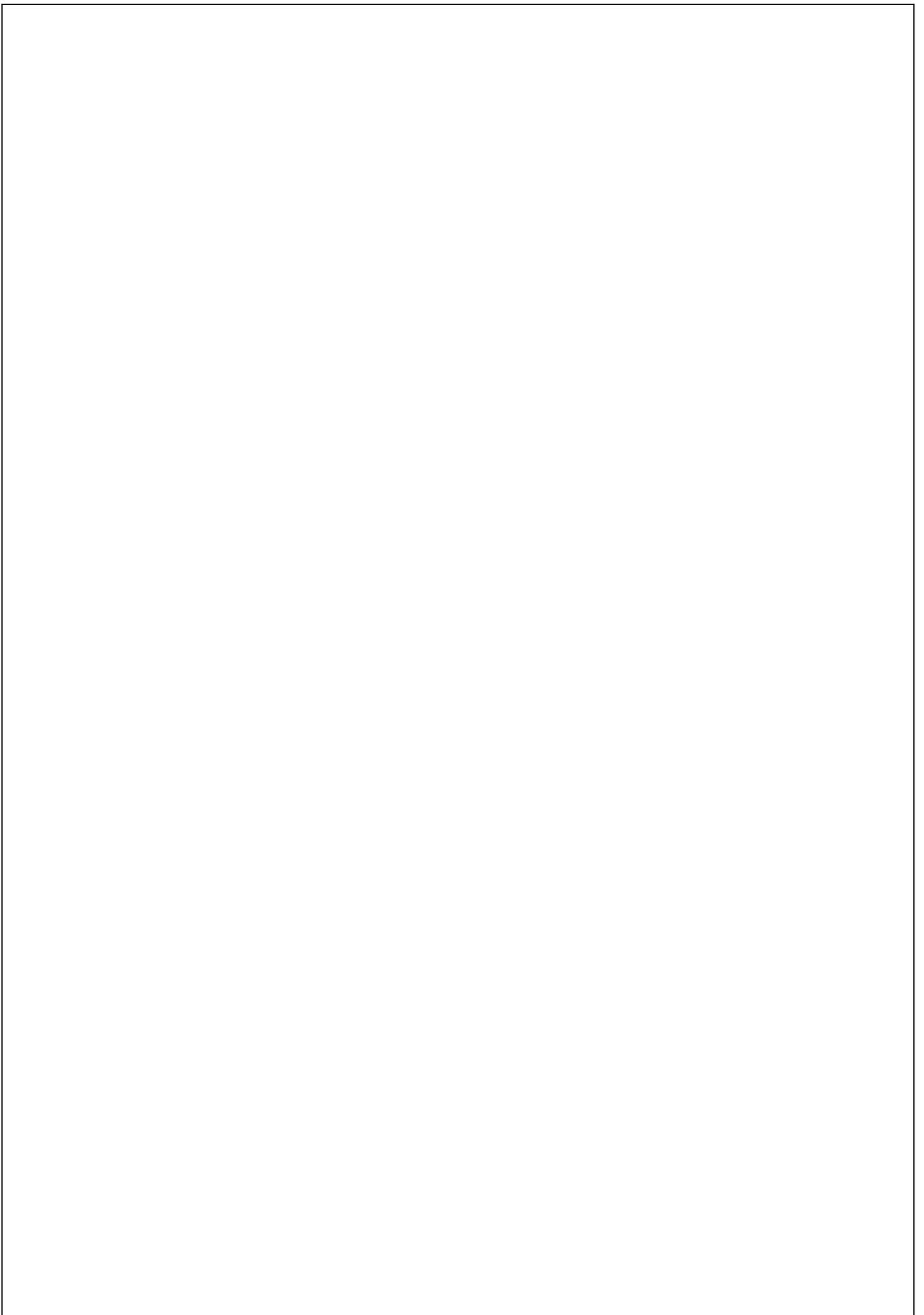


The Platform Of Truth

ADVENT PILGRIMS FELLOWSHIP



The Platform Of Truth

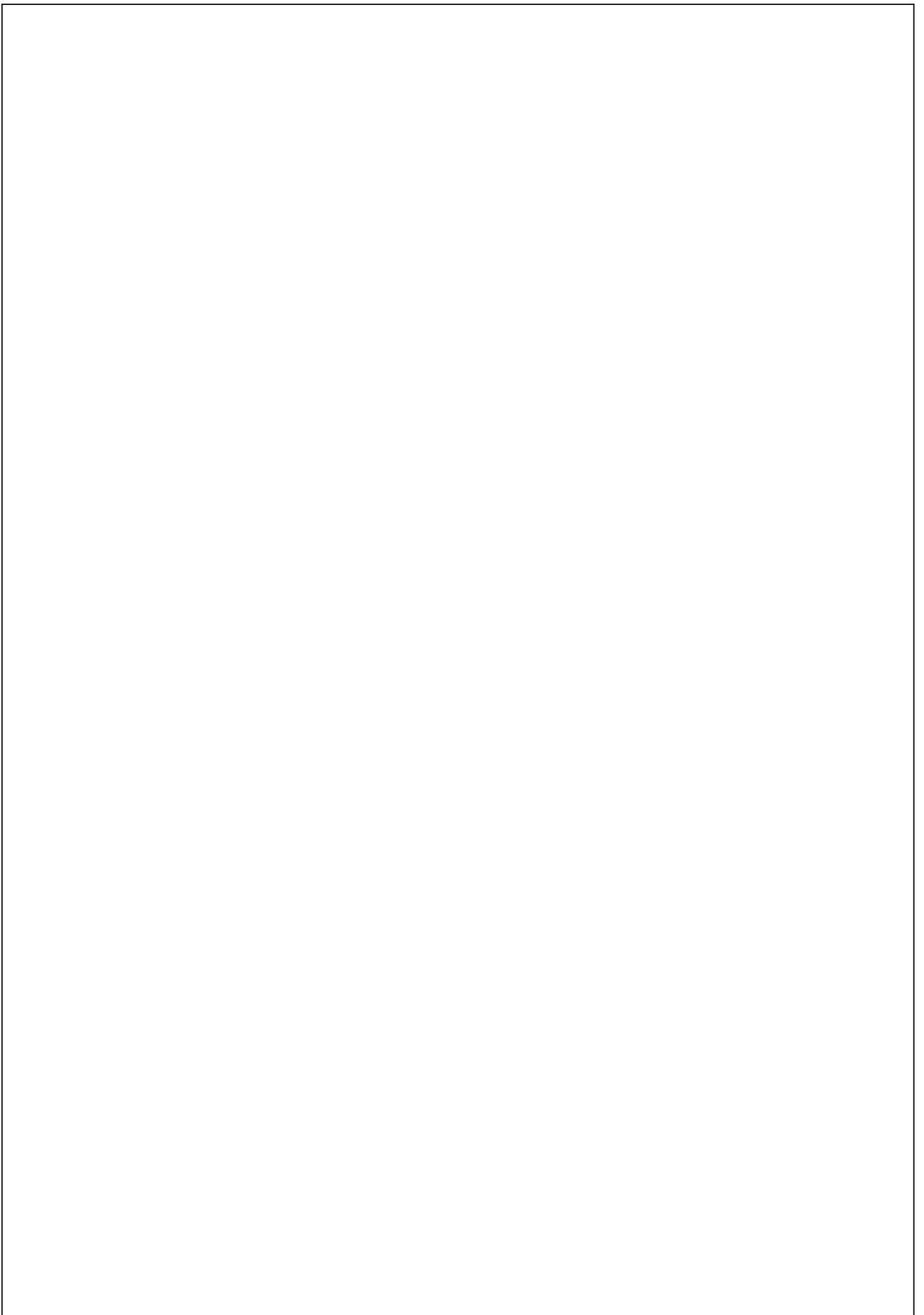
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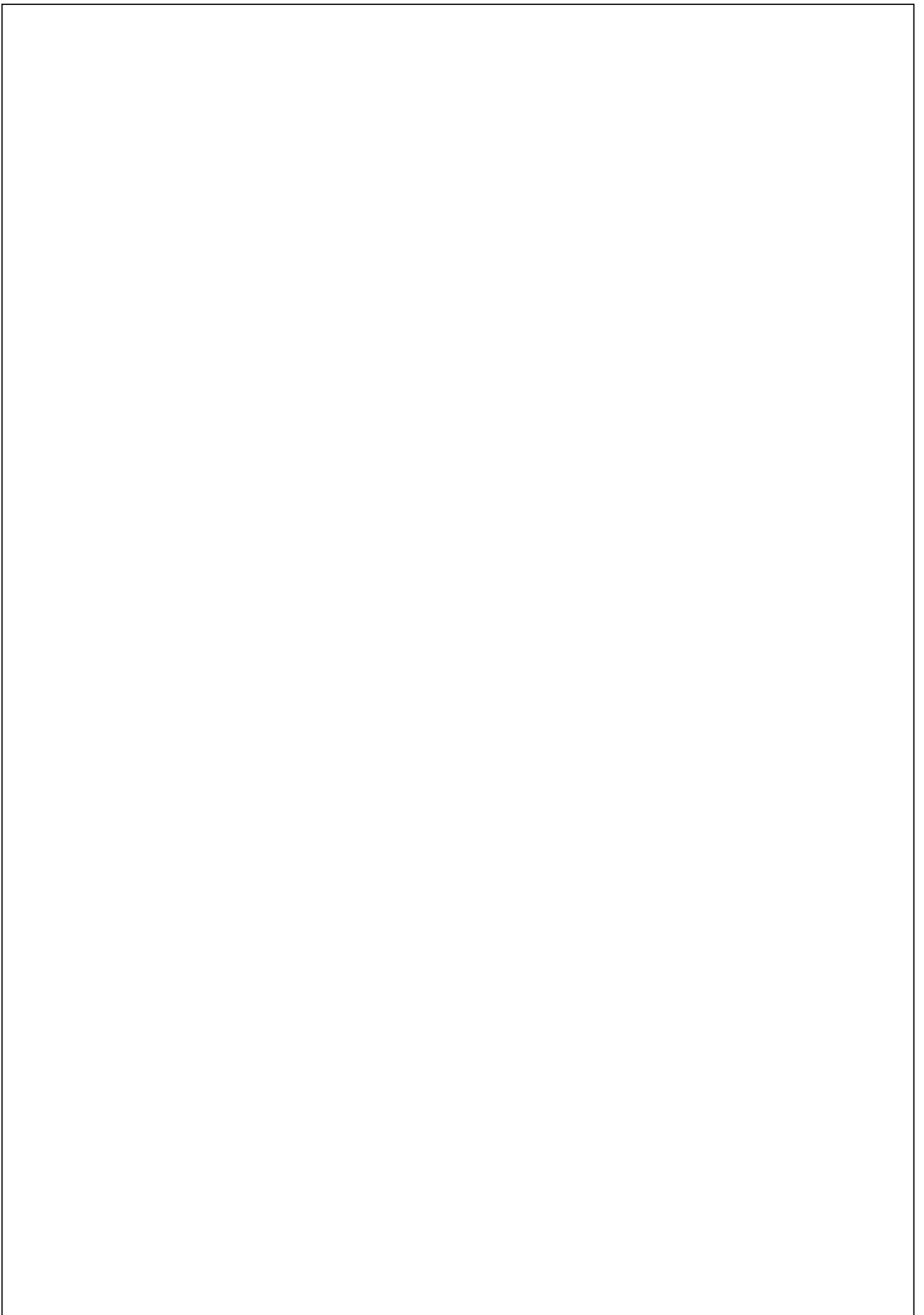
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Section 1

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLATFORM



Introduction

GREETINGS TO ALL STUDENTS OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL IN FELLOWSHIP WITH PILGRIMS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST MESSAGE.

As we edge ever closer to the day in which we will be forced to answer for our faith in the courts of the land in which we live, we need to understand the evidences of our faith.

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 707.*

We see the veracity of this quote in the multiplicity of confused ideas being circulated by the various ministries claiming to represent true Adventism today. Every wind of doctrine has been introduced to confuse minds as to what constitutes original Advent teaching and practice. It is the purpose of this lesson to furnish the student with information by which he may identify the establishment of the platform of truth erected by the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Having been so informed as to what the platform is, we then enter into a research of scriptural proof text evidences to help the student understand the evidences of the faith of true Adventists.

It will be well for all to study these lessons diligently and keep them ever as a reference when questions arise as to the truth of the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines. And by prayerful study may the knowledge thus acquired serve to prepare us to be able to stand in defense of our faith when challenged by the enemies of truth when arraigned before the courts as revealed in the book *Great Controversy*.

“As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavour to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: "Show us from the word of God our error"--the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.” —*The Great Controversy, p. 607.*

Fifty Years of Formation

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. Isa. 58:12

OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the task of the Adventist pioneers.
- To examine inspiration in its outline of a platform, to establish for those preparing for the Second Advent of Christ.
- To identify the time span it took to complete the platform.

THE CALL TO BUILD

1. Where did the early Adventists find themselves in their position toward the multiple denominations of protestant Christians? Revelation 3:1-3; Song of Solomon 6:8

“Such were the blessed results experienced by those who accepted the advent message. They came from different denominations, and their denominational barriers were hurled to the ground; conflicting creeds were shivered to atoms; the unscriptural hope of a temporal millennium was abandoned, false views of the second advent were corrected, pride and conformity to the world were swept away; wrongs were made right; hearts were united in the sweetest fellowship, and love and joy reigned supreme. If this doctrine did this for the few who did receive it, it would have done the same for all if all had received it. But the churches generally did not accept the warning.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 379.

2. Considering the different creeds, false views and conflicting doctrines by which they were surrounded, what was the task laid upon them by the word of God? Isaiah 58:12, 13

“Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, “We can do nothing more,” the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labour and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain

to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.” –*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 206.

THE ESSENTIAL PLATFORM

3. How did God arouse the early Adventists to take the action required to build a sure platform of truth? Revelation 10:1, 2, 8-11; Amos 4:12

“We were disappointed, but not disheartened. We resolved to submit patiently to the process of purifying that God deemed needful for us, and to wait with patient hope for the Saviour to redeem His tried and faithful ones. We were firm in the belief that the preaching of definite time was of God. It was this that led men to search the Bible diligently, discovering truths they had not before perceived.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 56.

4. Does scripture prompt those who are perplexed by mistaken views to persevere in research and how did the pioneers demonstrate this tenacity? Habakkuk 2:3, 4; Jeremiah 29:11-13

“After the great disappointment there were few who set themselves to seek the Word with all their heart. But some souls would not settle down in discouragement and deny that the Lord had led them. To these the truth was opened point by point, and entwined with their most hallowed recollections and sympathies. The searchers after truth felt that the identification of Christ with their nature and interest was complete. Truth was made to shine forth, beautiful in its simplicity, dignified with a power and invested with an assurance unknown before the disappointment. We could then proclaim the message in unity.” –*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 109.

5. As they persevered in their search what did they find to explain their disappointment? Psalm 73:14-17

“Mr. Miller and those who were in union with him supposed that the cleansing of the sanctuary spoken of in Daniel 8:14 meant the purifying of the earth by fire prior to its becoming the abode of the saints. This was to take place at the second advent of Christ; therefore we looked for that event at the end of the 2300 days, or years. But after our disappointment the Scriptures were carefully searched, with prayer and earnest thought; and after a period of suspense, light poured in upon our darkness; doubt and uncertainty were swept away. Instead of the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 referring to the purifying of the earth, it was now plain that it pointed to the closing work of our High Priest in heaven, the finishing of the atonement, and the preparing of the people to abide the day of His coming.” –*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 56.

6. What was the detail of their research that threw light upon their disappointment? Hebrew 8:1-5

“I saw the third angel pointing upward, showing the disappointed ones the way to the holiest of the heavenly sanctuary. As they by faith enter the most holy, they find Jesus, and hope and joy spring up anew. I saw them looking back, reviewing the past, from the proclamation of the second advent of Jesus, down through their experience to the passing of the time in 1844. They see their disappointment explained, and joy and certainty again animate them. The third angel has lighted up the past, the present, and the future, and they know that God has indeed led them by His mysterious providence.” —*Early Writings*, p. 254.

THE SYSTEM OF TRUTH ESTABLISHED

7. By taking hold of the truth on the heavenly sanctuary, how were the pioneers guided to form the platform for God’s people in these times? Psalm 77:13; Hebrews 10:19-23

“The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844. It opened to view a complete system of truth, connected and harmonious, showing that God’s hand had directed the great advent movement, and revealing present duty as it brought to light the position and work of His people.” —*Evangelism*, p. 222.

8. Was this whole system of truth, this platform of truth, pieced together rapidly or did it take many years? Isaiah 28:9, 10; 34:16

“As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 32.

“Let none seek to tear away the foundations of our faith,—the foundations that were laid at the beginning of our work, by prayerful study of the Word and by revelation. Upon these foundations we have been building for the last fifty years. Men may suppose that they have found a new way, and that they can lay a stronger foundation than that which has been laid. But this is a great deception. Other foundation can no man lay than that which has been laid.” —*The Review and Herald*, March 3, 1904.

9. How important is this platform of truth to us today? Jude 1:3; Deuteronomy 32:7; Jeremiah 6:16 (first sentence)

“The time is near when the deceptive powers of satanic agencies will be fully developed. On one side is Christ, who has been given all power in heaven and earth. On the other side is Satan, continually exercising his power to allure, to deceive with strong, spiritualistic sophistries, to remove God out of the places that He should occupy in the minds of men.”

“The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.” I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them

along step by step, until He had placed them upon a solid, immovable platform.” —*Evangelism*, pp. 224, 258.

NOTES

Instrumentalities God Used

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teacher. Eph. 4:11.

OBJECTIVES

- To learn that God's word comes to us via human beings whom He chooses to convey it.
- To appreciate that the pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism were God's instrumentalities.
- To know that the platform of truth they established is not mere man's ideas, but God's truth for the last days.

HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITIES

1. Are we to regard the Bible as God's word, God speaking to us? 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 34:16

"In the Bible we have the unerring counsel of God. Its teachings, practically carried out, will fit men for any position of duty. It is the voice of God speaking every day to the soul." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 253.

2. Did God personally write the Bible, how was His voice transferred to the page? 2 Samuel 23:1, 2; 2 Peter 1:21

"The writers of the Bible had to express their ideas in human language. It was written by human men. These men were inspired of the Holy Spirit."

"The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the word of God." —*Selected Messages Book 1*, pp. 19, 21.

3. Besides the Bible, does God want us to accept human agencies as His spokesmen to save us? Ephesians 4:11-13

"As His representatives among men, Christ does not choose angels who have never fallen, but human beings, men of like passions with those they seek to save. Christ took upon Himself humanity, that He might reach humanity. Divinity needed humanity; for it required both the divine and the human to bring salvation to the world. Divinity needed humanity, that humanity might afford a channel of communication between God and man. So with the servants and messengers of Christ. Man needs a power outside of and beyond himself, to restore him to the

likeness of God, and enable him to do the work of God; but this does not make the human agency unessential. Humanity lays hold upon divine power, Christ dwells in the heart by faith; and through co-operation with the divine, the power of man becomes efficient for good.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 294.

END TIME INSTRUMENTS

4. Did Scripture identify the time of the end? Daniel 8:14, 15, 19. And what would God do for His people at this time? Daniel 12:9, 10, 4

“As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies recorded by Daniel demand our special attention, as they relate to the very time in which we are living. With them should be linked the teachings of the last book of the New Testament Scriptures. Satan has led many to believe that the prophetic portions of the writings of Daniel and of John the revelator cannot be understood. But the promise is plain that special blessing will accompany the study of these prophecies. "The wise shall understand" (verse 10), was spoken of the visions of Daniel that were to be unsealed in the latter days; and of the revelation that Christ gave to His servant John for the guidance of God's people all through the centuries, the promise is, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein." Revelation 1:3.” —*Prophets and Kings*, p. 547.

5. Does the reading of the book of Revelation reveal something regarding the enlightenment by human instruments since 1844? Revelation 14:6-15

“During the past fifty years of my life, I have had precious opportunities to obtain an experience. I have had an experience in the first, second, and third angels' messages. The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth's history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 387.

MEN AND WOMEN SINCE 1844

6. Recall the activity of the men and women since the disappointment of 1844. Daniel 8:26, 27; 9:22, 23

“A transforming power attended the proclamation of the first and second angels' messages, as it attends the message of the third angel. Lasting convictions were made upon human minds. The

power of the Holy Spirit was manifested. There was diligent study of the Scriptures, point by point. Almost entire nights were devoted to earnest searching of the Word. We searched for the truth as for hidden treasures. The Lord revealed Himself to us. Light was shed on the prophecies, and we knew that we received divine instruction.” –*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 109.

“At that time [after the 1844 disappointment] one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. The power of God would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to define what is truth and what is error.” –*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 31.

7. Was there a human instrument God chose as to impart the gift of prophecy in this company? Malachi 4:5

“Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, “We can do nothing more,” the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labour and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.” –*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 206.

8. Did Jesus make it clear that the messages conveyed by this instrumentality were really the word of God? 2 Chronicles 20:20 (last sentence)

“Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord’s messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Saviour declared me to be His messenger. “Your work,” He instructed me, “is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right. Exhort from the Word. I will make My Word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you.

““Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth under any circumstances. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil.”” –*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 32.

9. How definite was God in His counsel to take the truths proclaimed by the pioneers in unison as His word?

“The very same Satan is at work to undermine the faith of the people of God at this time. There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are

misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on "their word" who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. These messages, received and acted upon, are doing their work to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. If we search the Scriptures to confirm the truth God has given His servants for the world, we shall be found proclaiming the first, second, and third angels' messages." –*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 111.

NOTES

The Foundation Already Laid

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 3:11

OBJECTIVES

- To show the true foundation which both the Old and the New Testament reveals.
- To observe how this foundation was obscured during the Dark Ages.
- To demonstrate that this foundation was truly restored by those whom God used after 1844.

THE TRUE FOUNDATION

1. Does the Old Testament reveal the true foundation upon which we are to build our faith? Isaiah 28:16, 17; 9:6, 7

“In infinite wisdom, God chose the foundation stone, and laid it Himself. He called it "a sure foundation." The entire world may lay upon it their burdens and grief's; it can endure them all. With perfect safety they may build upon it. Christ is a "tried stone." Those who trust in Him, He never disappoints. He has borne every test. He has endured the pressure of Adam's guilt, and the guilt of his posterity, and has come off more than conqueror of the powers of evil. He has borne the burdens cast upon Him by every repenting sinner. In Christ the guilty heart has found relief. He is the sure foundation. All who make Him their dependence rest in perfect security.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 598.

2. Did Jesus identify this for the church in the New Testament? Matthew 16:15-18; i.e. 1 Peter 2:4-6

““Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11. "Upon this rock," said Jesus, "I will build My church." In the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of hell, Christ founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself,—His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation, the gates of hell shall not prevail.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 413.

3. What are the practical components of this foundation? Romans 8:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21

“Many voices are advocating error; let your voice advocate truth. Present subjects that will be as green pastures to the sheep of God's fold. Do not lead your hearers into waste tracts, where

they will be no nearer the fountain of living water than they were before hearing you. Present the truth as it is in Jesus, making plain the requirements of the law and the gospel. Present Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, and tell of His power to save all who come to Him. The Captain of our salvation is interceding for His people, not as a petitioner to move the Father to compassion, but as a conqueror, who claims the trophies of His victory. He is able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him. Make this fact very plain.”

“The law and the gospel, revealed in the Word, are to be preached to the people; for the law and the gospel, blended, will convict of sin. God's law, while condemning sin, points to the gospel, revealing Jesus Christ, in whom "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." The glory of the gospel reflects light upon the Jewish age, giving significance to the whole Jewish economy of types and shadows. Thus both the law and the gospel are blended. In no discourse are they to be divorced.” –*Evangelism*, pp. 189, 231.

PAPAL OBSCURITY

4. As the apostles raised this foundation and built upon it, were they aware and did they warn of a falling away from it? 2 Thessalonians 2:2, 3, 7; 1 John 2:18, 19; 4:1-3

“The doctrine is now largely taught that the gospel of Christ has made the law of God of no effect; that by "believing" we are released from the necessity of being doers of the Word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Christ so unsparingly condemned.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 957.

5. How completely was the true foundation obscured during the Dark Ages of papal dominance? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 9, 10; Matthew 24:24; Psalm 11:3

“The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome.

“Those were days of peril for the church of Christ. The faithful standard-bearers were few indeed. Though the truth was not left without witnesses, yet at times it seemed that error and superstition would wholly prevail, and true religion would be banished from the earth. The gospel was lost sight of, but the forms of religion were multiplied, and the people were burdened with rigorous exactions.”

“The few faithful builders upon the true foundation were perplexed and hindered as the rubbish of false doctrine obstructed the work. ... Wearied with the constant struggle... some who had been faithful builders became disheartened ... turned away from the true foundation. Others, undaunted ... proceeded with the work...” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 55, 56.

RESTORING THE FOUNDATION

6. What was the promise for those dwelling in the last days, and how did this take place among the pioneers? Daniel 12:4, 9, 10; Isaiah 29:18, 19; Isaiah 58:10-12

“As the points of our faith were thus established, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation. We accepted the truth point by point, under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays.” —*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 32.

7. Do we see the pioneers of Adventism fully restoring the basic components of the foundation? Psalm 119:126; Revelation 14:12

“A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists, who were advising that the banner or sign which makes us a distinctive people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed it was not the best policy in securing success to our institutions. This distinctive banner is to be borne through the world to the close of probation. In describing the remnant people of God, John says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). This is the law and the gospel. The world and the churches are uniting in harmony in transgressing the law of God, in tearing away God's memorial, and in exalting a sabbath that bears the signature of the man of sin. But the Sabbath of the Lord thy God is to be a sign to show the difference between the obedient and the disobedient. I saw some reaching out their hands to remove the banner, and to obscure its significance.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 385.

8. For us today to be true Seventh-day Adventists, what is the admonition? Ephesians 2:19-22

“Did not the first disciples have to meet the sayings of men? did they not have to listen to false theories; and then, having done all, to stand firm, saying, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid"? So we are to hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. Words of power have been sent by God and by Christ to this people, bringing them out from the world, point by point, into the clear light of present truth. With lips touched by holy fire, God's servants have proclaimed the message. The divine utterance has set its seal to the genuineness of the truth proclaimed.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 307.

NOTES

The Sanctuary Doctrine

We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. Heb. 8:1, 2

OBJECTIVES

- To show how the sanctuary doctrine became established into the platform of truth for the last days.
- To gain an understanding of the sanctuary doctrine.
- To see its importance for believers in the last days.

ADVENTIST PIONEER DISCOVERY

1. How did the early Adventists stumble across the sanctuary doctrine? Daniel 8:14

“Adventists then held that the earth, or some portion of it, was the sanctuary. They understood that the cleansing of the sanctuary was the purification of the earth by the fires of the last great day, and that this would take place at the Second Advent. Hence the conclusion that Christ would return to the earth in 1844. But the appointed time had passed, and the Lord had not appeared. The believers knew that God’s Word could not fail; their interpretation of the prophecy must be at fault; but where was the mistake? In their investigation they learned that there is no Scripture evidence sustaining the popular view that the earth is the sanctuary; but they found in the Bible a full explanation of the subject of the sanctuary, its nature, location, and services.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 284.

2. Does scripture fortell their bitter disappointment and their need to prophesy or preach more detail? Revelation 10:8-11

“The message was, "It shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey." They had tasted the sweetness of the message. The world never before witnessed such manifestations of brotherly love, such sacrifice and such devotion. The autumn of 1844 came and went, and the intensity of the disappointment was beyond description. No earthly inducement ever seemed so sweet as the message of His coming; no disappointment was ever so bitter as that experienced by the believers in the second coming of Christ. The disciples, weeping at the tomb over a crucified Saviour, seemed to drain the cup of bitterness, but a potion no less galling was drunk by the disciples in 1844. "We thought that it was He that would save Israel," was echoed eighteen hundred years later in the words, "We looked for Him to save us, but He has not come." In this period of Margin anguish and disappointment, the churches that had opened their doors for the message, now turned away from those who still clung to the belief in the prophecies and the second coming of the Lord. This closing of the

doors, and the rejection of further light, caused the second message of Rev. 14:8 to be proclaimed.

“Many expected that those who passed through the disappointment, would forever sink out of sight, but the angel said, "Thou must prophesy again, before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." This foretells the third message of Rev. 14:9-12, which will go to all the world, increasing as it goes, until it swells into a loud cry.” –Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of the Seer of Patmos* (1905), pp. 189, 190.

3. In which way was their disappointment resolved by their research on the subject of the sanctuary? Revelation 3:7, 8; Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14

“Those who followed in the light of the prophetic word saw that, instead of coming to the earth at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844, Christ then entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to perform the closing work of atonement, preparatory to His coming.... Now in the holy of holies they again beheld Him, their compassionate high priest, soon to appear as their king and deliverer. Following Him by faith, they were led to see also the closing work of the church. They had a clearer understanding of the first and second angels’ messages, and were prepared to receive and give to the world the solemn warning of the third angel of Revelation 14.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 284.

SANCTUARY IN HEAVEN

4. How clearly did Scripture explain the reality of the High Priest working for the salvation of believers in the sanctuary in heaven? Hebrews 3:1; 8:2; 9:11, 12

“Those who, with a knowledge of the truth from the Scriptures, had also the Spirit and grace of God, and who, in the night of their bitter trial, had patiently waited, searching the Bible for clearer light—these saw the truth concerning the sanctuary in heaven and the Saviour’s change in ministration, and by faith they followed Him in His work in the sanctuary above. And all who through the testimony of the Scriptures accept the same truths, following Christ by faith as He enters in before God to perform the last work of mediation, and at its close to receive His kingdom--all these are represented as going in to the marriage.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 427.

5. Did Scripture clearly portray a two-apartment sanctuary in heaven to the minds of the pioneers? Revelation 1:10-14; 15:5

“The holy places of the sanctuary in heaven are represented by the two apartments in the sanctuary on earth. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there "seven lamps of fire burning before the throne." Revelation 4:5. He saw an angel "having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." Revelation 8:3. Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven; and he saw there the "seven lamps of fire" and "the golden altar," represented by the

golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth. Again, "the temple of God was opened" (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the inner veil, upon the holy of holies. Here he beheld "the ark of His testament," represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God.

"Thus those who were studying the subject found indisputable proof of the existence of a sanctuary in heaven. Moses made the earthly sanctuary after a pattern which was shown him. Paul teaches that that pattern was the true sanctuary which is in heaven. And John testifies that he saw it in heaven." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 414, 415.

CLEANSING OF THE SANCTURAY

6. What was the meaning of Daniel 8:14 in the light of the work of our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary? Leviticus 16:16, 30; Hebrew 9:22-24

"As anciently the sins of the people were by faith placed upon the sin offering and through its blood transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary, so in the new covenant the sins of the repentant are by faith placed upon Christ and transferred, in fact, to the heavenly sanctuary. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 421.

7. As this heavenly cleansing commenced in 1844, what are the solemn realities which should occupy the mind of God's people ever since ? Revelation 14:6, 7; 2 Peter 3:14

"Says the prophet: "Who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:2, 3. Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 425.

8. In consideration of this judgement reality do we see what true Seventh-day Adventists would engage in? 1 Peter 4:17, 18; 1 Timothy 5:24

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 489.

MEDITATION

“The deepest interest manifested among men in the decisions of earthly tribunals but faintly represents the interest evinced in the heavenly courts when the names entered in the book of life come up in review before the Judge of all the earth. The divine Intercessor presents the plea that all who have overcome through faith in His blood be forgiven their transgressions, that they be restored to their Eden home, and crowned as joint heirs with Himself to "the first dominion." Micah 4:8. Satan in his efforts to deceive and tempt our race had thought to frustrate the divine plan in man's creation; but Christ now asks that this plan be carried into effect as if man had never fallen. He asks for His people not only pardon and justification, full and complete, but a share in His glory and a seat upon His throne.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 483.

NOTES

The Sabbath Restoration

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:21

OBJECTIVES

- To observe how the seventh-day Sabbath was revealed to the pioneers of the Adventist message.
- To understand that in their work of restoration the Sabbath was the first task given them.
- To gain true Sabbath-keeping.

DISCOVERING THE SEVENTH DAY

1. How does inspiration explain the manner by which the seventh-day Sabbath was revealed to the pioneers in their discovery of the heavenly sanctuary? Revelation 11:19

“It was represented to me that the remnant followed Jesus into the most holy place and beheld the ark and the mercy seat, and were captivated with their glory. Jesus then raised the cover of the ark, and lo! the tables of stone, with the ten commandments written upon them. They trace down the lively oracles, but start back with trembling when they see the fourth commandment among the ten holy precepts, with a brighter light shining upon it than upon the other nine, and a halo of glory all around it. They find nothing there informing them that the Sabbath has been abolished, or changed to the first day of the week. The commandment reads as when spoken by the voice of God in solemn and awful grandeur upon the mount, while the lightnings flashed and the thunders rolled; it is the same as when written with His own finger on the tables of stone: “Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.” They are amazed as they behold the care taken of the ten commandments. They see them placed close by Jehovah, overshadowed and protected by His holiness. They see that they have been trampling upon the fourth commandment of the Decalogue, and have observed a day handed down by the heathen and papists, instead of the day sanctified by Jehovah. They humble themselves before God and mourn over their past transgressions.” —*Early Writings*, p. 255.

2. Whom did God use to introduce the Sabbath into the ranks of the early Adventists? John 13:20

“As we trace the story of the beginning of Sabbathkeeping among the early Adventists, we go to a little church in the township of Washington in the heart of New Hampshire, the state that adjoins Maine on the east and whose western boundary is within sixty miles of the New York state line. Here the members of an independent Christian church in 1843 heard and accepted the preaching of the Advent message. It was an earnest group. Into their midst came a Seventh Day

Baptist, Rachel Oakes, who distributed tracts setting forth the binding claims of the fourth commandment. Some in 1844 saw and accepted this Bible truth. One of their number, William Farnsworth, in a Sunday morning service, stood to his feet and declared that he intended to keep God's Sabbath of the fourth commandment. A dozen others joined him, taking their stand firmly on all of God's commandments. They were the first Seventh-day Adventists." —*Early Writings*, xx.2.

"While on a visit to New Bedford, Mass., in 1846, I became acquainted with Elder Joseph Bates. He had early embraced the advent faith, and was an active laborer in the cause. I found him to be a true Christian gentleman, courteous and kind.

"Elder Bates was resting upon Saturday, the seventh day of the week, and he urged it upon our attention as the true Sabbath. I did not feel its importance, and thought that he erred in dwelling upon the fourth commandment more than upon the other nine." —*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 95.

RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

3. As 1844 was identified to Daniel as the time appointed for the end to be, what was to take place before Jesus could come? Acts 3:20, 21

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

4. Although many things needed to be restored, why was the Sabbath institution placed first before the pioneers? Exodus 31:13; Revelation 14:12

"This is the people that are repairing the breach in the law of God. They see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment has been supplanted by a spurious sabbath, a day that has no sanction in the Word of God. Amid great opposition they become loyal to their God, and take their position under the standard of the third angel." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1152.

"Our warfare is aggressive. Tremendous issues are before us, yea, and right upon us. Let our prayers ascend to God that the four angels may still hold the four winds, that they may not blow to injure or destroy until the last warning has been given to the world. Then let us work in harmony with our prayers. Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth." —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 61.

5. Given that the keeping of the Sabbath is the sign that God is sanctifying His people, how completely will He sanctify them? 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Jude 1:24; Revelation 14:5

“God had committed to His people a work to be accomplished on earth. The third angel’s message was to be given, the minds of believers were to be directed to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ had entered to make atonement for His people. The Sabbath reform was to be carried forward. The breach in the law of God must be made up. The message must be proclaimed with a loud voice, that all the inhabitants of earth might receive the warning. The people of God must purify their souls through obedience to the truth, and be prepared to stand without fault before Him at His coming.” –*Evangelism*, p. 695.

SANCTIFYING SABBATH-KEEPING

6. Can we see the connection between true Sabbath-keeping and the restoration of perfection in our life? Isaiah 58:13, 14; Hebrew 4:2-4, 9, 10

“All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment. We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter. We are to understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life. All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them. Every day they will have the companionship of Christ and will exemplify the perfection of His character. Every day their light will shine forth to others in good works.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 353.

7. How is true Sabbath-keeping enunciated in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy? Exodus 20:8-10; 16:23

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.

“Before the Sabbath begins, the mind as well as the body should be withdrawn from worldly business. God has set His Sabbath at the end of the six working days, that men may stop and consider what they have gained during the week in preparation for the pure kingdom which admits no transgressor. We should each Sabbath reckon with our souls to see whether the week that has ended has brought spiritual gain or loss.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 356.

8. What is a good general principle that summarises keeping the Sabbath holy? Isaiah 56:2, 6

“When the Sabbath is thus remembered, the temporal will not be allowed to encroach upon the spiritual. No duty pertaining to the six working days will be left for the Sabbath. During the week our energies will not be so exhausted in temporal labor that on the day when the Lord rested and was refreshed we shall be too weary to engage in His service.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 6*, p. 354.

NOTES

Prophecies (A)

Daniel 2, 7, 8

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19

OBJECTIVES

- To discern the importance of prophecy.
- To observe how the pioneers of Adventism gained their assurance of their position.
- To behold the progressive amplification of world empires leading to the second coming of Jesus through Daniel 2, 7, 8.

PROPHETIC ILLUMINATION

- 1. How may Bible believers be reassured that what they believe from the Bible is not a fable? 2 Peter 1:16-19; John 13:19**

“Yet convincing as was this evidence of the certainty of the believers’ hope, there was another still more convincing in the witness of prophecy, through which the faith of all must be confirmed and securely anchored.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 221.

- 2. In which way does God give us the assurance that He is real? Isaiah 46:9, 10**

“I Am means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike to God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things that are transpiring daily. We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare. God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I AM.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 1099.

FULFILLING PROPHECIES

- 3. How were early Adventists confirmed in their position that they were living in the nearness of Christ’s Second Advent? Daniel 2:44, 45; 7:9, 10; 8:14**

“With intense interest he studied the books of Daniel and the Revelation, employing the same principles of interpretation as in the other scriptures, and found, to his great joy, that the

prophetic symbols could be understood. He saw that the prophecies, so far as they had been fulfilled, had been fulfilled literally; that all the various figures, metaphors, parables, similitudes, etc., were either explained in their immediate connection, or the terms in which they were expressed were defined in other scriptures, and when thus explained, were to be literally understood. "I was thus satisfied," he says, "that the Bible is a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein."—Bliss, page 70. Link after link of the chain of truth rewarded his efforts, as step by step he traced down the great lines of prophecy. Angels of heaven were guiding his mind and opening the Scriptures to his understanding."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 320.

4. As from the previous note William Miller found the assurance of the prophecies of Daniel, what did prophecy do for those who listened to him? Daniel 12:4, 9, 10

"To William Miller and his colaborers it was given to preach the warning in America. This country became the center of the great advent movement. It was here that the prophecy of the first angel's message had its most direct fulfillment. The writings of Miller and his associates were carried to distant lands. Wherever missionaries had penetrated in all the world, were sent the glad tidings of Christ's speedy return. Far and wide spread the message of the everlasting gospel: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 368.

A PROPHECIC LINE UP

5. How did the study of Daniel chapter two clearly indicate that the generations since the pioneers of Adventism could expect the Advent of Christ? Daniel 2:36-45

"We have been in the days of these kings for over fourteen centuries, and we are still in their days. So far as this prophesy is concerned, the very next event is the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom. Other prophecies and innumerable signs show unmistakably its immediate proximity" —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897), p. 79.

6. Does Daniel chapter seven run through the same history of the empires of Daniel 2, and what detail important since the days of the pioneers does it contain? Daniel 7:15-27; i.e. verses 9, 10, 13, 14

"The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the Lord. Since the dead are to be judged out of the things written in the books, it is impossible that the sins of men should be blotted out until after the judgment at which their cases are to be investigated. But the apostle Peter distinctly states that the sins of believers will be blotted out "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ." Acts 3:19, 20. When the investigative judgment closes, Christ will come, and His reward will be with Him to give to every man as his work shall be." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 485.

“All in this line of prophecy has now been fully accomplished except the closing scene. Next comes the last, crowning act in the drama, when the beast will be given to the burning flame, and the saints of the Most High will take the kingdom. We must be, now, upon the very threshold of this glorious event.” –Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897), p. 162.

7. Is there a similar and more detailed lineup in Daniel chapter 8, and how distinctly does it identify the time of the end? Daniel 8:3-14, 19-25

“At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both the living and the dead are to be judged “out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 486.

“Our ministers are not doing their whole duty. The attention of the people should be called to the momentous event which is so near at hand. The signs of the times should be kept fresh before their minds. The prophetic visions of Daniel and John foretell a period of moral darkness and declension; but at the time of the end, the time in which we are now living, the vision was to speak and not lie. When the signs predicted begin to come to pass, the waiting, watching ones are bidden to look up and lift up their heads and rejoice because their redemption draweth nigh.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 9.

MEDITATION

“As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." "The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." Daniel 12:4, 10. The Saviour Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, "When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:31, 34, 36.

“We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord's coming in glory as near at hand.” –*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 234, 235.

NOTES

Prophecies (B)

Daniel 11 + Revelation - 7 Trumpets

Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days. Daniel 10:14

OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the vast scope of prophecy taught and understood by the early Seventh-day Adventists.
- To understand the core purpose of the revelations in Daniel 11 for God's people today.
- To discover the connection between Daniel 11 and the seven trumpets of Revelation 8+9 and 11:15-19.

SCOPE OF STUDY

1. What was the field of prophetic studies that occupied the original Seventh-day Adventist people? Revelation 14:6-14

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.” – *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 19.*

2. Are all the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation part of the three angels’ messages? Daniel 12:9, 13; Revelation 10:1, 2

“Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony which was sealed until the time of the end, when the first angel’s message should be proclaimed to our world. These matters are of infinite importance in these last days; but while "many shall be purified, and made white, and tried," "the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand." How true this is! Sin is the transgression of the law of God; and those who will not accept the light in regard to the law of God will not understand the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel’s messages. The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth’s history. Will our brethren bear in mind that we are living amid the perils of the last days? Read Revelation in connection with Daniel. Teach these things.” – *Testimonies to Ministers, p. 115.*

REVELATIONS OF DANIEL 11

3. How significant are the words of the angel Gabriel as he came to give Daniel the visions of Daniel eleven? Daniel 10:14, 21

“Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him.

“The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment.” —*Welfare Ministry*, p. 136.

4. By studying the chapter eleven of Daniel, we beheld a detailed account of the world empires given in symbol in Daniel 2, 7+8. Of what significance are the terms, King of the North and King of the South, as we arrive at the conclusion of the chapter for our days? Daniel 11:40-45

“But whatever changes might occur, these *first* divisions of the empire must determine the names which these portions of territory should ever afterward bear, or we have no standard by which to test the application of the prophecy: that is, whatever power at any time should occupy the territory which at first constituted the kingdom of the north, that power, so long as it occupied that territory, would be the king of the north; and whatever power should occupy that which at first constituted the kingdom of the south, that power would so long be the king of the south. We speak of only these two, because they are the only ones afterward spoken of in the prophecy, and because, in fact, almost the whole of Alexander's empire finally resolved itself into these two divisions.” —Uriah Smith, *Daniel and The Revelation* (1897), p. 249.

5. Can we see the final events looming before us by the prophecy of Daniel eleven as taught by the early SDA teachers? Daniel 11:45; 12:1

“The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 335.

“The time will come when he [the King of the North] will remove from Constantinople, and take up his abode in Palestine; that is, plant his tabernacle between the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Even the Turks themselves are looking forward to the time when they will have to remove their capital from Constantinople to Jerusalem.” —Stephen N. Haskell, *Prophetic Waymarks*, p. 416.

SEVEN TRUMPETS LINKAGE

- 6. When the King of the North in Daniel 11:40 comes into the picture as Turkey, of which empire was Turkey the headquarters and where in the book of Revelation can it be identified? Revelation 9:13-15**

“The four angels were loosed for an hour, a day, a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men. This period amounts to three hundred and ninety-one years and fifteen days; during which Ottoman supremacy was to exist in Constantinople [Modern Istanbul in Turkey].” –James White, *The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation 8 and 9*, p. 51.

- 7. As Turkey represented the Muslim Empire and its time period was identified in Question six, how clearly did early Adventists communicate this?**

“In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown "in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;" and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."

“At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended.” –*The Great Controversy*, pp. 334, 335.

- 8. How will the prophecy of the King of the North in Daniel and the River Euphrates in Revelation identify for us the events that mark the close of probation and the last plagues? Daniel 11:45; 12:1; Revelation 16:12-16**

“Isa. 8:7. A river, flowing through a country, is taken as a type of the country; hence, the drying of the Euphrates would indicate the drying up of the Turkish empire under the sixth plague.” – Stephen N. Haskell, *Bible Handbook*, p. 27.

NOTES

Prophecies (C)

Seven Churches and Revelation 12

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter. Rev. 1:19

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the lineup of the seven churches of Revelation 2+3 as a prophecy, helping us to see church history to the second advent.
- To recognize their connection with Revelation 12.
- To receive enlightenment for those living just prior to the close of probation as God's church.

SEVEN SYMBOLIC CHURCHES

- 1. After the disappointment of 1844, in which way did God help those who would not cease their research of the prophecies? Malachi 4:5**

“After the passing of the time in 1844 we searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with the brethren, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, “We can do nothing more,” the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me. I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, his mission, and his priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.”

—*The Review and Herald*, May 25, 1905.

- 2. What was the explanation of the Spirit of Prophecy in reference to the seven churches of Revelation two and three? Revelation 1:19**

“The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in different periods of the Christian Era. The number 7 indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 585.

3. How does James White describe their understanding?

“If this be our condition as a people, have we any real grounds to hope for the favor of God unless we heed the "counsel" of the True Witness? [Revelation 3:18-21 is quoted.]” –James White, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 9, 1856.

It is clear that the truth of the matter was just dawning on the mind of James White. The next issue of the *Review* carried a seven-column presentation of the seven churches, under that title. In his opening remarks he declared:

“...we must agree with some modern expositors, that these seven churches should be understood as representing seven conditions of the Christian church, in seven periods of time, covering the ground of the entire Christian age;”

He then took up the prophecy, dealing with each church separately. Coming to the seventh, the Laodicean, he declared:

“...how humbling to us as a people is the sad description of this church. And is not this dreadful description a most perfect picture of our present condition? It is; and it will be of no use to try to evade the force of this searching testimony to the Laodicean church. The Lord help us to receive it, and to profit by it.” – James White, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 16, 1856.

4. Is there any Biblical proof to show that seven churches can be symbolic of one church in a span of periods to the very end? Revelation 3:1; 4:5; Ephesians 4:4

THE CHURCH IN REVELATION 12

5. How is God’s church depicted in symbol? Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 51:16 (last part)

“Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church—He the bridegroom, and the church the bride; He the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church.” –*Education*, p. 268.

6. Do we see another rendition of the church from the time of Christ to the end of the world? Revelation 12:1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 17

END-TIME PROPHEPIC CHURCH DETAIL

7. Does prophecy describe the splintering of the church in the Laodicean period? Revelation 3:14-21

“I was confirmed in all I had stated in Minneapolis, that a reformation must go through the churches. Reforms must be made, for spiritual weakness and blindness were upon the people who had been blessed with great light and precious opportunities and privileges. As reformers they had come out of the denominational churches, but they now act a part similar to that which the churches acted. We hoped that there would not be the necessity for another coming out. While we will endeavor to keep the "unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, we will not with pen or voice cease to protest against bigotry.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 16*, p. 216.

“If most earnest vigilance is not manifested at the great heart of the work to protect the interests of the cause, the church will become as corrupt as the churches of other denominations.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 4*, p. 512.

8. How clearly does Revelation 12:17 establish that the church at the very end has given birth to another movement, and out of that movement there would emerge a remnant of the faithful church triumphant? Revelation 12:17; Song of Solomon 6:8-10

“The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and He longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from His countenance, and His conduct was characterized by grace and humility, love and truth. Every member of His church militant must manifest the same qualities, if he would join the church triumphant. The love of Christ is so broad, so full of glory, that in comparison to it, everything that man esteems so great dwindles into insignificance. When we obtain a view of it, we exclaim, O the depth of the riches of the love that God bestowed upon men in the gift of His only begotten Son!” –*Our High Calling*, p. 366.

“The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant.” –*Evangelism*, p. 707.

MEDITATION

“Calling these disciples together, Christ gave them their commission: . . . "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:7, 8, 16.

“It is well for us to read this chapter and let its instruction prepare us for our labors. The early disciples were going forth on Christ’s errands, under His commission. His spirit was to prepare the way before them. They were to feel that with such a message to give, such blessings to impart, they should receive a welcome in the homes of the people.” –*Counsels on Health*, p. 541.

NOTES

Prophecies (D)

The Sealing Message

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

OBJECTIVES

- To come to know the sealing message, which was espoused by the original SDA church.
- To see the importance that the Spirit of Prophecy placed upon it.
- To understand what it means to be sealed.

DISCOVERY OF THE MESSAGE

- 1. What was one of the first main messages that was established and proclaimed by the Adventists soon after the disappointment of 1844? Revelation 10:10, 11**

“But the people were not yet ready to meet their Lord. There was still a work of preparation to be accomplished for them. Light was to be given, directing their minds to the temple of God in heaven; and as they should by faith follow their High Priest in His ministration there, new duties would be revealed. Another message of warning and instruction was to be given to the church.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 424.

“At a meeting held in Dorchester, Massachusetts, November, 1848, I had been given a view of the proclamation of the sealing message, and of the duty of the brethren to publish the light that was shining upon our pathway.” —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p. 128.

- 2. How was this sealing message unfolded to them? What was meant with “Thou must prophesy again”? Revelation 14:9-12**

“The earnest, sincere believers had given up all for Christ and had shared His presence as never before. They had, as they believed, given their last warning to the world; and, expecting soon to be received into the society of their divine Master and the heavenly angels, they had, to a great extent, withdrawn from the society of those who did not receive the message. With intense desire they had prayed: “Come, Lord Jesus, and come quickly.” But He had not come. And now to take up again the heavy burden of life’s cares and perplexities, and to endure the taunts and sneers of a scoffing world, was a terrible trial of faith and patience.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 404.

“When we began to present the light on the Sabbath question, we had no clearly defined idea of the third angel’s message of Revelation 14:9-12. The burden of our testimony as we came before the people was that the great second advent movement was of God, that the first and second messages had gone forth, and that the third was to be given. We saw that the third message closed with the words: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." And we as clearly saw as we now see that these prophetic words suggested a Sabbath reform; but as to what the worship of the beast mentioned in the message was, or what the image and the mark of the beast were, we had no defined position.

“God by His Holy Spirit let light shine forth upon His servants, and the subject gradually opened to their minds. It required much study and anxious care to search it out, link after link. By care, anxiety, and incessant labor has the work moved on until the great truths of our message, a clear, connected, perfect whole, have been given to the world.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, pp. 78, 79.

3. Did inspiration manifest the third angel to be the sealing angel? Revelation 7:2, 3; Ezekiel 9:3, 4

“I asked the angel if there were none left. He bade me look in an opposite direction, and I saw a little company traveling a narrow pathway. All seemed to be firmly united, bound together by the truth, in bundles, or companies. Said the angel, "The third angel is binding, or sealing, them in bundles for the heavenly garner." This little company looked careworn, as if they had passed through severe trials and conflicts. And it appeared as if the sun had just risen from behind a cloud and shone upon their countenances, causing them to look triumphant, as if their victories were nearly won.” –*Early Writing*, p. 88.

“This sealing of the servants of God is the same that was shown to Ezekiel in vision.” –*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 445.

A SERIOUS MESSAGE

4. In the study of the third angel’s message can we see how seriously it affected early Adventists, does it affect us? Revelation 14:9-12

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 449.

5. Considering its serious implications, does the Spirit of Prophecy expand upon the importance of the sealing message? Amos 4:11, 12

“Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God’s people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.”

“Some of these agents of Satan were affecting the bodies of some of the saints—those whom they could not deceive and draw away from the truth by a Satanic influence. Oh, that all could get a view of it as God revealed it to me, that they might know more of the wiles of Satan and be on their guard! I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, deceive, and draw away God’s people, just now in this sealing time. I saw some who were not standing stiffly for present truth. Their knees were trembling, and their feet sliding, because they were not firmly planted on the truth, and the covering of Almighty God could not be drawn over them while they were thus trembling.

“Satan was trying his every art to hold them where they were, until the sealing was past, until the covering was drawn over God’s people, and they left without a shelter from the burning wrath of God, in the seven last plagues. God has begun to draw this covering over His people, and it will soon be drawn over all who are to have a shelter in the day of slaughter. God will work in power for His people; and Satan will be permitted to work also.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 43, 44.

THE SEALING ACTIVITY

6. Does the Bible inform us as to the actual seal itself? Revelation 14:1; Exodus 31:13, 17

“The Lord commands by the same prophet: “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among My disciples.” Isaiah 8:16. The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others. Aside from this precept, there is nothing in the Decalogue to show by whose authority the law is given. When the Sabbath was changed by the papal power, the seal was taken from the law. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to restore it by exalting the Sabbath of the fourth commandment to its rightful position as the Creator’s memorial and the sign of His authority.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 452.

7. What is involved in the sealing activity? And when did it commence? Isaiah 8:16; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 7:14; Revelation 14:9 (first phrase), 13

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.

Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, p. 1161.

“I saw that she [your wife] was sealed and would come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000. I saw we need not mourn for her; she would rest in the time of trouble, and all that we could mourn for was our loss in being deprived of her company. I saw her death would result in good.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 14*, p. 53 (Written in 1850).

8. Is the number who are sealed a literal or spiritual (symbolic) number? Revelation 14:1; 7:4

“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.” –*Early Writings*, p. 14.

MEDITATION

“My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” –*Early Writings*, p. 58.

NOTES

Clarifications on the Godhead

For these are three that bear record in heaven the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 1 John 5:7

OBJECTIVES

- To see how the early pioneers of Adventism grappled with the false papal doctrine of the trinity.
- To observe the unfolding of the truth of the Godhead.
- To let Scripture reveal the truth of their conclusions.

REJECTION OF PAPAL TRINITY

1. Did the early pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism handle the subject of the Godhead to qualify their doctrines? Ecclesiastes 12:11

“Question: What serious objection is there to the doctrine of the Trinity?”

“Answer: There are many objections which we might urge, but one account of our limited space we shall reduce them to the three following:

1. It is contrary to common sense.
2. It is contrary to scripture.
3. It is Pagan and fabulous.

“These positions we will remark upon briefly ... It is not very consonant with common sense to talk of three being one, and one being three ... There is a sense in which they are one, but not one person, as claimed by Trinitarians.” –J. N. Loughborough, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, November 5, 1861.

2. What caused the pioneers to examine the doctrine of the Trinity? 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Revelation 17:1, 2

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

“But the church of Rome was the representative of the Trinitarian faith. This faith was endorsed by the Council of Nice, where the primacy was conferred upon the bishop of Rome.” –J. H. Waggoner, *From Eden to Eden* (1890), p. 115.

**3. Did the Spirit of Prophecy identify the false concept of the Trinitarian doctrine?
Romans 1:20, 21, 25**

“I am instructed to say, The sentiments of those who are searching for advanced scientific ideas are not to be trusted. Such representations as the following are made: "The Father is as the light invisible: the Son is as the light embodied; the Spirit is the light shed abroad." "The Father is like the dew, invisible vapor; the Son is like the dew gathered in beauteous form; the Spirit is like the dew fallen to the seat of life." Another representation: "The Father is like the invisible vapor; the Son is like the leaden cloud; the Spirit is rain fallen and working in refreshing power."

“All these spiritualistic representations are simply nothingness. They are imperfect, untrue. They weaken and diminish the Majesty which no earthly likeness can be compared to.” –*Evangelism*, p. 614.

TRUTH OF THE GODHEAD UNFOLDED.

4. In their effort to get it right did the early Adventists develop some mistaken views of the Godhead? Proverbs 4:18; Hosea 6:3

“I will conclude the evidence upon this point by quoting one more passage. Paul says, "And again, when he bringeth the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him." Heb. i, 6. He must have been his Son before he could send him into the world. In verse 2, the Father declares that he made the worlds by the same Son he is here represented as sending into the world. His Son must have existed before he created the worlds; and he must have been begotten before he existed; hence the begetting here spoken of, must refer to his Divine nature, and in reference to his order, he is the first-begotten; hence as a matter of necessity he must have been "the *first born* of every creature." Col. i, 15. "The first born of every creature." Creature signifies creation; hence to be the first born of every creature, (creation) he must be a created being; and as such, his life and immortality must depend upon the Father's will, just as much as angels, or redeemed men: and as the Father has given his Son to have life in himself, so his Son will give this life to all his children. His invitation is to all, "Come unto me and I will give you life." The glorious promise for all the pious dead is, that their lives are hid with Christ in God, and when he who is their life shall appear, then shall they appear with him in glory.” –J. M. Stephenson, *The Atonement* (1854), p. 132.

5. How was the error of those early years clarified and corrected? John 16:12, 13

“Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God.... In speaking of his pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He

was not in close fellowship with the eternal God. He to whose voice the Jews were then listening had been with God as one brought up with Him.--*Signs of the Times*, Aug. 29, 1900.

He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. . . . He is the eternal, self-existent Son.--*Manuscript 101, 1897.*" --*Evangelism*, p. 615.

6. What was answered by the church by 1902 when questioned on their teaching of the Trinity?

"You ask what we teach about the Trinity. Inasmuch as we find no such expression in the Scriptures, we do not teach anything about it. But as to the Being of God,-the Godhead,-Divinity as revealed in the Father, the Word (the Son), and the Holy Spirit, we believe and teach just what the Bible says, and nothing else. No man can by searching find out God. No creature can understand the Almighty to perfection. The finite mind cannot comprehend infinity. Therefore, in discussions about the Trinity, about the nature of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, are manifestations of gross presumption." --E. J. Waggoner, *The Present Truth*, February 6, 1902.

ESTABLISHED PROOF

7. Are there scriptural proof texts by which we may know that the Godhead is comprised of three beings? Isaiah 48:15-17; John 16:5-7; 14:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 13:14

8. Is there abundant light on this in the Spirit of Prophecy? John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1, 2, 26

"All these spiritualistic representations are simply nothingness. They are imperfect, untrue. They weaken and diminish the Majesty which no earthly likeness can be compared to. God cannot be compared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father cannot be described by the things of earth. The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight.

"The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be "the express image of His person." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is shown the personality of the Father.

"The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ." --*Evangelism*, pp. 614, 615.

NOTES

The Health Reform

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 1:2

OBJECTIVES

- To follow the progressive discovery of the health message by the Seventh-day Adventists since 1844.
- To show how God helped them through divine inspiration via the Spirit of Prophecy.
- To identify the actual health principles established.

EARLY INTRODUCTIONS

1. Was anything known among the protestant denominations in general during the early nineteenth century about Biblical health laws? Revelation 3:1, 2

“The slaves of appetite are constantly spending their earnings in sensual indulgence, and thus robbing their children of food and clothing and the advantages of education. Millions of gallons of intoxicating liquors are drunk annually, and thirty million dollars are spent for tobacco. It is estimated by Dr. Cole, an able writer on health, that professed Christians of the different denominations annually squander five million dollars in these indulgences. It is said that a larger sum is spent for the single article of cigars than for all the churches and common schools in the Union.” —*The Signs of the Times*, March 2, 1882.

“The strange absence of principle which characterizes this generation, and which is shown in their disregard of the laws of life and health, is astonishing. Ignorance prevails upon this subject, while light is shining all round them. With the majority, their principal anxiety is, What shall I eat? what shall I drink? and wherewith shall I be clothed? Notwithstanding all that is said and written in regard to how we should treat our bodies, appetite is the great law which governs men and women generally.” —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 119.

2. What shows that in the first years of Seventh-day Adventism there was ignorance on the subject? John 16:12, 13

“I saw that your views concerning swine’s flesh [This remarkable testimony was written October 21, 1858, nearly five years before the great vision of 1863, in which the light upon health reform was given. When the right time came, the subject was given in a manner to move all our people. How wonderful are the wisdom and goodness of God! It might be as wrong to

crowd the milk, salt, and sugar question now, as the pork question in 1858.—J.W., note to second edition.] would prove no injury if you have them to yourselves; but in your judgment and opinion you have made this question a test, and your actions have plainly shown your faith in this matter. If God requires His people to abstain from swine's flesh, He will convict them on the matter. He is just as willing to show His honest children their duty, as to show their duty to individuals upon whom He has not laid the burden of His work. If it is the duty of the church to abstain from swine's flesh, God will discover it to more than two or three. He will teach His church their duty."—*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 206.

"In the light given me so long ago, I was shown that intemperance would prevail in the world to an alarming extent and that every one of the people of God must take an elevated stand in regard to reformation in habits and practices. At that time I was eating meat two or three times a day, and I was fainting away two or three times a day. The Lord presented a general plan before me. I was shown that God would give to His commandment-keeping people a reform diet, and that as they received this, their disease and suffering would be greatly lessened. I was shown that this work would progress."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 531.

3. When was the light on health reform given to the pioneers? Acts 17:30

"It was at the house of Bro. A. Hilliard, at Otsego, Mich., June 6, 1863, that the great subject of Health Reform was opened before me in vision."—*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 276.

"At the time the light of health reform dawned upon us, and since that time, the questions have come home every day, "Am I practicing true temperance in all things?" "Is my diet such as will bring me in a position where I can accomplish the greatest amount of good?" If we cannot answer these questions in the affirmative, we stand condemned before God, for He will hold us all responsible for the light which has shone upon our path. The time of ignorance God winked at, but as fast as light shines upon us, He requires us to change our health-destroying habits, and place ourselves in a right relation to physical laws" —*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 19.

DIVINE REVELATIONS

4. How did God step in to bring His people to discover their ignorance in order to repent and correct their ways? John 16:7, 8, 12, 13

"Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetite and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may see our sin in violating the laws which He has established in our being. All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law. Our gracious heavenly Father sees the deplorable condition of men who, some knowingly but many ignorantly, are living in violation of the laws that He has established. And in love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. He publishes His law and the penalty that will follow the transgression of it, that all may learn and be careful to live in harmony with natural law. He proclaims His law so distinctly and makes it so prominent that it is like a city set on a hill. All accountable beings can understand it if they will. Idiots will not be responsible. To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that

accompanies the third angel's message to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord.” – *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 3, p. 161.*

5. Does God use the Elijah messenger to make this subject clear? Malachi 4:5

“Those who have received instruction regarding the evils of the use of flesh foods, tea and coffee, and rich and unhealthful food preparations, and who are determined to make a covenant with God by sacrifice, will not continue to indulge their appetite for food that they know to be unhealthful. God demands that the appetites be cleansed, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a perfected people.” – *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 153.*

PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH

6. Was there a purpose in God giving the health reform to the church of the last days? Amos 4:12, 13; Jeremiah 33:6

“The health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. It is as closely connected with the third angel’s message as the hand is with the body. The law of Ten Commandments has been lightly regarded by man; yet the Lord will not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetites and lustful passions, without violating the law of God. Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may realize the sinfulness of breaking the laws which He has established in our very being.”

“To make natural law plain, and to urge obedience to it, is a work that accompanies the third angel’s message. Ignorance is no excuse now for the transgression of law. The light shines clearly, and none need be ignorant; for the great God Himself is man’s instructor. All are bound by the most sacred obligations to heed the sound philosophy and genuine experience which God is now giving them in reference to health reform. He designs that the subject shall be agitated and the public mind deeply stirred to investigate it; for it is impossible for men and women, while under the power of sinful, health-destroying, brain-enervating habits, to appreciate sacred truth.” – *Counsels on Health, pp. 20, 21.*

7. What specific item of food will be discarded by those who are preparing to meet the Lord? Isaiah 55:2; Genesis 1:29; 3:18

“Is it not time that all should aim to dispense with flesh foods? How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined, and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they

take the life of God's creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning.

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 383.

**8. How wide-ranging was the health reform given to God’s people for the last days?
Revelation 14:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Isaiah 58:6-8**

“The workers are to practice the principles of health reform in all that they do—standing, walking, breathing, eating, and dressing. They are to surround themselves with an atmosphere of praise. They are to cultivate the voice, keeping it pleasant and sympathetic. No word of discouragement is to be heard. Let the nurses and physicians face the light. Let them open the windows of the heart heavenward, that it may be flooded with the beams of the Sun of Righteousness.” —*Medical Ministry*, p. 212.

MEDITATION

“Health, life, and happiness are the result of obedience to physical laws governing our bodies. If our will and way are in accordance with God’s will and way; if we do the pleasure of our Creator, He will keep the human organism in good condition, and restore the moral, mental, and physical powers, in order that He may work through us to His glory.... If we co-operate with Him in this work, health and happiness, peace and usefulness, are the sure result.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 172.

NOTES

Organisational Principles

Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Cor. 14:40

OBJECTIVES

- To observe the development of organisation among the early Seventh-day Adventists.
- To recognise God's will regarding this subject.
- To study the correct principles in organisation.

DENOMINATIONAL EXIT

1. Where did the early Adventists find themselves by embracing the messages of William Miller? Isaiah 66:5; Jeremiah 30:17 (last half)

"If God's professed people would receive the light as it shines upon them from His word, they would reach that unity for which Christ prayed, that which the apostle describes, "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." "There is," he says, "*one* body, and *one* Spirit, even as ye are called in *one* hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism." Ephesians 4:3-5.

"Such were the blessed results experienced by those who accepted the advent message. They came from different denominations, and their denominational barriers were hurled to the ground; conflicting creeds were shivered to atoms; the unscriptural hope of a temporal millennium was abandoned, false views of the second advent were corrected, pride and conformity to the world were swept away; wrongs were made right; hearts were united in the sweetest fellowship, and love and joy reigned supreme. If this doctrine did this for the few who did receive it, it would have done the same for all if all had received it.

"But the churches generally did not accept the warning." —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 379, 380.

2. Why did they feel justified in leaving their churches? Revelation 14:8

"As his work tended to build up the churches, it was for a time regarded with favor. But as ministers and religious leaders decided against the advent doctrine and desired to suppress all agitation of the subject, they not only opposed it from the pulpit, but denied their members the privilege of attending preaching upon the second advent, or even of speaking of their hope in the social meetings of the church. Thus the believers found themselves in a position of great trial and perplexity. They loved their churches and were loath to separate from them; but as they saw the testimony of God's word suppressed and their right to investigate the prophecies denied they felt that loyalty to God forbade them to submit. Those who sought to shut out the testimony of God's word they could not regard as constituting the church of Christ, "the pillar

and ground of the truth." Hence they felt themselves justified in separating from their former connection. In the summer of 1844 about fifty thousand withdrew from the churches." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 376.

DEVELOPMENT OF A CHURCH

3. As the believers continued to meet and study after the disappointment, what reality began to loom up before them? 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

“Our numbers gradually increased. The seed that was sown was watered of God, and He gave the increase. At first we assembled for worship, and presented the truth to those who would come to hear, in private houses, in large kitchens, in barns, in groves, and in schoolhouses; but it was not long before we were able to build humble houses of worship.

“As our numbers increased, it was evident that without some form of organization there would be great confusion, and the work would not be carried forward successfully. To provide for the support of the ministry, for carrying the work in new fields, for protecting both the churches and the ministry from unworthy members, for holding church property, for the publication of the truth through the press, and for many other objects, organization was indispensable.” – *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 26.

4. What was it that made them reluctant to develop another organisation? Isaiah 8:12, 13

“August 3, 1861, I was shown that some have feared that our churches would become Babylon if they should organize...” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 270.

5. How was this reluctance overcome by the correct Biblical reasoning? Ephesians 4:15, 16

“Yet there was strong feeling against it among our people. The first-day Adventists were opposed to organization, and most of the Seventh-day Adventists entertained the same ideas. We sought the Lord with earnest prayer that we might understand His will, and light was given by His Spirit that there must be order and thorough discipline in the church—that organization was essential. System and order are manifest in all the works of God throughout the universe. Order is the law of heaven, and it should be the law of God’s people on the earth.

“We had a hard struggle in establishing organization. Notwithstanding that the Lord gave testimony after testimony upon this point, the opposition was strong, and it had to be met again and again. But we knew that the Lord God of Israel was leading us, and guiding by His providence. We engaged in the work of organization, and marked prosperity attended this advance movement.” –*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 26.

ORIGINAL PRINCIPLES ADOPTED

6. With what care did the pioneers of Seventh-day Adventism organise themselves to avoid ending up like Babylon? Matthew 23:8-10

“God has not set any kingly power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to control the whole body or to control any branch of the work. He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few men. Responsibilities are distributed among a large number of competent men. Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8, p. 236.*

7. To embrace the words of Jesus that “all ye are brethren” is there any indication by which we can discern that this was taken fully into consideration? 1 Peter 5:1-3; Proverbs 15:22

“The labors and duties of the General Conference Committee are still more extensive and important than those of the State Conference Committee...

“In the fulfillment of the duties of their office, in taking the general supervision of the entire work, their strength is in so counselling with their brethren in the spirit of tenderness and love as to bind the hearts of all the laborers to their hearts, and give room for the voice of the Holy Ghost, as was manifested in the days of the apostles. They should ever bear in mind that the head of every man is Christ.

“They may counsel with the State Conference Committee in reference to ministers laboring here or there, but should never direct.” —James White, *The Review and Herald*, January 4, 1881.

8. While the head of every man is Christ, is there any Biblical right for anyone to act independently of the united decision of brethren in counsel? 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:18-21; Proverbs 11:14

“I have often been instructed by the Lord that no man’s judgment should be surrendered to the judgment of any other one man. Never should the mind of one man or the minds of a few men be regarded as sufficient in wisdom and power to control the work and to say what plans shall be followed. But when, in a General Conference, the judgment of the brethren assembled from

all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a laborer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body.” – *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 260.*

“Some have advanced the thought that, as we near the close of time, every child of God will act independently of any religious organization. But I have been instructed by the Lord that in this work there is no such thing as every man’s being independent. The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord’s work may advance healthfully and solidly, His people must draw together.” – *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9, p. 258.*

NOTES

Taking Their Word

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3

OBJECTIVES

- To appreciate the doctrines bequeathed unto us by the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist movement.
- To realise that these doctrines were sufficient to prepare a people to stand ready for the second coming of Jesus.
- To guard carefully against any new light that contradicts any item of the established and accumulated doctrines they presented.

THE VALUE OF TRUTH ESTABLISHED

1. Is truth relative or alterable? Psalm 33:11; 111:7

“When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No aftersuppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another, with new light which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit.” —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 31.

2. How does Inspiration confirm that the truths gained by those who have gone before us, are to be sacredly held? Jude 1:3; Jeremiah 6:16

“A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat and repeat till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. And the standard-bearers who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.” —*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 32.

3. Do we who have not had the experience of the pioneers as God led them, need to humbly accept their findings? Deuteronomy 32:7

“The very same Satan is at work to undermine the faith of the people of God at this time. There are persons ready to catch up every new idea. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation are misinterpreted. These persons do not consider that the truth has been set forth at the appointed time by the very men whom God was leading to do this special work. These men followed on step by step in the very fulfillment of prophecy, and those who have not had a personal experience in this work, are to take the Word of God and believe on “their word” who have been led by the Lord in the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. These messages, received and acted upon, are doing their work to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. If we search the Scriptures to confirm the truth God has given His servants for the world, we shall be found proclaiming the first, second, and third angels’ messages.” – *Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 111.

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.” – *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 32.

THE ULTIMATE TRUTHS FOR PREPARATION

4. How all-embracing are the truths contained in the three angels’ messages and that other angel of Revelation 18? 1 Corinthians 1:5-8

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). Here we stand, under the third angel’s message. “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

“Thus the substance of the second angel’s message is again given to the world by that other angel who lightens the earth with his glory. These messages all blend in one, to come before the people in the closing days of this earth’s history. All the world will be tested, and all that have been in the darkness of error in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will understand the last message of mercy that is to be given to men.” – *Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 116.

5. Is there any other message or light needed or foreshadowed to prepare a people ready for the coming of Jesus? Revelation 14:9-14

“When Christ entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform the closing work of the atonement, He committed to His servants the last message of mercy to be given to the world. Such is the warning of the third angel of Revelation 14. Immediately following its proclamation, the Son of man is seen by the prophet coming in glory to reap the harvest of the earth.” —*The Story of Redemption*, p. 379.

“Instruction has been given me that the message should go again with power in the cities in the Eastern States. In many of the large cities of the East the first and second angels’ messages were proclaimed during the 1844 movement. To us, as God’s servants, has been entrusted the third angel’s message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of the King. We are to make every effort to give a knowledge of the truth to all who will hear, and there are many who will listen. All through the large cities God has honest souls who are interested in what is truth.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9*, p. 98.

6. How else can we discern from inspiration that all that is needed to be ready for Christ’s return was given within the fifty years of established pioneer truths? 2 Peter 3:9-12

“Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God.-- *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 450. (1900)

“I know that if the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him, if they had obeyed His Word, they would today be in the heavenly Canaan.--*General Conference Bulletin*, March 30, 1903.” —*Evangelism*, p. 694.

NEW LIGHT WITHIN THE OLD

7. Is there any room for new light that would supersede, take the place of, the platform of truth established? Galatians 1:8, 9

“We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God’s word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of

the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 161.

“It is true that there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled. But very erroneous work has been done again and again, and will continue to be done by those who seek to find new light in the prophecies, and who begin by turning away from the light that God has already given. The messages of Revelation 14 are those by which the world is to be tested; they are the everlasting gospel, and are to be sounded everywhere. But the Lord does not lay upon those who have not had an experience in His work the burden of making a new exposition of those prophecies which He has, by His Holy Spirit, moved upon His chosen servants to explain.” —*Selected Messages Book 2*, p. 111.

8. If additional light is brought, how will it relate to that which already has been presented? 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“The end is near! We have not a moment to lose! Light is to shine forth from God's people in clear, distinct rays, bringing Jesus before the churches and before the world. . . . The instrumentalities to be used are those souls who gladly receive the light of truth which God communicates to them. These are God's agencies for communicating the knowledge of truth to the world. If through the grace of Christ His people will become new bottles, He will fill them with the new wine. God will give additional light, and old truths will be recovered, and replaced in the frame-work of truth; and wherever the laborers go, they will triumph. As Christ's ambassadors, they are to search the Scriptures, to seek for the truths that have been hidden beneath the rubbish of error. And every ray of light received is to be communicated to others. One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other,—Christ our righteousness.” —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 259.

NOTES

Section 2

HOW TO DEFEND THE PLATFORM

Introduction

During the previous three months we have been researching Inspiration to show the establishment of the platform of truth for the time just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus. If we are true Seventh-day Adventists we will stand fully on this platform of truth.

For the next three months we will research inspiration to gather scriptural evidence on each of the subjects so when we are asked of our faith, we will be able to convince the gainsayers and opposers that we have the mastery of Biblical truth. This we are admonished to do in Titus 1:9:

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

Also in 1 Peter 3:15:

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 707.*

God grant us clear minds to absorb this lesson and have the evidences ready when we need them.

Evidences – Proof Text Skills

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15

OBJECTIVES

- To gain Bible directives as to the importance of the skill to gain correct conclusions from Bible references.
- To learn Bible study methods for evidence to prove our beliefs.
- To obtain the humility and meekness in defending our doctrines.

INSPIRATION TO EXCEL

1. Does God want us to develop skill in handling His word? 2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 15:4

“The search for truth will reward the seeker at every turn, and each discovery will open up richer fields for his investigation. Men are changed in accordance with what they contemplate. If commonplace thoughts and affairs take up the attention, the man will be commonplace. If he is too negligent to obtain anything but a superficial understanding of God’s truth, he will not receive the rich blessings that God would be pleased to bestow upon him. It is a law of the mind, that it will narrow or expand to the dimensions of the things with which it becomes familiar. The mental powers will surely become contracted, and will lose their ability to grasp the deep meanings of the word of God, unless they are put vigorously and persistently to the task of searching for truth. The mind will enlarge, if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. Go below the surface; the richest treasures of thought are waiting for the skilful and diligent student.” –*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 126.

2. Are there scriptures that incite us to obtain knowledge, wisdom and understanding? Proverbs 2:1-6, 10, 11; Proverbs 5:1, 2

“The work of every teacher should be to fasten the mind of the youth upon the grand truths of the word of Inspiration. This is the education essential for this life and for the life to come.

“And let it not be thought that this will prevent the study of the sciences, or cause a lower standard in education. The knowledge of God is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe. There is nothing so ennobling and invigorating as a study of the great themes which concern our eternal life. Let the youth seek to grasp these God-given truths, and their minds will expand and grow strong in the effort. It will bring every student who is a doer of the word into a broader

field of thought, and secure for him a wealth of knowledge that is imperishable.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 41, 42.

3. When we apply our minds to the study of the word of God, how will this affect our intellect? Psalm 119:98-100

“As a means of intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined. The greatness of its themes, the dignified simplicity of its utterances, the beauty of its imagery, quicken and uplift the thoughts as nothing else can. No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation. The mind thus brought in contact with the thoughts of the Infinite cannot but expand and strengthen.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 207.

“We should not take the testimony of any man as to what the Scriptures teach, but should study the word of God ourselves. If we allow others to do our thinking, we shall have crippled energies and contracted abilities. The noble powers of the mind may be so dwarfed by lack of exercise on themes worthy of their concentration as to lose their ability to grasp the deep meaning of the word of God. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God’s word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that is rarely seen in these times.” –*Christian Education*, p. 58.

HOW TO STUDY

4. What guidelines does God give us in order to arrive at truth by the study of the Bible? Isaiah 28:9-12

“The mental powers will surely become contracted, and will lose their ability to grasp the deep meanings of the word of God, unless they are put vigorously and persistently to the task of searching for truth. The mind will enlarge, if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. Go below the surface; the richest treasures of thought are waiting for the skillful and diligent student.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 262.

“Your first and highest duty is to learn from the Scriptures what is truth and then to obey what you learn and encourage others to do the same. We should study the Bible diligently every day, analyzing every thought, and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves, just as we are to answer for ourselves before God.” –*A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 111.

5. By pursuing this method, with what care must we approach each individual statement? Proverbs 30:5, 6; Isaiah 34:16; Deuteronomy 4:2

“Let the Bible explain its own statements. Accept it just as it reads, without twisting the words to suit human ideas. “What is the chaff to the wheat?” ” –*Loma Linda Messages*, p. 55.

6. Taking the previous two questions into consideration, how then can we arrive at the evidences by which we can defend our doctrines? Matthew 7:7, 8

“As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God’s word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another’s mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know "what saith the Lord.”” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 390.

“Those whose hearts are in harmony with truth and duty will search the Scriptures with a heart prepared to receive divine impressions. The illuminated soul sees a spiritual unity, one grand golden thread running through the whole, but it requires patience, thought, and prayer to trace out the precious golden thread.” –*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 20.

MEEKNESS AND FEAR

7. Are we admonished to present sound arguments to correct and enlighten those in error? Titus 1:9-11

“Agitate, agitate, agitate. The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality. It is important that in defending the doctrines which we consider fundamental articles of faith we should never allow ourselves to employ arguments that are not wholly sound. These may avail to silence an opposer, but they do not honor the truth. We should present sound arguments, that will not only silence our opponents, but will bear the closest and most searching scrutiny. With those who have educated themselves as debaters there is great danger that they will not handle the word of God with fairness. In meeting an opponent it should be our earnest effort to present subjects in such a manner as to awaken conviction in his mind, instead of seeking merely to give confidence to the believer.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 708.

8. With what attitude should we meet those who proclaim error and subvert the truth? 1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 3:5-8; 2 Timothy 2:25

“We must individually know for ourselves what is truth, and be prepared to give a reason of the hope that we have with meekness and fear, not in a proud, boasting, self-sufficiency, but with the spirit of Christ. We are nearing the time when we shall stand individually alone to answer for our belief. Religious errors are multiplying and entwining themselves with Satanic power about the people. There is scarcely a doctrine of the Bible that has not been denied.” – *Evangelism*, p. 69.

NOTES

Testing the Prophet

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

OBJECTIVES

- To know how to vindicate our position in accepting Sister Ellen G. White as a prophet.
- To show scripture by which to test the prophet.
- To gather Bible evidence in reference to the testimony of Jesus in the last days.

EXPECTING AN ENDTIME PROPHET

- 1. Is there Biblical proof that there are prophets conveying God's word outside of the canon of Scripture? 2 Samuel 7:2-5; 1 Kings 11:29-31; Luke 2:36; 2 Chronicles 34:22-24**

- 2. What does the Bible declare regarding the raising of a prophet just before the coming of Jesus? Malachi 4:5, 6**

“The Jews tried to stop the proclamation of the message that had been predicted in the Word of God; but prophecy must be fulfilled. The Lord says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Malachi 4:5). Somebody is to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and when he appears, men may say, “You are too earnest, you do not interpret the Scriptures in the proper way. Let me tell you how to teach your message.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 412.

- 3. Did something of this nature take place among a people who proclaimed end-time prophecy? Daniel 8:13, 14, 19**

“In the year 1842 there was living in Boston, Mass., a well-educated man by the name of William Foy, who was an eloquent speaker. He was a Baptist, but was preparing to take holy orders as an Episcopal minister. The Lord graciously gave him two visions in the year 1842, one on the 18th of January, the other on February 4. These visions bore clear evidence of being the genuine manifestations of the Spirit of God. He was invited from place to place to speak in the

pulpits, not by the Episcopalians only, but by the Baptists and other denominations. When he spoke, he always wore the clergyman's robe, such as the ministers of that church wear in their services.”

“About this time there lived in Poland, Maine, a young man by the name of Hazen Foss, who firmly believed the Lord would come on the tenth day of the seventh month. He was a man of fine appearance, pleasing address, and quite well educated. A few weeks before the "midnight cry" ended, the Lord came near and gave him a vision, in which he was shown the journey of the advent people to the city of God, with their dangers. Some messages of warning were given to him, which he was to deliver, and he had also a view of the trials and persecution that would consequently follow if he was faithful in relating what had been shown him. He, like Mr. Foy, was shown three steps by which the people of God were to come fully upon the pathway to the holy city. Being a firm believer in the Lord's coming "in a few more days" (as they then sang), the part of the vision relating to the three steps onto the pathway was to him unexplainable; and being naturally of a proud spirit, he shrunk from the cross, and refused to relate it. The vision was repeated the second time, and in addition he was told that if he still refused to relate what had been shown him, the burden would be taken from him, and be given to one of the weakest of the Lord's children, one who would faithfully relate what God would reveal. He again refused. Then a third vision was given, and he was told that he was released, and the burden was laid upon one of the weakest of the weak, who would do the Lord's bidding.”

“About three months from the time he failed to recall his vision, he heard from an adjoining room a vision related by another. The meeting was held in a dwelling-house where he was. He was urged to come into the meeting, but refused to do so. He said the vision was as near like that shown him as two persons would relate the same thing. And thus was known what he saw but could not remember when trying to relate it. On getting a view of the person afterward, he said, "That is the instrument on whom the Lord has laid the burden."” —J. N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, pp. 145, 182, 183.

4. Who was this “another”, and what declaration was given in vision? Numbers 12:6

“Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord’s messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Saviour declared me to be His messenger. "Your work," He instructed me, "is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right. Exhort from the Word. I will make My Word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 32.

BIBLE TESTS

5. How can we be sure that the visions are from God? Isaiah 8:16, 20; 1 John 4:1-3; Deuteronomy 18:21, 22; Matthew 7:15-20

“The law demands perfect obedience. "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). Not one of those ten precepts can be broken without disloyalty to the God of heaven. The least deviation from its requirements, by neglect or willful

transgression, is sin, and every sin exposes the sinner to the wrath of God. Obedience was the only condition upon which ancient Israel was to receive the fulfillment of the promises which made them the highly favored people of God; and obedience to that law will bring as great blessings to individuals and nations now as it would have brought to the Hebrews.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 218.

“In what contrast is the second Adam as He entered the gloomy wilderness to cope with Satan single-handed. Since the fall the race had been decreasing in size and physical strength, and sinking lower in the scale of moral worth, up to the period of Christ’s advent to the earth. And in order to elevate fallen man, Christ must reach him where he was. He took human nature, and bore the infirmities and degeneracy of the race. He, who knew no sin, became sin for us. He humiliated Himself to the lowest depths of human woe, that He might be qualified to reach man, and bring him up from the degradation in which sin had plunged him.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 5*, p. 1081.

6. What supernatural physical manifestations were revealed in the prophets of the Bible while in vision? Daniel 10:8, 17, 18; Numbers 24:2-4; 2 Corinthians 12:3, 4

“In passing into vision she gives three enrapturing shouts of "Glory!" which echo and re-echo, the second, and especially the third, fainter, but more thrilling than the first, the voice resembling that of one quite a distance from you, and just going out of hearing. For about four or five seconds she seems to drop down like a person in a swoon, or one having lost his strength; she then seems to be instantly filled with superhuman strength, sometimes rising at once to her feet and walking about the room. There are frequent movements of the hands and arms, pointing to the right or left as her head turns. All these movements are made in a most graceful manner. In whatever position the hand or arm may be placed, it is impossible for any one to move it. Her eyes are always open, but she does not wink; her head is raised, and she is looking upward, not with a vacant stare, but with a pleasant expression, only differing from the normal in that she appears to be looking intently at some distant object. She does not breathe, yet her pulse beats regularly. Her countenance is pleasant, and the color of her face florid as in her natural state.” —J. N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement*, p. 204.

TESTIMONY OF JESUS

7. As the Bible tests reveal Sister E. G. White to have the Spirit of Prophecy, how then should we regard her writings? Revelation 19:10

““Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth under any circumstances. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil.”” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 32.

8. How important is the testimony of Jesus in her writings for us just now? 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Revelation 12:17

“I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord.”
—*Selected Messages Book 3*, p. 49.

NOTES

The Law and Salvation

If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. Matt. 19:17

OBJECTIVES

- To gain Bible evidence in reference to the importance of the commandments.
- To obtain scriptural definition of sin.
- To find Bible explanation on salvation from sin.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. How do New Testament scriptures verify the importance of the Old Testament Ten Commandments? Romans 13:8-10; 7:12, 14; James 2:8-12; Matthew 19:17-19; Revelation 22:14

2. Do Old Testament scriptures confirm the permanence of the Ten Commandment law? Psalm 119:151, 152; Exodus 31:16, 17; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

““Till heaven and earth pass," said Jesus, "one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." By His own obedience to the law, Christ testified to its immutable character and proved that through His grace it could be perfectly obeyed by every son and daughter of Adam. On the mount He declared that not the smallest iota should pass from the law till all things should be accomplished—all things that concern the human race, all that relates to the plan of redemption. He does not teach that the law is ever to be abrogated, but He fixes the eye upon the utmost verge of man's horizon and assures us that until this point is reached the law will retain its authority so that none may suppose it was His mission to abolish the precepts of the law. So long as heaven and earth continue, the holy principles of God's law will remain. His righteousness, "like the great mountains" (Psalm 36:6), will continue, a source of blessing, sending forth streams to refresh the earth.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 49.

3. What role do the Ten Commandments play in the work of salvation? Romans 3:19, 20; 7:7-11

DEFINITION OF SIN

4. What is declared regarding the coverage of the law? Psalm 119:96; Matthew 22:37-40

““The fear of the Lord is clean." It uproots evil from the soul, and leads to holy watchfulness and diligence. The commandments of the Lord are exceeding broad; their principles extends to our words, our actions, and our most secret thoughts, and we should examine our lives in the light of the divine law.” –*Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, June 1, 1887.

5. In consideration of Question 4, how well can sin then be defined? 1 John 3:4; 1 John 5:17; Exodus 34:7

““Sin is the transgression of the law." This is the only definition of sin. Without the law there can be no transgression. "By the law is the knowledge of sin." The standard of righteousness is exceeding broad, prohibiting every evil thing.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 951.

6. What is iniquity? Jeremiah 3:13

““With the setting aside of the Bible has come a turning away from God’s law. The doctrine that men are released from obedience to the divine precepts, has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in like an overwhelming flood. Everywhere are seen envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall in ruins.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 624.

SALVATION

7. Having seen what sin and iniquity is, can we get a clear understanding of salvation? Matthew 1:21; Psalm 51:1, 2

“Jesus came to this world to save his people from their sins. He will not save us in our sins, for he is not the minister of sin. We must respond to the divine drawing of Christ, and repent of our sins, and unite ourselves to Christ as the branch is united to the vine. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Jesus is drawing all men; who will respond to this drawing? Many will be greatly influenced by the life and example of those who profess to have responded to this divine love that is drawing the hearts of men. Many will watch you who profess his name, to see whether it makes you better men and better women. They will

watch to see if you are Christlike, kind and courteous in your family. The Lord has said, "By their fruits ye shall know them."” –*Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, February 1, 1892.

8. Where will the Ten Commandments be when we are saved from our sins and how will this be demonstrated? Hebrews 8:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Psalm 103:17, 18; Psalm 40:8

NOTES

The Seventh-day Sabbath

And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath. Mark 2:27, 28

OBJECTIVES

- To gather evidence that the seventh day of the week is the day God has commanded humanity to keep holy.
- To let Scripture reveal that the Sabbath is an integral part of salvation.
- To realise its restoration in the days just prior the second advent.

SABBATH COMMANDMENT

1. When and for whom was the seventh-day Sabbath instituted? Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 2:27

“The men and women who believe the truth for this time are to be educated to go forth and speak intelligently in regard to the reformation which God calls for in the observance of the true Sabbath, given at the creation of the world to man to be observed by him to the close of time. God will be with those who with faithfulness will give the message of present truth in all its fullness. He will be with them, even as He has been with His people in the past.” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 10*, p. 218.

2. Although the Sabbath commandment was given on Mount Sinai to the Hebrews, how does Scripture reveal that it was God’s holy day before it was given to them? Exodus 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:13, 14

3. In what other way can it be seen that it was to be kept holy before handed down at Mount Sinai? Genesis 4:3 (margin), 4; Exodus 16:4, 5, 22-28

“Every week during their long sojourn in the wilderness the Israelites witnessed a threefold miracle, designed to impress their minds with the sacredness of the Sabbath: a double quantity of manna fell on the sixth day, none on the seventh, and the portion needed for the Sabbath was preserved sweet and pure, when if any were kept over at any other time it became unfit for use.

In the circumstances connected with the giving of the manna, we have conclusive evidence that the Sabbath was not instituted, as many claim, when the law was given at Sinai. Before the Israelites came to Sinai they understood the Sabbath to be obligatory upon them. In being obliged to gather every Friday a double portion of manna in preparation for the Sabbath, when none would fall, the sacred nature of the day of rest was continually impressed upon them. And when some of the people went out on the Sabbath to gather manna, the Lord asked, "How long refuse ye to keep My commandments and My laws." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 296.

When the law was given at Sinai, the Sabbath was placed in the midst of moral precepts, in the very bosom of the decalogue. But the Sabbath institution was not then made known for the first time. The fourth commandment places its origin at creation. The Creator's rest-day was hallowed by Adam in holy Eden, and by men of God throughout the patriarchal ages. During Israel's long bondage in Egypt, under taskmasters that knew not God, they could not keep the Sabbath; therefore the Lord brought them out where they could remember his holy day." –*The Signs of the Times*, February 28, 1884.

SALVATION AND SABBATH

4. When God saved the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery, did He use the Sabbath as a sign of His saving power? Deuteronomy 5:15

5. If there is a parallel between the slavery in Egypt and slavery in sin, is the Sabbath therefore a sign of redemption from both? John 8:31-36; Hebrews 4:1-4, 9, 10

“As the Sabbath was the sign that distinguished Israel when they came out of Egypt to enter the earthly Canaan, so it is the sign that now distinguishes God's people as they come out from the world to enter the heavenly rest. The Sabbath is a sign of a relationship existing between God and His people, a sign that they honor His law. It distinguishes between His loyal subjects and transgressors. . . . The Sabbath given to the world as the sign of God as the Creator is also the sign of Him as the Sanctifier. The power that created all things is the power that recreates the soul in His own likeness. To those who keep holy the Sabbath day it is the sign of sanctification. True sanctification is harmony with God, oneness with Him in character. It is received through obedience to those principles that are the transcript of His character. And the Sabbath is the sign of obedience. He who from the heart obeys the fourth commandment will obey the whole law. He is sanctified through obedience.” –*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 156.

TRUE ISRAEL

6. How does the Bible clarify that the Sabbath is given as a sign for more than national Israel only? Isaiah 56:1-8; Romans 2:28, 29; Galatians 6:15, 16; James 1:1

“Concerning Israel, the Lord declared: "The people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." Numbers 23:9. To us as well as to ancient Israel these words apply. God's people are to stand alone. The observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is to be a sign between them and God, showing that they are to be a peculiar people, separate from the world in habit and practice. Through them God will work to gather from all nationalities a people for Himself.” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7, p. 109.*

7. In consideration that Israel refers to all born-again Christians, is the Sabbath therefore a sign of the everlasting covenant? Exodus 31:13, 16, 17; Isaiah 66:22, 23

“In order that men might not forget the true God, Jehovah gave them a memorial of His love and power—the Sabbath. He says: "Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you."” –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7, p. 109.*

CONFIRMING THE DAY

8. How can we tell that the seventh-day Sabbath definitely falls on the Saturday of our present calendar? Luke 23:54-56; 24:1-3, 13-15-21

NOTES

Correct Prophetical Deductions

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20

OBJECTIVES

- To search for the intended purpose of prophetic revelations.
- To study the decoding of prophetic symbolism.
- To appreciate the past, present and future as one panoramic view in the mind of the great I AM.

PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

- 1. Does God identify a strategy by showing that He can foretell future events in prophecy, long before they come to pass? Isaiah 46:9, 10; 48:3-5**

“Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?” “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.” It is impossible for the finite minds of men to fully comprehend the character or the works of the Infinite One. To the keenest intellect, to the most powerful and highly educated mind, that holy Being must ever remain clothed in mystery.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, p. 698.*

- 2. What other reason did Jesus give that He would foretell the future? John 14:29; 2 Peter 1:19 (last part)**

“For forty days Christ remained on the earth, preparing the disciples for the work before them and explaining that which heretofore they had been unable to comprehend. He spoke of the prophecies concerning His advent, His rejection by the Jews, and His death, showing that every specification of these prophecies had been fulfilled. He told them that they were to regard this fulfillment of prophecy as an assurance of the power that would attend them in their future labors. “Then opened He their understanding,” we read, “that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to

rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 26.

3. Of what value is prophecy to us, especially at this time? 2 Peter 1:19 (first half)

“But we have not been deceived. Notwithstanding the apparent triumph of Satan on the earth, Christ is carrying forward His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary. . . . As we see the fulfillment of prophecy, our faith in the final triumph of Christ’s kingdom should be increased. We should go forth with courage to do our appointed work.” –*Christ Triumphant*, p. 360.

“The history which the great I AM has marked out in His word, uniting link after link in the prophetic chain, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tells us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order.” –*Education*, p. 178.

PROPHECY INTERPRETATION

4. Are we warned in reference to how we interpret prophecy? 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2:1

“While exalting the "sure word of prophecy" as a safe guide in times of peril, the apostle solemnly warned the church against the torch of false prophecy, which would be uplifted by "false teachers," who would privily bring in "damnable heresies, even denying the Lord" (2 Peter 2:1). These false teachers, arising in the church and accounted true by many of their brethren in the faith, the apostle compared to "wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever." "The latter end is worse with them," he declared, "than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."” –*Reflecting Christ*, p. 221.

“In order to sustain erroneous doctrines or unchristian practices, some will seize upon passages of Scripture separated from the context, perhaps quoting half of a single verse as proving their point, when the remaining portion would show the meaning to be quite the opposite. With the cunning of the serpent they entrench themselves behind disconnected utterances construed to suit their carnal desires. Thus do many willfully pervert the word of God. Others, who have an active imagination, seize upon the figures and symbols of Holy Writ, interpret them to suit their fancy, with little regard to the testimony of Scripture as its own interpreter, and then they present their vagaries as the teachings of the Bible.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 521.

5. When the Bible prophecy presents obvious symbolic imagery, by what means are we to decode those symbols? Isaiah 28:9-11; Proverbs 1:5, 6; Daniel 2:27, 28-30

“The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 203.

6. Does the interpretation of figures and symbols come from other Bible texts?

- A) Daniel 7:2, 3 Winds = Jeremiah 25:31-33; 51:1, 2, 11
- B) Sea + Waters = Revelation 17:1, 15; Ezekiel 26:3
- C) Daniel 7:3 Beasts = Daniel 7:17; Jeremiah 50:17
- D) Daniel 7:6 Heads = Revelation 17:7, 9, 10
- E) Daniel 7:8 Horns = Daniel 7:24
- F) Daniel 7:4 Wings = Deuteronomy 28:49
- G) Revelation 12:6 Days = Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6

PROPHETIC PANORAMA

7. How can we comprehend God’s name “I AM” by the study of prophecy? Exodus 3:13, 14; Revelation 1:8

“I Am means an eternal presence; the past, present, and future are alike to God. He sees the most remote events of past history, and the far distant future with as clear a vision as we do those things that are transpiring daily. We know not what is before us, and if we did, it would not contribute to our eternal welfare. God gives us an opportunity to exercise faith and trust in the great I AM.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 1*, p. 1099.

“Those who are preparing to enter the ministry, who desire to become successful students of the prophecies, will find Daniel and the Revelation an invaluable help. They need to understand this book. It speaks of past, present, and future, laying out the path so plainly that none need err therein. Those who will diligently study this book will have no relish for the cheap sentiments presented by those who have a burning desire to get out something new and strange to present to the flock of God. The rebuke of God is upon all such teachers. They need that one teach them what is meant by godliness and truth. The great, essential questions which God would have presented to the people are found in Daniel and the Revelation. There is found solid, eternal truth for this time. Everyone needs the light and information it contains.” –*Manuscript Releases Vol. 1*, p. 61.

“The book of Revelation opens to the world what has been, what is, and what is to come; it is for our instruction upon whom the ends of the world are come. It should be studied with reverential awe. We are privileged in knowing what is for our learning.” – *S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 954.

NOTES

But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: "He shall *think* to change the times and the law." The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 446.

"Satan, working through unconsecrated leaders of the church, tampered with the fourth commandment . . . and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified (Genesis 2:2, 3), and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as "the venerable day of the sun."" –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 81.

4. Do they claim a mark of authority by which they assume to change God's laws? Revelation 13:16

"Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God; whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 446.

"Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?"

Answer: . . . because the Catholic Church . . . transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." –*The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine* (1951), p. 50.

"Question: How prove you that the Church hath power to command feasts and holy days?"

Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday..." –*An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine* (1833), p. 58.

VICTORY OVER THE MARK

5. How far-reaching is the power of the papal church? Revelation 13:3, 4, 7 (especially verse 7); 17:1, 2, 18

6. As the papal church has affected the whole world, is the mark of her authority also to impact the whole world? Revelation 18:3; 13:16, 17

"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that "all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond" (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator's rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 604.

7. For those who will remain faithful to God’s law and His Sabbath, how does the Bible describe their steadfast loyalty in the face of widespread opposition and threats? Revelation 15:2

“Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming,—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God’s chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 40.

“This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 976.

8. Because the whole world follows the beast and will comply with the Sunday-law mark of the beast, what does the victory include? 1 John 5:3-5

“A great work is to be done. Who will engage in this work? Who will press the work forward and upward to victory? We have all the world against us; all the churches against us; all the synagogue of Satan against us. And if those of our own faith work against the truth by their own unsanctified habits and practices, the work will go very hard. God help us to pray, "O Lord, cleanse the camp of Israel from its defilement."” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 19*, p. 29.

MEDITATION

“What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth these are receiving the heavenly mold and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 216.

NOTES

The Beast and its Image

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. Rev. 13:15

OBJECTIVES

- To show in more detail what the Beast represents.
- To establish the meaning of the Image of the Beast.
- To reflect upon the challenge posed by the message of the Third Angel of Revelation 14.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEAST

- 1. Having already established that the beast of Revelation 13 is the Roman papal power, what specific characteristic stands out in contrast to the kingdoms? Revelation 13:3-6; Daniel 8:12 (last part)**

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of "heresy.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 443.

- 2. How else are the characteristics of the beast described by inspiration? Revelation 17:3-6**

“The woman (Babylon) of Revelation 17 is described as "arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness:...and upon her forehead was a name written, *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots*." Says the prophet: "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." Babylon is further declared to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:4-6, 18. The power that for so many centuries maintained despotic sway over the monarchs of Christendom is Rome. The purple and scarlet color, the gold and precious stones and pearls, vividly picture the magnificence and more than kingly pomp affected by the haughty see of Rome. And no other power could be so truly declared "drunken with the blood of the saints" as that church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. Babylon is also charged with the sin of unlawful connection with "the kings of the earth." It was by departure from the Lord, and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot; and Rome, corrupting herself

in like manner by seeking the support of worldly powers, receives a like condemnation.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 382.

IMAGE OF THE BEAST

3. In connection with the beast we have been studying, is there another beast that comes into focus? Revelation 13:11-13

4. How can it be shown that this beast is the United States of America? Revelation 13:10, 11

““Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." And, says the prophet, "I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death." And again: "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword." The forty and two months are the same as the "time and times and the dividing of time," three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7 -- the time during which the papal power was to oppress God's people. This period, as stated in preceding chapters, began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798. At that time the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled, "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity."”

“But the beast with lamblike horns was seen "coming up out of the earth." Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nationalities of the Old World—that turbulent sea of "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." It must be sought in the Western Continent.

“What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 439, 440.

5. What do the U.S.A. do ultimately to restore the damage done to the papacy in 1798? Revelation 13:12

“The Roman Church has not relinquished her claim to supremacy; and when the world and the Protestant churches accept a sabbath of her creating, while they reject the Bible Sabbath, they virtually admit this assumption. They may claim the authority of tradition and of the Fathers for the change; but in so doing they ignore the very principle which separates them from Rome—that "the Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants." The papist can see that they are deceiving themselves, willingly closing their eyes to the facts in the case. As the movement for Sunday enforcement gains favor, he rejoices, feeling assured that it will eventually bring the whole Protestant world under the banner of Rome.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 448.

6. What then is the Image of the Beast? Revelation 13:15-17

“In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.”

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 443, 445.

THIRD ANGEL'S WARNING

7. While the Image of the Beast threatens with death, how does God respond to let the world know of their eternal danger by buckling under the threat? Revelation 14:9-11

“The third angel’s message has been sent forth to the world, warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the Word of God. Of all who receive this mark, God says, “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.” —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7*, p. 979.

8. Who was the fire of this smoke of their torment intendend for? Revelation 19:20

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel’s message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God’s judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them. Prophecy declares that the first angel would make his announcement to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” The warning of the third angel, which forms a part of the same threefold message, is to be no less widespread. It is represented in the prophecy as being proclaimed with a loud voice, by an angel flying in the midst of heaven; and it will command the attention of the world.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 449.

MEDITATION

“After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image the prophecy declares: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Since those who keep God’s commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God’s law, on the one hand, and its

violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 445.

NOTES

State of the Dead

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25

OBJECTIVES

- To understand how the human life was brought into existence.
- To gain Bible evidence of what takes place at the cessation of life.
- To obtain the hope of life after death.

THE CREATION OF MAN

1. How does the Bible describe formation of human life? Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; John 1:3, 4, 9

2. Upon whom does continuation of life depend? 1 Timothy 6:15, 16; Acts 17:28 (first part); Job 12:9, 10

“The mechanism of the human body cannot be fully understood; it presents mysteries that baffle the most intelligent. It is not as the result of a mechanism, which, once set in motion, continues its work, that the pulse beats and breath follows breath. In God we live and move and have our being. The beating heart, the throbbing pulse, every nerve and muscle in the living organism, is kept in order and activity by the power of an ever-present God.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 417.

WHEN A MAN DIES

3. What lie did the serpent tell Eve to contradict God’s words that they would die upon eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Genesis 3:1-4

“The only one who promised Adam life in disobedience was the great deceiver. And the declaration of the serpent to Eve in Eden—“Ye shall not surely die”—was the first sermon ever preached upon the immortality of the soul. Yet this declaration, resting solely upon the authority of Satan, is echoed from the pulpits of Christendom and is received by the majority of mankind as readily as it was received by our first parents. The divine sentence, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20), is made to mean: The soul that sinneth, it shall not die, but live

eternally. We cannot but wonder at the strange infatuation which renders men so credulous concerning the words of Satan and so unbelieving in regard to the words of God.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 533.

4. Does the Bible declare the inevitable reality of death for the sinner? Ezekiel 18:4; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20

“Physical life is ... not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. The Word of God nowhere teaches that the soul of man is immortal. Immortality is an attribute of God only.

Upon the fundamental error of natural immortality rests the doctrine of consciousness in death—a doctrine, like eternal torment, opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures, to the dictates of reason, and to our feelings of humanity. . . . What say the Scriptures concerning these things? David declares that man is not conscious in death. "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 174.

5. Are there other clear scriptural evidences of man’s condition in death? Psalm 6:5; 115:17; 104:29

“What say the Scriptures concerning these things? David declares that man is not conscious in death. "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Psalm 146:4. Solomon bears the same testimony: "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." "Their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 545.

HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

6. Did God provide a hope for the sinner who must die? John 3:16; Hebrews 2:9, 14, 15; 2 Timothy 1:9, 10

“But He humbled Himself, and took mortality upon Him. As a member of the human family, He was mortal; but as a God, He was the fountain of life to the world. He could, in His divine person, ever have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but He voluntarily laid down His life, that in so doing He might give life and bring immortality to light. He bore the sins of the world, and endured the penalty, which rolled like a mountain upon His divine soul. He yielded up His life a sacrifice, that man should not eternally die. He died, not through being compelled to die, but by His own free will.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 46.

7. Because of this provision for the believing sinner, what does Jesus say regarding his state in death? John 11:11-13, 25, 26

“Christ became one with humanity, that humanity might become one in spirit and life with Him. By virtue of this union in obedience to the Word of God, His life becomes their life. He says to the penitent, "I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25). Death is looked upon by Christ as sleep--silence, darkness, sleep. He speaks of it as if it were of little moment. "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me," He says, "shall never die" (John 11:26). "If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death" (John 8:52). "He shall never see death" (John 8:51). And to the believing one, death is but a small matter. With him to die is but to sleep. "Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4:14).” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, p. 302.

8. Although at death the believer is in the grave just as Jesus was, when will he be awakened out of his sleep of death? 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Job 14:10-15; Job 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52

NOTES

Sanctuary in Heaven

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. Rev. 15:5

OBJECTIVES

- To find evidence that the two-apartment sanctuary of the Hebrews was a miniature copy of another.
- To show that there is a two-apartment sanctuary in heaven.
- To identify the priesthood of the Heavenly Sanctuary.

THE HEBREW SANCTUARY

- 1. When Moses was commissioned to build a sanctuary of worship for the Hebrews, what was he shown for its pattern? Exodus 25:8, 9, 40; Hebrews 8:2, 5**

“Thus those who were studying the subject found indisputable proof of the existence of a sanctuary in heaven. Moses made the earthly sanctuary after a pattern which was shown him. Paul teaches that that pattern was the true sanctuary which is in heaven. And John testifies that he saw it in heaven.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 415.

- 2. Does God make a connection between the two sanctuaries, and what was the earthly one meant for? Isaiah 66:1; Hebrews 9:8-11**

“...the tabernacle built by Moses was made after a pattern. The Lord directed him: "According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." And again the charge was given, "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount." Exodus 25:9, 40. And Paul says that the first tabernacle "was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;" that its holy places were "patterns of things in the heavens;" that the priests who offered gifts according to the law served "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things," and that "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 413.

TWO-APARTMENT HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

3. Is there ample scriptural evidence that there is a two-apartment sanctuary in heaven? Revelation 11:19; 15:5

“The holy places of the sanctuary in heaven are represented by the two apartments in the sanctuary on earth. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there "seven lamps of fire burning before the throne." Revelation 4:5. He saw an angel "having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." Revelation 8:3. Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven; and he saw there the "seven lamps of fire" and "the golden altar," represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth. Again, "the temple of God was opened" (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the inner veil, upon the holy of holies. Here he beheld "the ark of His testament," represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 414.

4. As once a year the Hebrew sanctuary was cleansed, is there evidence of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 8:13, 14; Hebrews 9:22-24

“What is the cleansing of the sanctuary? That there was such a service in connection with the earthly sanctuary, is stated in the Old Testament Scriptures. But can there be anything in heaven to be cleansed? In Hebrews 9 the cleansing of both the earthly and the heavenly sanctuary is plainly taught. . . .

“The cleansing, both in the typical and in the real service, must be accomplished with blood: in the former, with the blood of animals; in the latter, with the blood of Christ.

“The cleansing was not a removal of physical impurities, for it was to be accomplished with blood, and therefore must be a cleansing from sin.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 206.

A HEAVENLY PRIESTHOOD

5. Evidently there is a heavenly sanctuary, what evidence then, shows a heavenly priesthood? Hebrews 8:1, 2 i.e. Hebrews 7:22-26

“Christ Jesus is represented as continually standing at the altar, momentarily offering up the sacrifice for the sins of the world. He is a minister of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man. The typical shadows of the Jewish tabernacle no longer possess any virtue. A daily and yearly typical atonement is no longer to be made, but the atoning sacrifice through a mediator is essential because of the constant commission of sin. Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain. Jesus presents the

oblation offered for every offense and every shortcoming of the sinner.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 6, p. 1077.*

6. Is there any value for us to know that there is a heavenly sanctuary with a heavenly priesthood there? Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1

“Christ glorified not Himself in being made High Priest. God gave Him His appointment to the priesthood. He was to be an example to all the human family. He qualified Himself to be, not only the representative of the race, but their Advocate, so that every soul if he will may say, I have a Friend at court. He is a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.” –*S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 7, p. 930.*

“The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ’s work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. When Christ ascended to heaven, He ascended as our Advocate. We always have a Friend at court.” –*The Faith I Live By, p. 202.*

THE SINNER’S RESTORATION

7. Are there any other evidences in Scripture by which we can find great comfort in the knowledge of the activities of the Heavenly Sanctuary? Hebrews 10:19-22; Colossians 3:1-3; Hebrews 1:3

“There are those who have known the pardoning love of Christ, and who really desire to be children of God, yet they realize that their character is imperfect, their life faulty, and they are ready to doubt whether their hearts have been renewed by the Holy Spirit. To such I would say, Do not draw back in despair. We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God. No; Christ is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Said the beloved John, “These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” And do not forget the words of Christ, “The Father himself loveth you.” John 16:27. He desires to restore you to Himself, to see His own purity and holiness reflected in you. And if you will but yield yourself to Him, He that hath begun a good work in you will carry it forward to the day of Jesus Christ.” –*The Faith I Live By, p. 118.*

NOTES

Our Position Toward Politics

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 2 Tim. 2:4

OBJECTIVES

- To find evidence that a believer in Christ becomes a citizen of the Heavenly Kingdom.
- To show that those of God's kingdom do not engage in the kingdoms and political affairs of this world.
- To give evidence that we will obey the governments as far as they don't interfere in our loyalty to God.

CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN

1. When Jesus was interrogated by Pilate, what was His answer to the question whether He was a king? John 18:36, 37

“But today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom. The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God, and to make them the expositors of His will and the agents of His authority. But He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. He would not accept the earthly throne.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

2. For those who become true disciples of Jesus, will they engage in the affairs of His kingdom? Philippians 3:20; 2 Corinthians 5:20

“Until that time the kingdom of Christ cannot be established on the earth. His kingdom is not of this world. His followers are to account themselves "strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Paul says, "Our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Hebrews 11:13; Philippians 3:20, R.V.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 763 (Appendix).

EARTHLY POLITICS

3. How did Jesus the King of heaven relate to the political affairs of earthly kingdoms? Mark 12:14-17

“When the Pharisees heard Christ’s answer, “they marveled, and left Him, and went their way.” He had rebuked their hypocrisy and presumption, and in doing this He had stated a great principle, a principle that clearly defines the limits of man’s duty to the civil government and his duty to God.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 315.

“The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses,—extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. Yet the Saviour attempted no civil reforms. He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power. He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

4. As ambassadors, citizens and soldiers of the Kingdom of Heaven, do we participate in the political affairs of the governments of this world? 2 Timothy 2:4; John 18:36 (middle part)

“We are not to compromise principle by yielding to the opinions and prejudices which we may have encouraged before we united with God’s commandment-keeping people. We have enlisted in the army of the Lord, and we are not to fight on the enemy’s side, but on the side of Christ, where we can be a united whole, in sentiment, in action, in spirit, in fellowship. Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship. They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ.

“What are we to do, then?—Let political questions alone. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?” [2 Corinthians 6:14, 15.] What can there be in common between these parties? There can be no fellowship, no communion.” —*Gospel Workers*, p. 392.

5. Is there a basic focal principle in Christian spirituality that shuts us out of any engagement in union with political parties? 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

“The word “fellowship” means participation, partnership. God employs the strongest figures to show that there should be no union between worldly parties and those who are seeking the righteousness of Christ. What communion can there be between light and darkness, truth and unrighteousness? None whatever. Light represents righteousness; darkness, unrighteousness.

Christians have come out of darkness into the light. They have put on Christ, and they wear the badge of truth and obedience. They are governed by the elevated and holy principles which Christ expressed in His life.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 392.

OBEYING GOVERNMENTS

6. While Christians are clearly to abstain from union with political parties, were they to be submissive to them when in government? Romans 13:1-7

“Teach the people to conform in all things to the laws of their state when they can do so without conflicting with the law of God.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 316.

7. Does obedience to earthly rulers have its limits for the Christian? Acts 5:29; 4:19

“We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s Word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A "Thus saith the Lord" is not to be set aside for a "Thus saith the church" or a "Thus saith the state." The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 240.

8. Is it right for Christians to be activists against oppressive governments? Romans 12:18-21; 1 Peter 2:13-15, 19, 20

“God’s children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. Do not take part in political strife. Separate from the world, and refrain from bringing into the church or school ideas that will lead to contention and disorder. Dissension is the moral poison taken into the system by human beings who are selfish.” –*Counsels to the Church*, p. 316.

“But in regard to the political agitators, the word of the Lord to us is, "Go not ye after them."” –*General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 17, 1897.

NOTES

Our Stand on Warfare

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Matt. 26:52

OBJECTIVES

- To find Biblical evidence that God's true children will not take up arms to engage in warfare.
- To understand that God orchestrates warring nations by which He punishes them.
- To see that warfare in the close of earth's history comprises the winepress of God's wrath in which none of His children should be.

CASE AGAINST ARMS

1. How does Jesus address the use of weapons? Matthew 26:52

"The truth is to be the food given to the souls ready to perish. Call the attention of the people to the signs of the times. There are wars and rumors of wars. Nation is rising against nation. Selfishness and covetousness lead to violence, crime, and all kinds of wickedness. Nation is watching nation, to see if there is not some advantage to be gained. A concession made by one nation only opens the way for another concession to be called for. The presumptuous, daring deeds of unholy ambition, done to gain strength by robbing others, show that men do not realize that he that taketh the sword shall perish with the sword." —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 14*, p. 166.

2. When soldiers approached John the Baptist who called for repentance, what was the counsel he gave them? Luke 3:14

"The work of reformation here brought to view by John, the purging of heart and mind and soul, is one that is needed by many who today profess to have the faith of Christ. Wrong practices that have been indulged in need to be put away; the crooked paths need to be made straight, and the rough places smooth. The mountains and hills of self-esteem and pride need to be brought low. There is need of bringing forth "fruits meet for repentance." When this work is done in the experience of God's believing people, all flesh shall see the salvation of God." —*The Review and Herald*, April 22, 1909.

3. Although the Hebrews of the Old Testament went to war and slew many with swords and other weapons, was this to change at Christ's first advent? Luke 2:14

"God's law is fulfilled only as men love Him with heart, mind, soul, and strength, and their neighbor as themselves. It is the manifestation of this love that brings glory to God in the

highest, and on earth peace and good will to men. The Lord is glorified when the great end of His law is attained. It is the work of the Holy Spirit from age to age to impart love to human hearts, for love is the living principle of brotherhood." –*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 8*, p. 139.

TO PUNISH NATIONS

- 4. Which nations did God send to punish Judah for their iniquity? Jeremiah 36:29, 31; Deuteronomy 28:49-52**

“The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet: "O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself;" "for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity." Hosea 13:9; 14:1. Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that the great deceiver seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 35.

- 5. After Babylon had done its cruel work on Judah by war and bloodshed, would the same be done to Babylon by other nations? Jeremiah 25:9-14**

- 6. As the ungodly nations have accumulated their wickedness to the very end, does God punish them in the same way as in past history? Jeremiah 25:14-17, 30-33; Psalm 9:15, 16; 7:14-16**

WINEPRESS OF GOD'S WRATH

- 7. What event cited in Jeremiah 25:30 can be recognised in the book of Revelation and other references? Revelation 19:11-18; 14:18-20; Isaiah 63:1-6; Joel 3:9-13**

8. In consideration of the fact that warfare is God’s method of punishing the wicked, does God want His children to be included in the armies of these nations to be trodden in the winepress of His wrath? Revelation 16:13-16; 18:4-6; Isaiah 26:20, 21

“I was shown that God’s people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience. Worldly men are governed by worldly principles. They can appreciate no other. Worldly policy and public opinion comprise the principle of action that governs them and leads them to practice the form of rightdoing. But God’s people cannot be governed by these motives. The words and commands of God, written in the soul, are spirit and life, and there is power in them to bring into subjection and enforce obedience. The ten precepts of Jehovah are the foundation of all righteous and good laws. Those who love God’s commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is: Shall we obey God, or man?” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 361.

MEDITATION

“The Saviour’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God’s mercy and trampled upon His law. Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed during its long centuries of crime. The heart sickens, and the mind grows faint in contemplation. Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelations of the future. The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the "battle of the warrior . . . with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood" (Isaiah 9:5),—what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! The world will then behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 36.

NOTES

What We Eat and Drink

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31

OBJECTIVES

- To reveal evidence to show the meaning of eating and drinking to God's glory.
- To let Scripture prove what God created for food.
- To understand the meaning of fasting over prolonged periods.

THE GLORY OF GOD

- 1. To what are the inhabitants of earth called under the First Angel's message of Revelation fourteen? Revelation 14:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 6:20**

“Why do not those who have the word of God work out its glorious principles? It rests upon us not merely to use the great gift of speech in the service of the Master, but to bring glory to God by a consistent life and a godly conversation. The fallen world needs the light of heavenly sanctification demonstrated in a glorified character; and it is our duty, before the heavenly universe and a fallen world, to reach the perfect unity which this prayer presents. It is our duty to reflect the light of heaven upon a world that is under the scepter of Satan.” —*The Review and Herald*, December 6, 1898.

- 2. To bring glory to God by a consistent life, does this include what we eat and drink? 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ecclesiastes 10:17; Psalm 67:2; 3 John 1:2**

“In the days of the Reformation its enemies charged all the evils of fanaticism upon the very ones who were laboring most earnestly against it. A similar course was pursued by the opposers of the advent movement. And not content with misrepresenting and exaggerating the errors of extremists and fanatics, they circulated unfavorable reports that had not the slightest semblance of truth. These persons were actuated by prejudice and hatred. Their peace was disturbed by the proclamation of Christ at the door. They feared it might be true, yet hoped it was not, and this was the secret of their warfare against Adventists and their faith.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 397.

CREATED FOR FOOD

- 3. When God created man, what nutrition did He create for his health and well being? Genesis 1:29. What else did He provide after the fall? Genesis 3:18**

“In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God's original plan for man's diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food. "Behold," He said, "I have given you every herb yielding seed, . . . and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food." Genesis 1:29, A.R.V. Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also "the herb of the field."” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 221.

4. How are we to regard the provisions God has created for our health and well being? 1 Timothy 4:3-5

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 222.

5. Although God did not create animal flesh for food, when was that introduced to man's diet, and what restrictions were included for God's people? Genesis 9:1-4; Deuteronomy 14:6, 9, 10, 20

DISCARDING FLESH FOODS

6. When God was leading the Hebrews from Egypt to the promised land of Canaan, do we see Him removing flesh from their diet? Exodus 16:4, 11-14, 35; Numbers 11:4-6, 18-20; Psalm 78:27-31

7. Is God trying to lead His people away from flesh and animal foods today as we are heading to the heavenly Canaan? 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11

“Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us.

“Again and again I have been shown that God is bringing His people back to His original design, that is, not to subsist on the flesh of dead animals. He would have us teach people a better way. . . . If meat is discarded, if the taste is not educated in that direction, if a liking for fruits and grains is encouraged, it will soon be as God in the beginning designed it should be. No meat will be used by His people.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 383.

8. Did God give clear Bible evidence that for those living during the antitypical day of atonement, it would be required to discard flesh foods and strong drink? Isaiah 22:20-22 i.e. Revelation 3:7 i.e. Isaiah 22:12-14

“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance. Men need to think less about what they shall eat and drink of temporal food, and much more in regard to the food from heaven, that will give tone and vitality to the whole religious experience.” –*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 188.

MEDITATION

“Is it not time that all should aim to dispense with flesh foods? How can those who are seeking to become pure, refined, and holy, that they may have the companionship of heavenly angels, continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body? How can they take the life of God’s creatures that they may consume the flesh as a luxury? Let them, rather, return to the wholesome and delicious food given to man in the beginning.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 383.

NOTES

Our Defence in the Courts

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. 1 Peter 3:15

OBJECTIVES

- To verify that in due time all true Sabbathkeepers will be arraigned before the courts of the land to answer for their faith.
- To appreciate that in these courts God's people will be on the stage where the world will receive its last loud cry.
- To receive understanding on how to meet the challenge of defending our position in a court setting.

JUDICIAL ENCOUNTERS

- 1. Did Jesus tell His disciples to expect confrontation by the world and its powers by following Him? John 15:18-20; Luke 21:12; Matthew 10:17, 18**

“Christ was teaching, and, as usual, others besides His disciples had gathered about Him. He had been speaking to the disciples of the scenes in which they were soon to act a part. They were to publish abroad the truths He had committed to them, and they would be brought in conflict with the rulers of this world. For His sake they would be called into courts, and before magistrates and kings. He had assured them of wisdom which none could gainsay. His own words, that moved the hearts of the multitude, and brought to confusion His wily adversaries, witnessed to the power of that indwelling Spirit which He had promised to His followers.” – *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 252.

- 2. When Sunday laws will be enforced, will God's Sabbathkeeping people find themselves again before the courts of the land? Revelation 13:15-17**

“The time is not far off when the people of God will be called upon to give their testimony before the rulers of the earth. Not one in twenty has a realization of what rapid strides we are making toward the great crisis in our history. . . . There is no time for vanity, for trifling, for engaging the mind in unimportant matters.” – *Our High Calling*, p. 355.

“The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. . . . The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the

movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers.” —*The Faith I Live By*, p. 330.

THE LOUD CRY

3. What is the last message for God’s people who are still in Sundaykeeping churches in the time of Sunday law enforcement? Revelation 18:4; Isaiah 58:1

“All are to hear the last message of warning. The prophecies in the book of Revelation, chapters 12 to 18, are being fulfilled. In the eighteenth chapter is recorded the very last call to the churches. This call is now to be given.” —*The Upward Look*, p. 277.

4. How are the people described who will give this call? Zephaniah 3:11-13

“I saw the nominal church and nominal Adventists, like Judas, would betray us to the Catholics to obtain their influence to come against the truth. The saints then will be an obscure people, little known to the Catholics; but the churches and nominal Adventists who know of our faith and customs (for they hated us on account of the Sabbath, for they could not refute it) will betray the saints and report them to the Catholics as those who disregard the institutions of the people; that is, that they keep the Sabbath and disregard Sunday.” —*Spalding and Magan Collection*, p. 1.

5. Can such a small, little known people reach thousands who may still be in the fallen churches? Daniel 3:8-12, 28-30

“As the controversy extends into new fields and the minds of the people are called to God’s downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is: “Show us from the word of God our error”—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths.” —*The Great Controversy*, p. 607.

“As the time comes for it [the message of the third angel] to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.” —*Evangelism*, p. 699.

FACING THE CHALLENGE

6. To present the loud cry in the setting of the courts, do we need the preparation made available in this Sabbath school lesson? 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 1:9; Jude 1:3

“I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom.

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5*, p. 707.

7. When faced by antagonistic, debating minds in the courts, how well do we need to be prepared to demonstrate the right spirit to attract and convince God’s people in Babylon? 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

“Those who stand in vindication of the law of God, are in a position where they need much of the Spirit of God. If ministers are wanting in meekness, if they are easily irritated when opposed, it is evident that they need divine enlightenment. Men must manifest the grace of

Christ as they labor for souls. The truth as it is in Jesus will have altogether a different influence upon the minds of unbelievers, from that which it has had when presented as a theory or as a controversial subject.

“If we do our very best to present the truth in its stirring character, crossing the opinions and ideas of others, it will be misinterpreted, misapplied, and misstated, to those who are entertaining error, in order to make it appear in an objectionable light. There are few to whom you bring the truth, who have not been drinking of the wine of Babylon. It is hard for them to comprehend the truth, therefore the necessity of teaching it as it is in Jesus.” —*Selected Messages Book 1*, pp. 404, 405.

8. In our effort to display the right spirit when facing our opponents in court, how else can we disarm their antagonism? Romans 12:17-19; Matthew 5:39-45

“In cases where we are brought before the courts, we are to give up our rights unless it brings us in collision with God. It is not our rights we are pleading for, but God’s right to our service.

“Instead of resisting the penalties imposed unjustly upon us, it would be better to take heed to the Saviour’s words...” —*Manuscript Releases Vol. 5*, p. 69.

MEDITATION

“God is angry with those who pursue a course to make the world hate them. If a Christian is hated because of his good works and for following Christ, he will have a reward; but if he is hated because he does not take a course to be loved, hated because of his uncultivated manners and because he makes the truth a matter of quarrel with his neighbors, and takes a course to make the Sabbath as annoying as possible to them, he is a stumbling block to sinners, a reproach to the sacred truth, and unless he repents it were better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck and he were cast into the sea.” —*Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1*, p. 420.

“You now have an opportunity to attain to the greatest intellectual power through the study of the Word of God. But if you are indolent, and fail to dig deep in the mines of truth, you will not be ready for the crisis that is soon to come upon us. O that you would realize that each moment is golden. If you live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, you will not be found unprepared.

“You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith. Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused, and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study, because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 355.

NOTES

