God and will explain to us the dark providences through which on this earth He brought us in order to perfect our characters. There we shall behold with undimmed vision the beauties of Eden restored.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 254.

“To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God’s children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 731.

3. HAPPY OCCUPATIONS

- a. What will be some of the occupations of the redeemed in the earth made new? Isaiah 65:21.

“In the earth made new, the redeemed will engage in the occupations and pleasures that brought happiness to Adam and Eve in the beginning. The Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field. ‘They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands’ (Isaiah 65:21, 22).”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 730, 731.

- b. **What condition will exist between the redeemed and the animals, and where will they find their joy and safety? Isaiah 11:6–9.**

“Then we began to look at the glorious things outside of the city. There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. In each was a golden shelf. I saw many of the saints go into the houses, take off their glittering crowns and lay them on the shelf, then go out into the field by the houses to do something with the earth; not as we have to do with the earth here; no, no. A glorious light shone all about their heads, and they were continually shouting and offering praises to God.

“I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers, and as I plucked them, I cried out, ‘They will never fade.’ Next I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts—the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union. We passed through the midst of them, and they followed on peaceably after. Then we entered a wood, not like the dark woods we have here; no, no; but light, and all over glorious; the branches of the trees moved to and fro, and we all cried out, ‘We will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.’ We passed through the woods, for we were on our way to Mount Zion.”—*Early Writings*, p. 18.

4. BEAUTIFUL PANORAMA

- a. Because the earth will be completely transformed (re-created), what will happen to the dry lands, deserts, and thorny ground? Isaiah 35:6 (last part), 7.

“[In the Paradise of God], ‘the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.’ ‘Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree.’ ”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 675.

“Wherever we looked, everything upon which the eye rested was beautiful and holy. And all the redeemed host, old and young, great and small, cast their glittering crowns at the feet of their Redeemer, and prostrated themselves in adoration before Him, and worshiped Him that liveth forever and ever. The beautiful new earth, with all its glory, was the eternal inheritance of the saints. The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was then given to the saints of the Most High, who were to possess it forever, even forever and ever.”—*Early Writings*, p. 295.

- b. What kind of habitation will the redeemed possess? Isaiah 32:18.

“In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called ‘a country’ (Hebrews 11:14–16). There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 675.

5. NO CURSE, VIOLENCE, OR DEATH

- a. What will happen to those who, on this earth, are physically defective? How will they be on the new earth? Philippians 3:21; Isaiah 35:5, 6.

“Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect.”—*Maranatha*, p. 301.

- b. Why will there be no more disease, deformity, and violence among the dwellers of the new earth? Revelation 21:4, 5; 22:2, 3; Isaiah 33:24.

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

“How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where ‘the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever’ (Psalm 37:29).”—*Education*, p. 271.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Along with the new earth, what responsibility will be reestablished?
2. What else will be restored even more beautifully than before?
3. What will be some of the activities in the new earth?
4. What will be the condition of the whole earth when given back to the saved?
5. What condition in mankind will be a most striking contrast to its present condition?

Traveling to Worlds Afar

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

“With undimmed vision [God’s redeemed] gaze upon the glory of creation—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

Sunday

December 17

1. THE SABBATH WILL BE KEPT

- a. What day was set aside by God as holy, and who will keep it in the new earth? Isaiah 66:22, 23.

“I was shown that the law of God would stand fast forever, and exist in the new earth to all eternity. . . . God rested on the seventh day, and blessed and hallowed it. I saw that the Sabbath never will be done away; but that the redeemed saints, and all the angelic host, will observe it in honor of the great Creator to all eternity.”—*Early Writings*, p. 217.

- b. What subject will the redeemed study from Sabbath to Sabbath? Ephesians 3:17–19.

“And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 678.

Monday

December 18

2. UNFALLEN WORLDS

- a. When Adam was given dominion over this world, what was he called? Luke 3:38 (last part); what scriptures imply that other worlds also have their representatives? Job 1:6; 38:7; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3.

“The Lord has given me a view of other worlds. Wings were given me, and an angel attended me from the city to a place that was bright and glorious. The grass of the place was living green, and the birds there warbled a sweet song. The inhabitants of the place were of all sizes; they were noble, majestic, and lovely. They bore the express image of Jesus, and their countenances beamed with holy joy, expressive of the freedom and happiness of the place. I asked one of them why they were so much more lovely than those on the earth. The reply was, “We have lived in strict obedience to the commandments of God, and have not fallen by disobedience, like those on the earth.”—*Early Writings*, pp. 39, 40.

- b. Where was Enoch, whom God had translated from the earth? Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5.

“Then I was taken to a world which had seven moons. There I saw good old Enoch, who had been translated. On his right arm he bore a glorious palm, and on each leaf was written ‘Victory.’ Around his head was a dazzling white wreath, and leaves on the wreath, and in the middle of each leaf was written ‘Purity,’ and around the wreath were stones of various colors, that shone brighter than the stars, and cast a reflection upon the letters and magnified them. On the back part of his head was a bow that confined the wreath, and upon the bow was written ‘Holiness.’ Above the wreath was a lovely crown that shone brighter than the sun. I asked him if this was the place he was taken to from the earth. He said, ‘It is not; the city is my home, and I have come to visit this place.’ He moved about the place as if perfectly at home.”—*Early Writings*, p. 40.

3. VISITING OTHER WORLDS

- a. What things will be revealed to the saints, and whom will they meet as they visit the unfallen worlds? 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 12:2–4; Colossians 1:26.

“All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God’s redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God’s handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

- b. What will the redeemed always remember? What will they achieve then which they could never achieve on earth? Zechariah 13:6; Revelation 1:5, 6.

“[In the New Jerusalem], immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 677.

4. THE REALITY OF THE HEREAFTER

- a. What did Jesus promise to the pure in heart? What will God be for His people? Matthew 5:8; Revelation 21:3, 7.

“The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. ‘Now we see through a glass, darkly’ (1 Corinthians 13:12). We behold the image of God reflected, as in a mirror, in the works of nature and in His dealings with men; but then we shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between. We shall stand in His presence and behold the glory of His countenance.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676, 677.

- b. What assurance is given that the revelation of the future glory is true? Revelation 21:5; 22:6.

“[In the earth made new] every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still there will appear new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects of study to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul.

“The prophets to whom these great scenes were revealed longed to understand their full import. They ‘inquired and searched diligently: . . . searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify. . . . Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you’ (1 Peter 1:10–12).

“To us who are standing on the very verge of their fulfillment, of what deep moment, what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God’s children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 731.

5. THE TIME DRAWETH NIGH

- a. In view of the eternal glory that is prepared for us, what should be our concern in these last days? Hebrews 10:35–39.

“Fellow pilgrim, we are still amid the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities; but soon our Saviour is to appear to bring deliverance and rest. Let us by faith behold the blessed hereafter as pictured by the hand of God. He who died for the sins of the world is opening wide the gates of Paradise to all who believe on Him. Soon the battle will have been fought, the victory won. Soon we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence the trials and sufferings of this life will seem as nothingness. The former things ‘shall not be remembered, nor come into mind’ (Isaiah 65:17).”—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 731, 732.

- b. What words of encouragement have the prophets and the apostles left for us? Isaiah 40:1, 2; James 5:8.

“Look up, look up, and let your faith continually increase. Let this faith guide you along the narrow path that leads through the gates of the city into the great beyond, the wide, unbounded future of glory that is for the redeemed. ‘Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh’ (James 5:7, 8).”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 732.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What will be the great topic of study in the new earth?
2. What evidence is there in the Scriptures of the unfallen worlds?
3. What experience will be an easy reality for the redeemed?
4. What assurances are given about the reward of the overcomer?
5. What should we all realize with every passing day?

The Whole Family Together

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14, 15).

“[The nations of the saved] will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving.”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 732.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 366, 367.

1. SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD

- a. What was the first being created in the image of God called? Luke 3:38. How can the human race be reinstated in God’s family? John 1:12, 13.

“God created man in His own image. Here is no mystery. There is no ground for the supposition that man was evolved by slow degrees of development from the lower forms of animal or vegetable life. . . . The genealogy of our race, as given by inspiration, traces back its origin, not to a line of developing germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds, but to the great Creator. Though formed from the dust, Adam was ‘the son of God.’”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 45.

“Man had become so degraded by sin that it was impossible for him, in himself, to come into harmony with Him whose nature is purity and goodness. But Christ, after having redeemed man from the condemnation of the law, could impart divine power to unite with human effort. Thus by repentance toward God and faith in Christ the fallen children of Adam might once more become ‘sons of God’ (1 John 3:2).”—*Ibid.*, p. 64.

- b. In order that we may become sons and daughters of God, what condition must we fulfill? 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18.

“God calls for separation from the world. Will you obey? Will you come out from among them, and remain separate and distinct from them? ‘For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?’ You cannot mingle with worldlings, and partake of their spirit, and follow their example, and be at the same time a child of God.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 44.

2. OUR GREAT FAMILY

- a. What did Jesus say about God the Father? How does Jesus identify Himself with us? John 20:17; Hebrews 2:11.

“Brethren, with the beloved John I call upon you to ‘behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.’ What love, what matchless love, that, sinners and aliens as we are, we may be brought back to God and adopted into His family! We may address Him by the endearing name, ‘Our Father,’ which is a sign of our affection for Him and a pledge of His tender regard and relationship to us. And the Son of God, beholding the heirs of grace, ‘is not ashamed to call them brethren.’ They have even a more sacred relationship to God than have the angels who have never fallen.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 739, 740.

- b. What did the apostle wish us to understand about the family of God on earth and in heaven? What does inspiration say about the believers on earth and the church above? Ephesians 3:14–19.

“All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 740.

“The church of God below is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven who have never fallen constitute one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 366.

3. OUR GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

- a. What will the children of God inherit and for how long? Psalm 37:11, 29; Matthew 25:34.

“All that are Christ’s are ‘Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise’—heirs to ‘an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away’—the earth freed from the curse of sin (Galatians 3:29; 1 Peter 1:4). For ‘the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;’ and ‘the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace’ (Daniel 7:27; Psalm 37:11).”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 170.

- b. What evidence will confirm our professed desire to be in the kingdom? Matthew 6:33; 2 Peter 1:3–11.

“In view of the Lord’s soon coming, how earnest we should be in forming characters after the divine similitude. . . .

“We are seeking for the life that measures with the life of God; therefore our natures must be brought into conformity with the will of God. We must so conduct our life work that we can go to God in confidence and open our hearts before Him, telling Him our necessities and believing that He hears and will give us grace and strength to carry out the principles of the Word of God. What we want is heaven, the victor’s crown, an entrance through the gates to the city of God, the right to eat of the tree of life in the midst of the Paradise of God. We want to see the King in His beauty. Then daily let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, the perfection of human character, and laying hold of His divinity we shall have the strength of divinity to aid us in overcoming every evil tendency and desire.

“I thank God for my life. . . . I have a faith that looks over into the future, and sees the tree of life. Upon it grows precious fruits, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No more broken hearts, no more sadness, no more sins, no more sorrow, no more suffering, in that kingdom of glory.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 365.

4. HUMANITY AND EARTH REJOICE

- a. When the Lord re-creates the earth in righteousness, what will be heard? Isaiah 51:3; 14:7.

“There will be music [in the restored Eden], and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived.”—*Education*, p. 307.

“The prophet [Isaiah] caught the sound of music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived. ‘The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.’ ‘Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.’ ‘As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there.’ ‘They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord’ (Isaiah 35:10; 51:3; Psalm 87:7; Isaiah 24:14).”—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 730.

- b. What will be the theme and the song of the redeemed throughout eternity? Revelation 19:1, 6.

“The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? The infinite mercy and love of Jesus, the sacrifice made in our behalf, call for the most serious and solemn reflection. We should dwell upon the character of our dear Redeemer and Intercessor. We should meditate upon the mission of Him who came to save His people from their sins. As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love. They will be intelligent and fervent. There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and a daily, living experience in His power to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.”—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 88, 89.

5. UNPARALLELED GLORY

- a. What song will the angels and the redeemed sing when they behold the work of redemption accomplished? Revelation 5:11, 12.

“Transported with joy, [Adam] beholds the trees that were once his delight—the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. . . . He looks about him and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. . . .

“This reunion is witnessed by the angels who wept at the fall of Adam and rejoiced when Jesus, after His resurrection, ascended to heaven, having opened the grave for all who should believe on His name. Now they behold the work of redemption accomplished, and they unite their voices in the song of praise.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 648.

- b. What Old Testament prophecy repeated in the New will be literally fulfilled? Isaiah 64:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9.

“We are homeward bound. He who loved us so much as to die for us hath builded for us a city. The New Jerusalem is our place of rest. There will be no sadness in the city of God. No wail of sorrow, no dirge of crushed hopes and buried affections, will evermore be heard. Soon the garments of heaviness will be changed for the wedding garment. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. . . .

“It will not be long till we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence, all the trials and sufferings of this life will be as nothingness.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 287.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is necessary to be adopted into God’s family?
2. What does the true unity of the family of God confirm?
3. Since we are God’s children, what inheritance will our Father give us?
4. How will the saved manifest their happiness and joy?
5. What things will not exist in the earth made new?

FIRST SABBATH OFFERINGS



**October 7
for French
Polynesia**
(See p. 4.)

**November 4
Literature for Needy
Countries**
(See p. 25.)



**December 2
for Moldova**
(See p. 46.)